1. CALL TO ORDER

2. Approval of Agenda for February 28, 2017

   The agenda for February 28, 2017 was approved as presented.

3. Approval of Draft Minutes for January 24, 2017

   The draft minutes for January 24, 2017 were approved as amended.

4. President’s Remarks: Dr. Lou Anna K. Simon

   President Simon stated that it has been an interesting time of late. She stated she was on a
call with the MSU Board of Trustees for the Association of American Universities (AAU)
regarding a series of issues that are facing higher education. Part of this discussion involved
the preliminary information about what has been called the "President's (Trump's) Skinny
Budget," which includes the broad outlines of what the budget might be. Information
regarding the President’s Skinny Budget will be made clearer when Federal Cabinet posts are fully assigned.

President Simon noted that if you are thinking about the budget from a higher education perspective, one might be very concerned about the broad support for the Social-Behavioral Sciences and Arts/Humanities regarding such issues as funding for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and the support for scholarships from the National Endowment for the Arts and for the National Endowment for the Humanities.

In addition, she notes, the continuing dialogue within NSF about priorities for funding can be impacted. If, for example, if one is a climate scientist, one might be very concerned about the recommendations for significant cuts in the EPA and other agencies that have supported climate-based research.

President Simon stated that budget discussions are still very early in the process. Thus, the higher education associations (other than MSU) are trying to stay on top of the discussions, trying to find various strategies, because ultimately this process will involve a legislative decision, with numerous forces being balanced along the way. But, she added, there still is a level of uncertainty or unpredictability that will affect most economic budget cycles. It is still not clear what will happen with the Federal Department of Education, both with issues such as Title IX compliance or with issues such as Financial Aid.

President Simon said that MSU has to continue to monitor all of these concerns, and recognize that there is great uncertainty currently at play. She said that this is a time when it is important not only for MSU to speak out about our own particular brand of teaching and research, but for the Academy as a whole to speak out as well about the importance of all of these concerns regarding the support of a thriving academic enterprise for the United States and for the world.

President Simon then addressed the effects of the U.S. President’s Executive Orders. These orders, she added, are still coming out, generating responses and the corresponding “chill” that comes with the responses (for the students, faculty, and staff who are part of the consequences of the Executive Orders). There will be another Executive Order issued from the White House sometime this week. The higher education establishment will look at this Executive Order and try to (hopefully) modify it for a variety of issues that are crucial to, MSU beliefs, the long-term interest of the country and the Academy. But these are still uncertain times. Even if there is language that might be less objectionable, President Simon added, there is still the unease and the fear that evolves from how the Executive Orders will be interpreted and applied.

President Simon emphasized that many of these concerns are not directly in our control. What is directly in our control, she emphasized, is how we care about one another, and how we try to work with, listen to, and support one another. President Simon provided an example regarding her trip to Florida this past weekend raising money for the University (including Flint today and elsewhere around the country). President Simon says that she hears concerns expressed from alumni that she meets about how the problems swirling around the University are affecting MSU and “trying Spartan souls.” She said these issues are trying Spartan souls, including hers. MSU will continue to deal with what problems lie in front of us (and not always caused by us), whether these involve issues about Nassar or
sexual assault, sexual harassment, racism, antisemitism, free speech, and all of those things that are core to our soul, to MSU’s values.

President Simon stated that some ways, as we have done more education training, as we have asked all of you to be part of a community that training regarding problems such as sexual assault and sexual harassment, it is good that MSU has more cases. Because all the data would suggest that the behaviors that we find so abhorrent were there already. Evidence of this fact appears in the Association of American Universities’ (AAU) survey. Evidence appears in the materials that Dennis Martel conducts every year about MSU’s Campus Climate and various risk factors. What we're seeing now, President Simon added, is a campus that is coming together in a positive way regarding intolerance for unacceptably bad behaviors, and not ignoring them.

