The meeting began at 3:19 p.m. with a Bass quorum.

Approval of Agenda:
The agenda was amended, adding the item Appointment of an At-Large Faculty Member to ECAC. A motion passed to approve the amended agenda.

Approval of Minutes:
The minutes of February 15, 2005 were approved as distributed.

President’s Remarks:
President Simon reported that at the Board of Trustees meeting last week the Spring Board of Trustee Scholarship winners were recognized. Twenty-one students completing their programs with a GPA of 4.0 going into their final semester were recognized by the Board. President Simon noted this was the largest number of students to receive this award and this is a credit to the faculty. In addition, Professor Fisher, Dean of the Honors College, announced there were four recipients who received the Goldwater Scholar Award. This was also the largest number of awards in one year at MSU.

The President provided some context related to the State budget discussions. The good news in the editorials reflects that the role of higher education is being recognized in leading the State out of its economic doldrums and into economic prosperity. There has been a shift in attitude which is positive; however, the shift is occurring at a time when the State’s economic indicators are not improving dramatically. It will be a difficult budget cycle. The President remains optimistic that there appears to be some will within the legislative process to treat higher education in a more positive manner. The way in which the executive order was structured gives MSU the opportunity to have the 1.8% cash return to the University through an end of the year estimate. Last year the State used General Fund dollars to subsidize the K-12 system because the money
earmarked for K-12 had declined more rapidly than projected. The revenue estimate that would trigger a return of cash to higher education in this year’s executive order is triggered on increases in both the school aid budget as well as the general fund budget. This gives higher education an opportunity to have potential access to additional money. The President believes that the Governor will have to consider balancing the budget in the budget recommendations at the 1.6 or 1.8 level. President Simon indicated the other good news in the executive order, as reported, is that Extension and Experiment Station were spared from the executive order.

The House hearing with the three research universities has taken place and this was positively received as a special value for the research universities. The Senate hearing is scheduled for the end of May. There is indication that this process will not be completed by June 1 and it is doubtful that the Board of Trustees will take any action early (i.e. May) with respect to tuition.

President Simon noted the events of the weekend of the Final Four and commented that major donor events were held on both the men and women venues for all of the six sites. The President returned after the loss to North Carolina at 3:30 a.m. and began an assessment of what had transpired. A meeting was held at 8:00 a.m. with East Lansing City officials. It was clear that the vast majority of MSU students took to heart the request for a responsible celebration and this is a message we need to continue to convey. The events will be analyzed from many directions but this is not a repeat of the past. There were a small number of individuals who were being a threat to others and this should not be condoned. The isolated instances are taken up more by the press than desired. The President encouraged not to use stereotypes of our students and not to have stereotypes of the police action until all of the evidence is sorted out.

Provost’s Remarks:
Acting Provost Hudzik reported that there has been a comprehensive planning process under way for several months looking back at the tuition constraint and other factors which have created a structural budget deficit in the University. No decisions have been made at this point and there are multiple objectives that are trying to be achieved. The budget planning is begun each year with an assumption, namely that revenue needs to be increased 3% to cover ordinary inflationary costs. With this assumption, a 3% inflationary increase in the State appropriation is looked for and an inflationary increase in tuition of 3%.

Acting Provost Hudzik noted the executive order removes approximately $5 million dollars from the University’s base. No State appropriation increase would leave the University short another $9 million dollars. The University’s utility costs are expected to be $8 million dollars this coming year above inflation. The health care costs are also rising above inflation at about another $5 million dollars a year. Additional financial aid to help students is about $6 million dollars. There is another $2 million dollars of additional costs above inflation. All of this adds up to approximately a $35 to $40 million dollar problem in terms of the base budget balance. There are also issues regarding salary and compensation increases. If one looks at salary alone, MSU is toward the bottom of the CIC, but if you include the compensation package MSU is
closer to the middle of the CIC institutions. The budget discussions this year have reflected a strong commitment to the extent possible to significantly invest in educational quality. There is a strong interest in holding average or across the board reductions to academic units to a minimum. There is a strong commitment to soften the impact as much as possible on students of any tuition increase. Acting Provost Hudzik stressed the planning discussions have been very productive.

Executive Committee Chairperson’s Remarks:
Professor Sticklen reminded members of the Provost Search and encouraged everyone to attend the forums. Professor Sticklen reported on an ECAC action in response to the last Senate meeting passing a motion to investigate ways to increase support for the governance process by electronic means.

Proposed Amendments to Code of Teaching Responsibility:
Professor Ogundimu, Chairperson of UCAP, presented a motion to amend the Code of Teaching Responsibility, distributed to all members. The revised Code of Teaching Responsibility affirms unequivocally the importance of teaching and the academic mission of the University. It clearly apprises faculty of their responsibility in upholding the value of teaching with explicit statements of expectations on the part of instructors, linking performance by instructors with expectations in the Code with rewards in respect to salary increases, tenure and promotion. Professor Ogundimu offered some language changes in the form of amendments to the proposed motion. Members discussed the revision, seeking some clarifications. There were several amendments to the proposal:

- Office hours should be scheduled at times convenient to both students and instructors with the additional option of mutually convenient prearranged appointments with students whose schedules conflict with announced office hours. A motion passed to accept the amendment to the proposed amendment.
- Instructors shall be responsible for informing students in a timely manner so as to enhance learning, grading criteria and methods used to determine grades on individual assignments. Instructors shall be responsible for assessing a student’s performance based on announced criteria and on standards of academic achievement. A motion passed to accept the amendment to the proposed amendment.

A motion passed to accept the amendments to the Code of Teaching.

University Committee on Faculty Affairs Budget Recommendations:
Professor Bresnahan, Co-Chairperson of UCFA, presented the recommendations for MSU Faculty Salary Increases for 2005-06 (distributed). Professor Bresnahan noted that the UCFA continues to hold the position that a competitive salary structure is necessary to ensure high quality academic programs over the long term. The goal is to raise MSU’s faculty salary ranking to sixth in the Big Ten over a defined period of time while maintaining MSU’s middle place ranking with respect to total compensation. The UCFA recommends a 4.25% salary increase
distributed based on merit for academic year 2005-06. It is also recommended that the market component of any increase be the same or less than allocated in 2004-05. The practice of funding promotions centrally from the Office of the Provost should be continued.

**Appointment of At-large Faculty Member to ECAC:**
Professor Larabee, Chairperson of UCAG, proposed the endorsement of Professor Weber as a replacement for an at-large faculty member on ECAC to serve until August, 2006. Professor Larabee explained that a current member of ECAC would be on leave next year and unable to fulfill his role on ECAC.

**Discussion of the Draft Report from the Ad Hoc Committee on Faculty Voice:**
Professor Sticklen noted that it was anticipated that the timeline for the Report would be somewhat different than it turned out and thus it is coming to Council as an information item. Professor Sticklen requested permission for voice for all members of the Faculty Voice Committee, permission was granted. Professor Manderscheid asked for members’ comments and suggestions to the draft report which will then be taken to the Faculty Voice Committee meeting next week. Professor Manderscheid encouraged faculty to use email or phone to provide feedback. A final draft of the Report will be out before the Academic Senate meeting where the Report will be discussed. The Faculty Voice Final Draft Report will be an information item at the Senate meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacqueline Wright
Secretary for Academic Governance