Present: President Simon, Provost Wilcox, Abeles, Allen, Schwille (for Ames), Andre, Arch, Ardanowski, Ballard, Banks, Bell, Keller (for Bieler), Kuykendall (for Blackburn), Borcila, Brown, Butler, Catrine, Corby, DeJong, Mazzeo (for Duncan), Emmett, Fay, Fisher, Fortus, Gift, Gokcek, Gold, Haka, Harris, Hernandez, Hinojosa, Hughes, Krehbiel (for King), Lacy, Leahy, McGroarty (for Leroi), Link, Markovski, Martin, McConeghy, McCormick, Melakeberhan, Moch, Munn, Murphy, Olson, J., Olson, R., Peterson, Potchen, Prasad, Putnam, Revitte, Freedman (for Riedinger), Rodriguez, Rosser, Santos, Schechter, Soffin, Solomon, Sonntag, Stephenson, Sticklen, Strampel, Udpa, Wallbank, Weber, Weich, Wright, Youatt  69


The meeting began at 3:42 p.m. with a full quorum present.

Approval of Agenda:
The agenda was amended, changing the date to November 15, 2005. The amended agenda was approved.

Approval of Minutes:
The minutes of October 25, 2005 were approved as amended. Eric Hinojosa was present.

President’s Remarks:
The President noted, coming from the Land Grant meeting, there was much talk about the Secretary Spelling Commission on higher education and the need to look at that work as it unfolds. This is the same kind of model that produced the ‘No Child Left Behind’ in terms of a Department of Education committee. There was also talk at the Land Grant meeting about the concern for federal financial aid and the way budget decisions are unfolding as it relates to questions of access for our students. There was much discussion
about need-based aid. Fortunately, MSU has had need-based aid for a long time and are always scrambling to raise money for merit-based aid while other institutions had merit-based aid given the endowment and development activities and are now putting in need-based aid packages. This will be one of those continuing balancing acts as one looks at the budget and issues. There has been a lot of press given to the Carolina Promise which is the idea that students from the low socioeconomic class at the University of North Carolina would not have any debt. The University of North Carolina put 40% of the tuition increase this year toward financial aid. President Simon noted that MSU has been very successful in fund raising but the endowment portion of the campaign becomes the primary target, not the overall goal, because that will be reached. The President asked faculty to think about interactions with former colleagues, alumni and graduate students and to think about how to meet the campaign goal for endowment.

President Simon commented on the announcement that the Stakeholders group in Grand Rapids has been meeting. This is a committee of individuals that are key to the discussions regarding the expansion of the CHM in Grand Rapids. It is a group that has no power to act as it cannot mandate the actions of any of the individual partners. A press conference will take place November 16, 2005 for the Stakeholders group to report. The Dean from CHM and the Oversight Committee have been actively engaged in the conversations. Material will be available on the CHM web site so everyone can be informed on the progress.

Professor Abeles, Chairperson of the Oversight Committee, noted the committee was appointed in May, 2004 to review and have overview of the proposed expansion of CHM in Grand Rapids. The committee had considerable input into the process and was heard. The Oversight Committee recommended that Dean Rappley and President Simon endorse the Stakeholders project plan, the details will come at the press conference.

The President acknowledged the work of the Oversight Committee and thanked Council members for their hard work this semester. President Simon reported the University will continue to work with the City of East Lansing regarding the Commission Report and think about ideas that are important for a strong community.

**Provost’s Remarks:**
Provost Wilcox referred to the Accreditation Report and the materials distributed to members. This material details the status of the work done for the North Central Accreditation process. The site visitors will be on MSU campus in February, 2006. A draft of the self study is now on the web. The Provost encouraged members to read the report and offer any commentary to Dean Klomparens. The Provost is also interested in the faculty’s recommendations on what the University aspirations should be for the next ten years. There will be opportunities for governance to interact with the review team while on campus.
The Provost discussed the quality fund allocations draft distributed to members. This year the Board of Trustees included approximately $10 million dollars to enhance the academic quality of the institution. There have been 118 proposals for enhancement of academic quality received in the Provost’s office and are being reviewed. The Provost is in discussions with individual Deans about specific proposals that were submitted. The decisions will be finalized by the time of the Board of Trustees meeting on December 12, 2005. The Provost reviewed the summary of the reoccurring allocations to base budgets around the University, which totals $8.4 million dollars plus $2 million dollars in fringe benefits. The Provost noted that approximately 60 to 65 new tenure stream faculty will be added plus 20 fixed term stream faculty. There will also be 7 additional staff for advising and complementary positions and 14 graduate assistants. The additional dollars will likely be spent on facilities for improvements, remodeling, etc. The President noted it was a pleasure to give a Provost money to spend on academic programs.

**ECAC Chairperson’s Remarks:**
Professor Sticklen reported that the Gender Identity II, an Hoc Committee, has been established and will begin meeting this semester.

**University Committee on Curriculum Report:**
Professor Schechter, Chairperson of UCC, presented the UCC Report, highlighting the following:

- There were twelve new courses recommended, changes in 93 courses and deletion of 4 courses.
- There were changes in 3 programs, deletion of a program and the addition of 2 programs, a Bachelor of Science program in Genomics and Molecular Genetics and a Doctoral program in Chicano/Latin Studies.

There was a question about library resources for new programs. The Director of Libraries noted that in nine years there has not been a Dean or Chairperson who has come to the Library requesting additional money for materials to support new programs. However, after programs are in place there are requests for new materials. Professor Schechter indicated there is a question on the form reviewed by UCC asking this question. The Units are always asked about additional resources needed and are trying to improve this problem.

A motion was passed approving the recommendations of the UCC.

**Other Business:**
The President commented on the challenges of this University and other major research universities and the need to consider how collaborative resources like the Library, which is no longer simply resident, and how electronic materials relate to scholarship in the
twenty-first century. It may no longer be the case that simply having programs is the mark of an institution. President Simon noted that academic governance needs to begin to have a conversation about the debate, not about a particular program, but around an overall set of balancing principles. The Provost was supportive to the President and called attention to the Curriculum Report where there were twice as many requests for creation of programs than there were for deletions of programs.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacqueline Wright
Secretary for Academic Governance

Tapes of complete meetings of the Academic Council are available for review in the office of the Secretary for Academic Governance, 308 Olds Hall, 355-2337.