# **Approval** of Agenda and Minutes

The University Council of Michigan State University held a regular meeting on Tuesday, March 26, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. via Zoom with President Kevin Guskiewicz presiding. The agenda was approved after item 5.4. was moved to the beginning of New Business. The draft minutes of the February 20, 2024, meeting was approved as presented. Michigan State University Logo

# Remarks

President Guskiewicz, Interim Provost Thomas D. Jeitschko, Executive Vice President for Health Sciences Norman J. Beauchamp Jr., M.D., MHS, and Faculty Senate Chairperson Jack W. Lipton, Ph.D. gave remarks.[[1]](#footnote-2)

# Ad Hoc Committee on Free Speech and Hate Speech

Faculty Senate Chairperson Jack W. Lipton presented the slate of faculty members selected to serve on this ad hoc committee.

# Citation Regarding Former Interim President Teresa K. Woodruff

Senator Danielle Devoss presented an honorary citation for former Interim President Teresa K. Woodruff and moved to approve the citation. The motion was adopted.

# Resolution Regarding Miller & Chevalier Report

A resolution regarding Trustee conduct[[2]](#footnote-3) was introduced to the University Council and a motion was made for its adoption by the University Council. The motion was adopted.

# Undergraduate Enrollment and Student Success

Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education and Dean of Undergraduate Studies Mark A. Largent, Ph.D. presented on undergraduate enrollment and student success at Michigan State University. Discussion followed.

# Graduate Enrollment and Student Success

Associate Provost for Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies and Dean of the Graduate School Pero Dagbovie, Ph.D. presented on graduate enrollment and student success at Michigan State University. Discussion followed.

# Civil Rights and Title IX Education and Compliance at MSU

Vice President for Civil Rights and Title IX Education and Compliance & Title IX Coordinator Laura Rugless, J.D. presented on matters regarding civil rights at Michigan State University. Discussion followed.

# Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

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Secretary for Academic Governance

**Approved:**

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| --- | --- |
| **Attendance** | |
| **Present** | 78 |
| **Absent** | 3 |
| **Total** | 111 |
| **Quorum** | 57 |

