MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE
DRAFT MINUTES
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2014
115 INTERNATIONAL CENTER


Approval of Agenda for November 11, 2014

Professor Davidson asked to have item 11 removed from the agenda. The agenda for November 11, 2014 was approved as amended.

Public Comments (2 minute time limit per speaker; 10 minutes total for comments)

There were no public comments.

Approval of Minutes for October 14, 2014

The minutes for October 14, 2014 were approved as corrected.

President's Remarks

Today is Veteran’s Day. Let the minutes reflect our collective gratitude to individuals who have served our country in many ways. It is important to recognize and celebrate the work of others on behalf of our country.

The proposed State of Michigan budget from the Governor’s office identified a priority that would include higher education receiving increments above inflation in order to ameliorate some of the losses incurred over the past few years.

The University Research Corridor (URC) website provides the results of benchmarking studies over the last eight years. The information compares what Michigan, Michigan State and Wayne State have done and how they compare with clusters of three research universities on an array of measures.

Provost Remarks

Congratulations to our faculty in the College of Business on their Business Week Today rankings. They have been ranked 33rd (up from 36) for the MBA program and among public universities, they were ranked 11th (up from 14). That is a credit to the hard work of the faculty and the Broad College of Business.
There has been an excellent response to The Academic Competitiveness Fund initiative. This program provides an opportunity to make targeted hires in critical areas across the university. The deadline for pre-proposal submission has passed, and it is clear that there are a number of excellent ideas. The most promising will be identified quickly. For others that demonstrated merit, other mechanisms to support them will be sought.

The Steering Committee Chairperson's Remarks

The Faculty Health Care Council has conducted a series of focus groups representing different aspects of the faculty. The groups examined the recommendations for a faculty health care center. Updates on the FHC Council’s progress will be presented during future Faculty Senate meetings.

Campus safety has generated a wide variety of issues that includes the Relationship Violence and Sexual Misconduct (RVSM) policy as well as safety with regard to pedestrians, bicycles and busses. The Steering Committee has referred these issues to UCFA, UCSA and UCGS for their input. Questions or concerns regarding these issues should be brought to the attention of the Committee Chairs.

UCC Report

Professor Anthony Paganini presented the UCC report from deliberations on October 23. Program actions included 3 new programs, 13 changes, zero deletions. The committee continues to move through prerequisite and corequisite restriction review. To date, it has resulted in course actions of 13 new courses, 114 changes, and 6 deletions. Motion to approve and seconded. Motion carried.

Graduate School's New Home

Dean Karen Klomparens, Associate Provost and Dean of Graduate School discussed the Graduate School’s new home in Chittenden Hall. The Dean’s comments addressed the background and process by which their home had been created and described a number of different programs that support MSU’s graduate students.

Discussion Feedback from the October 14 Faculty Senate Meeting - E-Training Video used for Staff

Professor Deborah Moriarty reported that the information that was gathered after watching the RVSP training video has gone to I3. They were very happy to get it and appreciative of the conversations during the Senate meeting and the excellent suggestions they received.

Faculty Senate Survey and Assignments to Committees

Professor Moriarty introduced the chairs of the different standing committees and asked them to make a few comments regarding the work of their committees.

Professor Cynthia Taggart, Chairperson of the University Committee on Undergraduate Education, identified three issues from the earlier Senate discussions; the integration of international students and students of diverse backgrounds into the MSU community, the effects of the shifts from tenure system faculty to fixed-term faculty on student learning, and the lack of funding tied to student education. A sub-committee was formed to continue working specifically on those three topic areas.
Professor Anthony Paganini, Chairperson of the University Curriculum Committee, identified MOOCS as a primary area of concern. The issue is centered on coding them in curricular forms, and the criteria by which to evaluate them. In addition, the issue of the length of the semester, especially when compared with summer sessions, is an ongoing discussion.

Professor Phyllis Floyd, Chairperson for the University Committee on Faculty Affairs, identified one of the main focus points for discussion as the salary and benefits disparities among the Big Ten (CIC). Additionally, the committee will be examining the equity or lack thereof among tenure, fixed-term and the healthcare professional appointments in the MSU community.

Professor Eric Strauss, Chairperson of the University Committee on Graduate Studies, also identified the issue of MOOCS as an ongoing discussion. In addition, they are working on whether to allow a specific number of credits between bachelor and master degrees to be double counted. The Academic Research Policy sub-committee is working on the issue of joint programs and whether to delay the time needed for a guidance committee to be set up from the end of the second semester to the start of the third semester.

A motion was made to give James Conwell, University Committee on Student Affairs Chairperson, voice to present the UCSA report. Motion was seconded and carried. James Conwell identified the RVSM policy, campus safety and communication technologies that are available on campus for students as focus issues for UCSA.

Professor Emanuel Chavez, Chairperson of the University Committee on Academic Governance identified the RVSM, campus safety issues, and Bylaws revisions that may require recognition of the new Faculty Health Care Council.

New Business

Professor Patrick Dixon from the College of Education offered thoughts regarding flu immunizations for the MSU community. He indicated that out of approximately 40,000 students, only 680 students have received flu shots from Olin.

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded.

The meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.