As MSU works through the cultural changes that we need to have in order to prevent those unacceptable actions, President Simon noted that the good news is that in surveys conducted with students, students will respond that 91% of the of them now understand the issues around sexual assault and sexual harassment. Eight or seven years ago, the similar survey would report that student response was approximately 40% or 46%. Those are all good trends, President Simon stated. The same advancements in attitudes could be said, she believes, for the work that Faculty Council and others have done for faculty and staff. But with these efforts will also come a need to deal with these cases. And, President Simon noted, MSU cannot fall into the “trap” of being defined as a culture of rape, when we actually are a culture of intolerance of rape, regarding MSU’s dealing with those cases. President Simon emphasized that this all is part of the “culture change,” the balance, which we all at MSU are moving through.

President Simon concluded that not everything we read in public may be as she might like it or what might match what we know about cases. She added that we are not permitted to talk about a variety of things by FERPA and MSU will continue to abide by those standards. But together MSU needs to work as a community to reach out, to understand, and to expect our community simply to be better tomorrow than it is today. President Simon stated that MSU will address these issues in a straightforward manner. MSU will investigate fully and hopefully find justice in pursuing the truth. President Simon said that MSU will look at the shortcomings of policies, and practices, and procedures, as MSU has done every day, to try to figure out how to be better.

5. Provost’s Remarks: Dr. June Youatt

Provost Youatt stated that we have a number of students who are now in the final stages of being considered for national and international awards, such as the MSU Debate Team.

Provost Youatt also said that MSU is currently in the midst of our Dean search for the College of Natural Science, and that the search is going well. She noted, in addition, that MSU is conducting an internal search for the Dean of the Graduate School. Regarding the Dean of the Graduate School search, Provost Youatt encouraged all in attendance to think about colleagues who might be interested in serving for the next few years as Dean of the Graduate School. She added that it is an exciting time in graduate education, and that there is great opportunity to think about how MSU promotes graduate education. Provost Youatt
stated that the Graduate School has a number of important grants and projects that showing
great effectiveness in recruiting and supporting a diverse graduate student population. She
said that MSU’s professional schools are increasingly interested in being part of the graduate
student groups. Provost Youatt concluded her comments by encouraging those who are
interested in obtaining additional information about the search, that they contact Dr. Terry
Curry, Associate Provost / Assistant Vice President of Academic Human Resources.

6. Chairperson’s Remark: Professor Deborah Moriarty

Professor Moriarty reported that the microphones set to record the meeting are now located
up in the front row, so that Drew Hill, the technician, can see immediately who is
approaching the microphones so that we do not have a time lag recording statements from
individuals.

Professor Moriarty also stated that the poster for the Faculty Senate statement on Campus
Climate Diversity and Inclusion has been issued as a poster to be distributed around campus.
She added that extra copies of the poster have been printed if anyone would like one. This
poster can also be printed from the Academic Governance website, from the tab which is
located in the top left hand corner of the website page. Professor Moriarty stated that if there
is interest in having more copies printed for distribution, these can be printed through
Academic Governance.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1. University Curriculum Report, Professor Jerry Urquhart, Chairperson  Long
Report  (click on link)

The University Committee on Curriculum Report was given. Two new programs,
nine program changes, and zero deletions were approved. The new programs included
a minor in Creative Writing and a Ph.D. in Physiology/Environmental Toxicology.
Regarding course approvals, there were 19 new courses, 38 course changes, and 14
course deletions approved. The full report can be found on the UCC website and can
be viewed by clicking on the link. A motion was made to approve the report. The
motion was first and seconded. The motion carried.

7.2. Mobility Project, Satish Udpa, Executive Vice President, Administrative Services

Dr. Udpa presented the issues regarding the Mobility Project at MSU. He stated that
MSU wants to recognize the fact that people use different vehicles, and engage in
different ways to get to the campus, and different ways to move around the campus.
Dr. Udpa said that there is a huge group of stakeholders that we have to respect. And if
you want to manage mobility on campus, then MSU needs to have a great deal of data
concerning the number of pedestrians on the street, the number of bikes that are in use,
and what sort of public transportation MSU has on the streets, such things as the types
of cars, the number of cars, mopeds, and so on. Once MSU has this data, then it should
be possible for the University to improve traffic control and flow.

Dr. Udpa added that there is also an additional objective. He said that given all the
work that our faculty are doing, we want to position MSU as a recognized leader in
mobility. He added that the other objective that MSU would like to see happen is an
increasing level of partnership with the automotive industry. Because this is Michigan,
Dr. Udpa noted that 80% of the people who design automobiles and who come up with the next generation of automobiles, are located in Michigan; MSU should be able to partner with them and get the most out of that partnership.