| Constituency/Title | Name | Attendance |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Academic Specialist Advisory Committee | Megan Stevenson | Present |
| Administration | Ann Austin | Absent |
| Administration | Laurie Van Egeren | Absent |
| Administration | Doug Gage | Present |
| Administration | Vennie Gore | Present |
| Administration | Interim Provost Thomas Jeitschko | Present |
| Administration | Mark Largent | Present |
| Administration | Steve Shablin | Absent |
| Administration | Dave Weatherspoon | Present |
| Administration | Dean of Students Anthony Williams | Absent |
| Administration | Melissa Woo | Absent |
| Administration | Interim President Teresa K. Woodruff | Absent |
| Associated Students of Michigan State University | Carmen Bueche | Absent |
| Associated Students of Michigan State University | Nur A. Halim | Present |
| Associated Students of Michigan State University | Sydney Logsdon | Present |
| Associated Students of Michigan State University | Jairahel Price | Absent |
| Associated Students of Michigan State University | Om Nair | Absent |
| Associated Students of Michigan State University | Cecilia Branson | Absent |
| Associated Students of Michigan State University | Samuel Murillo | Absent |
| Associated Students of Michigan State University | Harshita Rathod | Absent |
| Associated Students of Michigan State University | Lucero Castro | Absent |
| Associated Students of Michigan State University | Destiny Kanning | Absent |
| Associated Students of Michigan State University | Gabrielle Diaz | Absent |
| Associated Students of Michigan State University | Eric Mercure | Absent |
| Associated Students of Michigan State University | Isabella Gentilozzi | Absent |
| Associated Students of Michigan State University | Alexis Barroso | Absent |
| Associated Students of Michigan State University | Laura Tran | Absent |
| Associated Students of Michigan State University | Akshith | Absent |
| Associated Students of Michigan State University | Asmaa Hasbini | Absent |
| Associated Students of Michigan State University | Margaux Smith | Absent |
| Associated Students of Michigan State University | Cixian Yang | Absent |
| Associated Students of Michigan State University | Chirag Bhat | Absent |
| Associated Students of Michigan State University | Aastha Patel | Absent |
| Associated Students of Michigan State University | Diya Patel | Present |
| Associated Students of Michigan State University | Noor Ghazali | Absent |
| Associated Students of Michigan State University | Justin Pecora | Absent |
| At Large | d'Ann de Simone | Present |
| At Large | Justin St. Charles | Present |
| At Large | Angela Wilson | Present |
| At Large, Chairperson | Jack Lipton | Present |
| At Large, Vice Chairperson | Rebecca Malouin | Substituted: Mitch Goldsmith |
| College of Agriculture and Natural Resources | Satish Joshi | Present |
| College of Agriculture and Natural Resources | Dean Kelly Millenbah | Present |
| College of Agriculture and Natural Resources | Matt Raven | Absent |
| College of Agriculture and Natural Resources | Jeff Swada | Present |
| College of Agriculture and Natural Resources | Lorraine Weatherspoon | Present |
| College of Agriculture and Natural Resources | Cimberly Weir | Present |
| College of Arts and Letters | David Medei | Present |
| College of Arts and Letters | Brahim Chakrani | Present |
| College of Arts and Letters | Danielle DeVoss | Present |
| College of Arts and Letters | Zach Kaiser | Present |
| College of Arts and Letters | Dean Christopher Long | Absent |
| College of Arts and Letters | Kristen Mapes | Present |
| College of Communication Arts and Sciences | Dan Hiaeshutter-Rice | Present |
| College of Communication Arts and Sciences | Interim Dean Teresa Mastin | Present |
| College of Communication Arts and Sciences | Rabindra "Robby" Ratan | Present |
| College of Communication Arts and Sciences | Alexandra Thrubis Stanley | Present |
| College of Education | Amelia Gotwals | Absent |
| College of Education | Dean Jerlando F.L. Jackson | Present |
| College of Education | Matthew Pontifex | Absent |
| College of Education | John Carlson | Absent |
| College of Engineering | Chengcheng Fang | Absent |
| College of Engineering | Dean Leo Kempel | Absent |
| College of Engineering | Nizar Lajnef | Present |
| College of Engineering | Mark Worden | Present |
| College of Engineering | Neil Wright | Present |
| College of Human Medicine | Scott Counts | Present |
| College of Human Medicine | James (Jim) Anthony | Present |
| College of Human Medicine | Cristian Meghea | Present |
| College of Human Medicine | Dean Aron Sousa | Present |
| College of Human Medicine | Michael Williams | Present |
| College of Human Medicine | Hua Xiao | Present |
| College of Law | David Favre | Absent |
| College of Law | Dean Linda Greene | Absent |
| College of Law | Noga Morag-Levine | Present |
| College of Music | Jane Bunnell | Present |
| College of Music | Dean Jim Forger | Present |
| College of Music | Guy Yehuda | Absent |
| College of Natural Science | Gustavo de los Campos | Absent |
| College of Natural Science | Dean Phillip Duxbury | Absent |
| College of Natural Science | Francois Greer | Absent |
| College of Natural Science | Brian Gulbransen | Present |
| College of Natural Science | Min-Hao Kuo | Absent |
| College of Natural Science | Aaron Odom | Present |
| College of Nursing | Gayle Lourens | Absent |
| College of Nursing | Dean Leigh Small | Present |
| College of Nursing | Chastity Warren | Present |
| College of Osteopathic Medicine | Dean Andrea Amalfitano | Absent |
| College of Osteopathic Medicine | Jason Bazil | Present |
| College of Osteopathic Medicine | Janice Schwartz | Present |
| College of Osteopathic Medicine | Terrie Taylor | Absent |
| College of Social Science | Laurie Bulock | Present |
| College of Social Science | Guo Chen | Present |
| College of Social Science | Dean Brent Donnellan | Present |
| College of Social Science | James Dulebohn | Absent |
| College of Social Science | Raymond Jussaume | Present |
| College of Social Science | Zeenat Kotval Karamchandani | Absent |
| College of Social Science | Patricia Machemer | Absent |
| College of Veterinary Medicine | Stephan Carey | Absent |
| College of Veterinary Medicine | Sean Crosson | Present |
| College of Veterinary Medicine | Dean Birgit Puschner | Absent |
| Council of Graduate Students | Samara Chamoun | Present |
| Council of Graduate Students | Hannah Jeffery | Present |
| Council of Graduate Students | Harkirat Kaur | Present |
| Council of Graduate Students | Annabelle Miller | Present |
| Council of Graduate Students | Sohee Park | Present |
| Eli Broad College of Business | Ayalla Ruvio | Present |
| Eli Broad College of Business | John Spink | Absent |
| Eli Broad College of Business | Interim Dean Judith Whipple | Absent |
| Eli Broad College of Business | Quan Zhang | Absent |
| Emeriti Faculty | David Long | Absent |
| Facility for Rare Isotope Beams | Thomas Glasmacher | Present |
| Facility for Rare Isotope Beams | Chris Wrede | Present |
| Faculty Grievance | Francisco Villarruel | Present |
| Graduate School | Dean Pero Dagbovie | Present |
| International Studies and Programs | Dean Steven Hanson | Present |
| James Madison College | Daniel Ahlquist | Present |
| James Madison College | Russell Lucas | Present |
| James Madison College | Dean Cameron Thies | Present |
| Libraries | Tad Boehmer | Present |
| Libraries | Dean Neil Romanosky | Present |
| Libraries | Kathleen Weessies | Present |
| Lyman Briggs College | Peter White | Present |
| Lyman Briggs College | Samantha Cass | Present |
| Lyman Briggs College | Dean Kendra Spence Cheruvelil | Absent |
| Ombudsperson | Shannon Burton | Present |
| Residential College in the Arts and Humanities | John Aerni-Flessner | Present |
| Residential College in the Arts and Humanities | Interim Dean Glenn Chambers | Absent |
| Residential College in the Arts and Humanities | Tama Hamilton-Wray | Present |
| University Committee on Academic Governance | Dean Rehberger | Present |
| University Committee on Curriculum | Valeta Wensloff | Present |
| University Committee on Faculty Affairs | Jamie Alan | Absent |
| University Committee on Faculty Tenure | Susan Barman | Present |
| University Committee on Graduate Studies | Trixie Smith | Absent Tom Sharkey |
| University Committee on the Libraries | Jackeline Iseler | Absent |
| University Committee on Undergraduate Education | Antoinette Tessmer | Present |
| University Committee on Student Life and Engagement | Connor Le | Absent |

