

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. The Agenda for September 20, 2016 was approved as distributed.

3. The Draft Minutes for March 22, 2016 was approved as distributed.

4. President’s Remarks: President Lou Anna Simon is out-of-town.

5. Provost’s Remarks: Dr. June Youatt

Provost Youatt stated that this Fall Semester welcomes several new Deans to MSU. They are: the Dean of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Ron Hendrick; the Dean of Social Science, Rachel Croson; the Dean of Human Medicine, Norm Beauchamp; the Dean of the College of Law, Larry Ponoroff; and the Dean of Undergraduate Education, Sekhar Chivukula. Dr. Sekhar Chivukula, as the incoming Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education and Dean of Undergraduate Education, has instituted positive changes and brought new hires to his office.

Provost Youatt added that Associate Provosts are performing very specific roles in the University. Dr. Elizabeth Simmons, Dean of Lyman Briggs College and Associate Provost of Faculty and Academic Staff Development, runs the Academic Advancement Network (discussed next week in Faculty Senate). Dr. Jeff Grabill is the new Associate Provost of Teaching and Learning, managing the Hub for
Innovation in Teaching Technology and Learning, and is affiliated with the Academic Advancement Network.

Provost Youatt concluded her opening remarks by saying that last April’s accreditation visit by the Higher Learning Commission was a success, and that MSU is accredited. The Higher Learning Commission strongly endorsed the quality of the work at MSU. She noted that their focus is primarily undergraduate education, and that the review is done every 10 years.

6. Chairperson’s Remarks: Professor Deborah Moriarty

Professor Deborah Moriarty introduced the new Secretary for Academic Governance, Dr. Gary Hoppenstand. Professor Moriarty stated that the Steering Committee Chairperson revolves its leadership, as the membership of Faculty Senate and University Council. Dr. Hoppenstand’s position is the institutional memory of Academic Governance for the faculty and students at MSU.

Professor Moriarty also introduced new At-Large Members of the Steering Committee. She added that the membership of the Steering Committee includes the Chairpersons of Standing Committees and five At-Large Members. The At-Large Members are voted on by the faculty At-Large at MSU, and they do not serve on other committees. They are your representatives, and you can contact them with questions or ideas to present. The new At-Large Members are: Ramona Fernandez, College of Arts and Letters; Joseph Francese, College of Arts and Letters; Mariam Sticklen, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources; Laura McCabe, Vice Chairperson of Faculty Senate and the Steering Committee, College of Osteopathic Medicine; and Deborah Moriarty, Chairperson of the Steering Committee, Faculty Senate, and University Council, College of Music.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1. New Bylaw Revisions, Dr. Gary Hoppenstand

1.4. Ex Officios have voice and vote unless otherwise stipulated in individual Standing Committee rules.

1.4.2. Except as limited or prohibited in bylaws a designee may serve instead of a member of a governance body who is absent to a meeting. Such designees must have same eligibility and constituency as the replaced. They have same rights and privileges as replaced. Attendance record of member with designee shall be unaffected.

Absences and removals: Members who fail to attend two meetings a semester or three in an academic year of a particular governance body designated in the bylaws and who shall also fail to provide designees shall be removed, reducing quorum until members are replaced by procedures specific to those bodies. For absences related to teaching or business travel, a designee must be appointed. A designee should be a person with the same constituency. If serving as an At-Large Member, the entire institution is your constituency, and anyone can be a designee.

Provost Youatt explained that bylaws were changed to prompt Academic Governance participation. In meetings years ago, sometimes important University business could not be conducted because there was no quorum due to absences.

Per Dr. Gary Hoppenstand, these bylaws have been approved by the MSU Board of Trustees.
7.2. Review of Research Integrity Director: Dr. Terry Curry

