Approved: November 28, 2017
2016-2017: Meeting # 2

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY COUNCIL APPROVED MINUTES
OCTOBER 17, 2017 3:15 PM
115115 INTERNATIONAL CENTER


1. CALL TO ORDER
   The meeting was called to order at 3:15pm

2. Approval of Agenda for October 17, 2017
   The agenda for October 17, 2017 was approved as amended adding the Big Ten Voting Challenges.

3. Approval of Draft Minutes for September 19, 2017
   The minutes for September 19, 2017 were approved as distributed.

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

   President Simon reported that MSU currently has no budget, so the University is currently operating on a continuation budget. She added that MSU has had no movement on immigration policy at the U.S. legislative level, including DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals). She noted that it is unclear what the president would do if there is no bill
President Simon stated that tax reform that is now working its way through the beginning of the process at the U.S. Legislature, and that changes have been made in Obama Care, the Affordable Care Act, through Executive Order not through legislation. She said that such changes do not affect MSU directly in terms of the coverage the University provides, yet in another way these changes may affect MSU directly, because if the cost of healthcare goes up, then there will be potentially be a “ripple effect” for MSU, even though MSU is self-insured. She said that this situation is something to monitor at the Federal level.

President Simon reported that at the State level, most of the attention has been directed towards the Amazon bid as a large economic development opportunity. She noted that there is a proposal from Detroit and a proposal from Grand Rapids, and that MSU has indicated support for both proposals. She said that it is up to the MSU community to think through the opportunity presented by organizing around Amazon and the future of the State of Michigan and, by extension, Michigan State University.

President Simon stated that she has been engaged in a conversation the Provost about the new Interdisciplinary Science Building. She said that this building will be opened in 2020 or 2021, and that it has to meet the teaching/learning needs of the campus for 40 years. It has to be a place, she noted, that challenges the creativity and imagination of students, and that it must encourage students that graduate from Michigan State University, regardless, having broadly defined a “real sense of creativity and exploration.”

President Simon said that she desires the campus to really embrace what is an unusual and important opportunity, to join together as a University community and be the place that designed something for interdisciplinary, primarily introductory science teaching, which inspires creativity and imagination. President Simon added that she knows that many Colleges are thinking about how their programs will be affected by a digitally disrupted world, and that she appreciates all of that thinking as the University moves through the next stages of Michigan State University’s academic programs and development as a world leader.

President Simon also addressed the issue of campus speakers and speaker polices. She declared that her bias is as a “traditionalist,” that she feels very strongly that if universities are to have a special role in society, then they should have a special obligation to listen to views that some do not like. She said that university communities need to analyze the issues carefully, to be thoughtful and respectful, and to sponsor the highest level of dialogue possible in our society, because that is part of the reason why universities were created in the first place. President Simon said that she has encouraged the Provost to consider that when MSU contemplates speakers, that the University also thinks about putting people who disagree on the same stage, as opposed to just having two speakers and choosing between them, so that MSU models the kind of academic debate and discussion, and listening with respect and with rigor, of thought that is also a part of the University.

President Simon concluded her remarks by addressing Campus safety. She said that security measures that may have been invisible in the past will become more visible. She stated that many alumni will be returning for Homecoming Weekend celebrations, including the 60th anniversary for the Honors College, the 50th anniversaries for James Madison College and
Lyman Briggs College, and the 10th anniversary for the Residential College of Arts and Humanities.

5. Provost’s Remarks: Dr. June Youatt

Provost Youatt reported that MSU was recently featured in *The Chronicle of Higher Education* for one of the programs that MSU has done where the University is helping researchers discuss the work they do for various audiences, for the press, and for lay groups. She also said that in the *Atlantic Monthly Magazine* there is an article that addresses MSU’s student success and features the University’s Neighborhoods.

Provost Youatt stated that she had several announcements. She noted that two MSU faculty members were being acknowledged by the MSU Alumni Association of Michigan for their undergraduate teaching. She identified Pat Dillon, from the Department of Physiology, and Karl Gude, from Communication Arts and Sciences, as the award recipients.

Provost Youatt said that on the 26th of October, MSU will be having its first promotion dinner for this year. She added that hosts a celebratory dinner for newly promoted Associate Professors and Full Professors, their families, and their administrators.