7.3. **COGS Updates, Dee Jordan, COGS President**

Dee Jordan reported that the Council of Graduate students (COGS) has taken on several initiatives in an effort to be intentionally inclusive and to live up to MSU’s model of inclusiveness. On February 8th, for example, Dee Jordan stated that COGS launched its redesigned website, and at the forefront of our design criteria was inclusion. She invited those in attendance to take a moment to visit the COGS website (cogs.msu.edu).

Dee Jordan also stated that the ninth annual Graduate Academic Conference was recently held. This conference included 91 presenters and over 200 attendees throughout the day, adding that several research awards were presented, and that Dr. Maybank delivered our Awards Ceremony Address.

Dee Jordan announced that on March 14th and 16th, COGS, in conjunction with ASMSU, will hold student town halls to discuss the Counseling and Psychiatric Services realignment and the recommendations from the Keeling report. She asked those in attendance to please encourage your students to attend so their voices can be heard.

Finally, Dee Jordan stated that on Saturday, March 18th, MSU will hold its third annual Diversity, Inclusion, and Sensitivity Workshop, facilitated by Alex Langs of the LGBT Resource Center. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Cheseree Warren.

7.4. **Conference Planning Committee, Lorenzo Santavicca, ASMSU President**

Lorenzo Santavicca reported that the association of Students at Michigan State University (ASMSU) had the opportunity to attend the Conference on Student Government Association at Texas A&M University, which attracts over 400 delegates from over 85 different student governments, including Mexico and the nations of the Caribbean. At that Conference, Lorenzo Santavicca notes that that ASMSU was awarded “Outstanding Student Government of the Year.” He added that ASMSU also received a second award for a highly recognized legislative item, thus returning home with two awards at an international conference for student governments.

Lorenzo Santavicca also stated that ASMSU planned a conference focused on diversity inclusion efforts this semester, which would include faculty participation. He noted that he is working with Paulette Russell on this to see how we can include faculty and students from across the board to raise better awareness and ways to bring more conversations to diversity inclusion on our campus.

8. **Comments from the floor**

A motion was made by Jerry Urquhart to give John Kerr voice to read a letter from faculty. The motion was carried. John Kerr read the letter from MSU faculty regarding the Nassar case. This statement was distributed in an ad hoc way and contains 132 signatures.
President Simon said in response that she really appreciates the concerns expressed by the faculty who have signed the statement, adding that MSU has made its primary concern the welfare of Nassar's victims, including justice for them and their families “as our hearts continue to go out to the girls and the young women who have spoken out.” President Simon stated that MSU is committed to a culture of accountability, safety, and responsiveness regarding this case and any case of sexual assault or sexual harassment.

President Simon stated that she would recommend as well, in response, a look at the statements made by Attorney General Schuette, because investigations of this kind are done and criminal charges are made not by the Police Department, but by the US Attorney General or the US Attorney. These agencies simply use the investigative resources of Michigan State University’s police. It will be seen in that statements have been made by victim advocates who are concerned that MSU might inadvertently do something to make survivors feel a greater sense of betrayal and loss. President Simon noted that she believes that information has been made available to the MSU faculty on the MSU listserv. President Simon said that MSU remains very concerned about these issues and that the University will continue to work with the US Attorney and the Attorney General. President Simon added that many, if not most, of the interviews are done in conjunction with the Attorney General's staff that have been assigned to MSU, or with the FBI, as interviews are conducted for criminal proceedings.

In addition, President Simon said that the law firms of Skadden Arps and Miller Canfield have been involved since October of 2016 and January 2017, respectively, to review and represent what MSU might need to do as an institution, and if there are other issues that are not criminal in nature. These law firms are reviewing a wide variety of records and will make these available after their review in addressing what MSU needs to do. President Simon concluded that the timing of some of the reviews have been done in a way, again, to respect what the victims wanted, which is to bring Nassar to justice.

9. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made to adjourn. The motion was first and seconded. The motion carried. 3:58pm.