The document approved by the Board of Trustees has proceeded – UCGS

Dr. Terry Curry, Associate Provost of Academic Human Resources, was granted voice and vote and spoke on the review of the Research Integrity Officer. The document approved by the Board of Trustees on procedures of allegations concerning misconduct in research and creative activities has processes with respect to appointment and evaluation of the Research Integrity Officer. The University Committee on Graduate Studies annually receives information from the Research Integrity Officer, and will evaluate the Research Integrity Officer, reporting to the President and Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies about performance of the Research Integrity Officer. President Simon feels that in addition to that annual review, she would like to do something similar to what has been done for other academic administrators. College Deans, for example, have to be reviewed in a period not to exceed five years, and Department Chairpersons and Directors are reviewed in a period not to exceed five years. That review is a shared responsibility between appropriate administrators and the faculty of the unit. Dr. Curry and Bill Beekman, the Vice President and Secretary of the Board of Trustees, were tasked to develop review procedures, and work with Academic Governance in creating the process for the five-year review of James M. Pivarnik, the Research and Graduate Studies Vice President. Professor Moriarty met with Dr. Chris Hogan, the Chair of the University Committee on Graduate Studies. As is similarly done with Deans and Chairpersons, the proposed review procedure (which President Simon has accepted) involves 1) a survey of individuals in contact with the Research Integrity Officer; 2) a sampling of other researchers on campus; and 3) a random sampling of people with grants. These individuals will provide input for the review, and a solicitation will also be distributed where people are invited to schedule appointments with Vice President Beekman, or others, for confidential interviews. Lastly, the Research Integrity Officer is asked to identify those who can provide some perspective on his performance. They will receive a notification asking for a confidential letter. In addition, The University Committee on Graduate Studies (UCGS) will be asked to identify people to be contacted for a review and review letter. Vice President Beekman and Dr. Curry will summarize the information for President Simon, and President Simon will ask the University Committee on Graduate Studies (UCGS) to provide any additional commentary. The intent is to complete this process by this Fall Semester.

7.3. University Committee on Curriculum (UCC Report) – Professor Jerry Urquhart

Dr. Urquhart stated that the Faculty Senate acts on his report, as the University’s curriculum is the purview of faculty. It is then reported at University Council as an information item. Dr. Urquhart, Chairperson of UCC, spoke on the April, 2016 actions. He stated that five new minors in programs were approved. Three new minors in Forestry were approved. A new minor in Indian and South Asian Languages and Cultures was approved. Forty-eight new courses, fifty changed courses, and four deleted courses were approved.

Provost Youatt asked that when courses are added, to please look and see what courses are not needed anymore. She noted that we cannot keep adding courses at the rate we are adding them, and never deleting any.

8. Comments from the floor
Lorenzo Santavicca, Associated Students of Michigan State University (ASMSU) President, reported that they welcomed back students to the new academic year, and that this is the first year that the Spartan Code of Honor is in effect. ASMSU has seen great results so far with the implementation of the Spartan Code of Honor, and are excited to work with faculty. Santavicca reported that they have important initiatives in process.

Provost June Youatt stated that she was very pleased with the progress that ASMSU and the Council of Graduate Students (COGS) have done this year.

Dr. Robert LaDuca stated that there is still a problem with the sound dropping from the microphone system, and that something needs to be done since it is very hard to hear.

Dr. Paul Menchik stated that regarding course additions, it is not the number of courses but the number of sections of these courses that affects budget constraints.

Dr. Mariam Sticklen stated that the University has not added space adequately within the Departments. She added that there is a problem of finding space, and that space is based on grants that faculty bring in. Other grants, such as commodity grants from commodity agencies, are not taken into account. Regarding those post-docs that are attracted by grants, these people need space too. Provost Youatt replied that space is indeed an issue, but the University is not going to add additional space due to costs. She would be happy to show what space is available. She added that the University is buying some buildings for office space, but not lab space. Provost Youatt noted that MSU has a number of support groups that need space as well.

A member from the College of Engineering stated that we may want to use a model that does not assign space to people, but instead assigns it to programming needs. For example, when someone does not get funding for years, then the space is not used. Provost Youatt replied that this procedure is how the process is supposed to work, and said it was an excellent point.

Dr. Hoppenstand announced the Big Ten Academic Governance Alliance Leadership Conference on the MSU campus from September 28-30. It will be the first time in recent memory that every Big Ten University will attend.

9. **Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn and Motion carried – 3:56pm

**Standing Committees Reporting to University Council**

- University Committee on Academic Governance (UCAG)
- University Committee on Undergraduate Education (UCUE)*
- University Committee on Graduate Studies (UCGS)*
- University Committee on Student Affairs (UCSA)*

**Other Committees Reporting to University Council:**

- Athletic Council
- University Committee on Honors Programs (UHP)
- University Committee on International Studies & Programs (UISP)
- University Committee for the Library (UL)
University Military Education Advisory Committee (UMEAC)

*The Secretary for Academic Governance has not received written reports at present.*