*Whereas,* ASMSU passed a resolution of no confidence in the Board of Trustees[[3]](#footnote-4), citing among other factors, Trustee Scott’s allegations of Trustee Vassar’s misconduct; and,

*Whereas,* The Faculty Senate passed a resolution[[4]](#footnote-5), calling on the Board of Trustees to remove Trustee Vassar as Chairperson, calling on Trustee Vassar to resign, referring her to the governor for removal per MCL 168.293, and authorizing the filing of a complaint with the university’s accrediting body, the Higher Learning Commission, that outlined Trustee Vassar’s transgressions of Criterion 2C4 and 2C5, including:

* inappropriately interfering with matters delegated to the administration;
* appearing in an advertisement for the private wealth management firm founded and managed by a former trustee;
* traveling on a donor’s private jet, accepting courtside tickets from an MSU donor, dismissing suggestions that her conduct was not consistent with the board’s ethics standards; and,

*Whereas,* The Miller & Chevalier report[[5]](#footnote-6) substantiated several allegations against Trustee Vassar including all allegations cited in the October 26th Faculty Senate Resolution and new findings against Trustee Denno, that included, among others;

* interference in the final draft of the after-action report from February 13th, 2023;
* providing students with confidential information against university interests;
* Trustees Vassar and Denno retaliating against the Faculty Senate Chairthrough the manipulation of students; and,

*Whereas,* The Board of Trustees voted on March 3, 2024[[6]](#footnote-7), to censure Trustees Vassar and Denno, remove them from all current and future appointments during the Board’s term ending December 31, 2024, except those activities and duties required as an elected official, and refer them to the governor for review and potential removal under MCL 168.293; therefore, be it,

*Resolved,* That the Academic Congress endorses the actions laid out by the previously cited Faculty Senate and Board of Trustees Resolutions, and the Miller & Chevalier Report, calls for the resignation of Trustees Vassar and Denno, and endorses the removal of Trustees Vassar and Denno by the governor under MCL 168.293; and,

*Resolved,* Thatthe Academic Congress condemns the retaliatory behaviors of Trustees Denno and Vassar, for exploiting students for political gain, inducing a culture of fear, weakening academic governance, jeopardizing the free, open expression of civil discourse, risking the accreditation of the university, unnecessarily dividing the Spartan community, and carelessly exposing the university to potential litigation; and,

*Resolved,* That, although censured by the Board of Trustees for revealing confidential information regarding ongoing litigation, the Academic Congress lauds Trustee Scott’s courage for exposing transgressions substantiated by the Miller & Chevalier investigation including violations of the Board of Trustees Code of Ethics, Board policies, and Criterion 2 of the university’s accreditation from the Higher Learning Commission; and,

*Resolved,* That the Academic Congress commends those who bravely came forward to sit for interviews and provide information to the Miller & Chevalier investigators; and,

*Resolved,* That the Academic Congress calls for mandatory, comprehensive Trustee onboarding and annual training, designed by internal and external experts, to prepare them for the rigors of the role and to restore confidence in the Board from the university community.

1. A recording of the remarks (and the rest of the meeting) is available at <https://acadgov.msu.edu/universitycouncil>

   . [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. See page 8 for the full resolution [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. *See* ASMSU Bill No. 60-35 (November 2, 2023), <https://drive.google.com/file/d/14CrIZL7NaZgC5GoDOwxX7HV4ikIwu5IA/view>. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. *See* Faculty Senate Resolution FS2324R03 (October 26. 2023), <https://acadgov.msu.edu/-/media/assets/academicgovernance/docs/faculty-senate/fs-2023-2024/fs-resolutions/fs2324r03-board-chairperson.pdf?rev=602ffa45d20e40aea2e1f8c637f3ac47&hash=EFB61BCD74BC6F471A0DDEECEF1379EE>. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. *See Michigan State University Independent Investigation Report* by Miller & Chevalier (February 28. 2024), <https://msu.edu/-/media/assets/msu/docs/issues-statements/msu-independent-investigation-report--feb-28-2024--redactedupdated-links.pdf?rev=6e36cfca79374c28b9d81e4baacc0706&hash=483929D1FD6EC34599D00C3B77E870A2> [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
6. *See* the Board of Trustee’s Executive Action Summary (March 3, 2024), [Miller and Chevalier Report Resolution.pdf](https://michiganstate.sharepoint.com/:b:/r/sites/AscProvostandAscVPAcademicHROfficeoftheSecretaryforAcademicG/Shared%20Documents/AY_2023-2024/Miller%20and%20Chevalier%20Report%20Resolution.pdf?csf=1&web=1&e=IvT6hJ) [↑](#footnote-ref-7)