1. CALL TO ORDER
   The meeting was called to order at 3:25 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda for March 28, 2017
   The agenda for March 28, 2017 was approved as presented.

3. Approval of Draft Minutes for February 28, 2017
   The draft minutes for February 28, 2017 were approved as distributed.

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

   The President reports that the news is no more positive than the last time the University Council met. Things will become clearer, she notes, at both the state and federal level. President Simon has been working hard to “bend the nature of the discussions” with regards
to research funding and policy implications. She says that having the advantage of being on the American Association of University’s (AAU’s) Board of Directors allows her to receive regular updates. She states that professional academic organizations, at the federal level, need to reinforce the importance of science and research, not just for today, but for the future as well. We need to have these voices of support for the sciences, the social and behavioral sciences, and the humanities to be very strong in the world of a constrained budget.

At the state level, President Simon states that we are also going to have to speak to the value of higher education. There exists basic data about unemployment levels and salary strength that supports the importance of higher education, and this needs to be reinforced with state government representatives.

5. **Provost’s Remarks: Dr. June Youatt**

Provost Youatt reports that that members of University Counsel should have on hand a solid briefing of MSU Counseling and Psychiatry Services Unit that is being developed. There have been two “town halls” convened by the Associated Students of Michigan State University (ASMSU) and the Council of Graduate Students (COGS) that responded to questions by students. She also notes that there is a link from the Olin Health Center website that provides updates about this unit, and that in several weeks there should be a discrete website that can be accessed that will provide more information. Provost Youatt stated that in a few days a position announcement will be posted for the Director of this new unit.

Provost Youatt reported that U.S. News and World Report has issued their rankings of universities, and that Elementary and Secondary Education in the College of Education retains its number one ranking in the country, and that Curriculum and Instruction is now ranked at the number two slot (up several levels from the previous rankings). Provost Youatt adds that we have seven programs ranked in the number one position, including Nuclear Physics and Education, Organizational Psychology, and African History. Provost Youatt added that MSU has another nine programs ranked in the top ten spots. In addition, she noted that MSU was listed in Forbes magazine’s listing of the 500 “Best Places to Work.” President Simon stated that it took a very courageous decision on the part of faculty in the College of Education to do what was required to make the leap to the top ranked spot nationally.

6. **Chairperson’s Remark:** Professor Deborah Moriarty

None

7. **NEW BUSINESS**

7.1. **Agile Recruiting and Onboarding (ARO) Project Update, Kara Yermak, Academic HR Assistant Director and Renee Rivard, Director, Human Resources Benefits**

Kara Yermak presented the Agile Recruiting and Onboarding (ARO) Project, which is implementing a new applicant tracking system, as well as a new “onboarding” (i.e. getting new employees acclimated) system. One of the goals of this project is to assess MSU’s hiring processes in order to create a more efficient system, and a system that is more up-to-date. The [ARO Project](#) can be viewed on the Academic Governance
7.2. **Responsible Conduct of Research Requirements for Graduate Students, Judith Stoddart, Interim Associate Provost and Dean of the Graduate School**

Dr. Judith Stoddart reported on the Responsible Conduct of Research Requirements for Graduate Students. Dr. Stoddard provided background history to the Responsible Conduct of Research for Graduate Students, as well as its current status at MSU. She identified two goals. One was to provide centralized resources to make training easier and to insure that information is up-to-date, and the other goal was to make training easily trackable.

7.3. **University Committee on Curriculum (UCC) Report, Professor Jerry Urquhart, Chairperson** [Long Report](click on link)

Professor Urquhart presented the UCC report. He stated that three new programs were approved, as well as twenty-one program changes, and zero program deletions. He added that thirty-one new courses were approved, sixty-four course changes, and one course deletion. A motion was made to approve the report and was seconded. **The motion carried.**

8. **Comments from the floor**

Dee Jordan and members of COGS council representatives reported that they have events planned for “Mental Health Awareness” week. A “Sleeping under the Stars” event is also planned at the MSU Planetarium. Dee Jordan and COGS honored President Simon with the COGS “Circle Award” for her ongoing efforts to be intentionally inclusive of the graduate student voice at MSU.

Correction to the University Council minutes of March 28, 2017: item number five, second paragraph, at the end of the second line, the statement that says that MSU is conducting an internal search for the Dean of the Honors College should instead say that MSU is conducting an internal search for the Dean of the Graduate School.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion to adjourn was seconded. **The motion carried. 4:12 p.m.**