Provost Youatt urged those in attendance to note the announcement about this year’s University Distinguished Professors. She explained that every two years, MSU issues a call for those faculty members who are exemplary in research, teaching, and outreach, and who have national and international reputations. She stated that University Distinguished Professor honor is the highest faculty academic award designation at MSU. Ten new inductees have been acknowledged this year.

Provost Youatt stated MSU engages in many forms of activity in Detroit, from community music schools, to Engineering, to Food Science, to parenting education, to medical clinics, to all types of food outreach, and to the preparation of students in Business, Human Medicine, Osteopathic Medicine and Nursing. She said that on November 3rd there will be an on-campus summit for those who are working in Detroit, or who have interest in working in Detroit. She noted that Dr. Sonya Gunnings-Moton is leading that summit on the 3rd. Provost Youatt encouraged those in attendance to get in touch with her office if individuals are interested in being part of these efforts.

6. Chairperson’s Remark: Dr. Laura McCabe

Dr. McCabe reported that she also read an interesting article in *The Atlantic Monthly* about the importance of the University in the Midwest, and how the research and the scholarly activities that MSU engages in is critical for building the State and maintaining educated people within the State. She encouraged those in attendance to read the article.

Dr. McCabe stated that—based on the input received from those in attendance—Dr. Gary Hoppenstand, Secretary for Academic Governance, will discuss Academic Governance. She noted that there will also be an energy infrastructure discussion, and a discussion about mental health issues in the near future. She said that those who have suggestions for topics to be addressed in University Council next month, that they should use the Faculty Input site on the MSU Academic Governance link on the MSU webpage.

7. NEW BUSINESS
7.1. **University Committee on Curriculum (UCC) Report**, Professor Marci Mechtel, UCC Chairperson, Short Report ([Long Report](link), click on Link)

Dr. Mechtel stated there were a total of four new programs that were approved, highlighted by a Turf Grass Management minor, effective Spring Semester, 2018. She reported that for the Residential College in Arts and Humanities, a new three-plus-three option with the College of Law was approved, effective Spring Semester, 2018. Also approved were a Global Studies in Arts and Humanities Program, a Molecular Science Graduate Certificate Program, as well as a Plant Science dual major, and a Doctor Philosophy degree, also effective Spring Semester, 2018. Additionally, she noted, that there were 23 program changes, and no program deletions. The UCC also approved 73 new courses, 126 course changes, and eight course deletions.

7.2. **Energy/Mobility Presentation**, Professor Wolfgang Bauer, Sr. Consultant to Executive VP, Administration Services

Dr. Bauer offered the Energy/Mobility presentation. He reported on the timeline for MSU’s energy transition efforts, and that the current energy transition plan was started in 2010. He noted that this plan was approved by the Board of Trustees in April 2012. He stated that MSU has built an anaerobic digester to process animal and food waste. MSU also decided on the path that resulted in constructing solar panel carports on South Campus. Dr. Bauer explained the purpose of the solar arrays constructed on the MSU campus, including details about the energy produced by them. In addition, he discussed the issue of food consumption and waste at MSU. Dr. Bauer concluded his presentation by requesting that every academic unit think about how MSU can save energy, how MSU can reduce emissions, and how MSU can save money. If one can save energy, he concluded, one can save money. The Presentation can be viewed on the Academic Governance website.

7.3. **Academic Governance Overview** ([click on link](link), Dr. Gary Hoppenstand, Secretary for Academic Governance

Dr. Hoppenstand presented the Academic Governance Overview to members. He reviewed resource information from the MSU Academic Governance website. He discussed how the MSU University Bylaws are posted on the Academic Governance link on the MSU website. He demonstrated how MSU Faculty input was reviewed, and he welcomed those in attendance to use this resource. He also explained the operations of the various University Standing Committees and how to track them through the MSU Academic Governance links.

7.4. **Big Ten Voting Challenge**, Lorenzo Santavicca, ASMS President and UCSA Chairperson

Lorenzo Santavicca reported that he had been working with President Simon, as well MSU’s Big Ten partners, to assemble the Big Ten Voting Challenge, which is dedicated to educating students about the issues and encouraging them to vote. After presenting a video example, he noted that efforts are underway to create a MSU
specific video that would encourage students to vote. He said that it is important to circulate the messaging that it is a student’s civic responsibility to vote.

8. Comments from the floor
   None

9. ADJOURNMENT
   A motion to adjourn the meeting was made. The motion was first and seconded. The motion carried.
   4:31pm.