1. CALL TO ORDER

2. Approval of Agenda for February 20, 2018

   The agenda was amended to allow guest speakers to address the Steering Committee. A motion was made and seconded. The motion passed.

3. Approval of Draft Minutes for January 9, 2018

4. President’s Remarks: Interim John Engler (out of town)

5. Provost’s Remarks: Dr. June Youatt

6. Chairperson’s Remarks: Dr. Laura McCabe

   Because of consideration of time limits of the emergency Steering Committee meeting, Dr. McCabe did not offer any remarks.

7. Committee Reports

   University Committee on Curriculum (UCC) – Professor Marci Mechtel

   Professor Mechtel reported that the UCC approved four new programs, programs highlighting a Minor in Broadcast Journalism, and a Master of Arts and Clinical Medicine. In addition, a Master’s degree in Legal Studies, and a Minor in Sports Journalism were approved. Thirteen program changes approved, as were three program deletions. Nineteen new courses were approved, as were 111 course changes, and nine course deletions. Moratoriums were approved for the Quantitative Biology dual major Ph.D., effective spring of 2018 through spring of 2019. A moratorium was approved for the Latin Disciplinary Teaching Minor for spring of 2018 through fall of 2018. And a moratorium was approved for the Italian Disciplinary Teaching Minor for spring of 2018 through fall of 2018. A discontinuation of a Ph.D. in American Studies was approved, as was the Russian Disciplinary Teaching Minor, effective summer of 2018, and the History Disciplinary Teaching Minor, effective spring of 2018.

   University Committee on Faculty Affairs (UCFA) – Professor Thomas Tomlinson
Professor Tomlinson reported that UCFA approved a motion requesting that the Provost instruct the Director of the Office of Institutional Equity to attend an UCFA meeting once each semester, and deliver an account of incidents that have been reported to the OIE, including the nature of those incidents, and how these incidents have been addressed. The provost has agreed to this request.

**University Committee on Academic Governance (UCAG)—Professor Gayle Lourens**

Professor Lourens reported that UCAG has developed a slate of faculty candidates for committee elections. Additionally, UCAG has received a number of requests from University Colleges to take an opportunity to review their own Bylaws. As a result, UCAG has suspended the College Bylaw reviews for this semester, thus allowing the Colleges to examine their own processes and procedures, in order to evaluate if they want to change their Bylaws before they are reviewed UCAG. And lastly, UCAG will be bringing new Bylaw language forward on the agenda today regarding Academic Specialists.

**University Committee on Undergraduate Education (UCUE) – Professor Richard Miksicek**

Professor Miksicek reported that UCUE has developed a survey to collect information about teaching surveys. It was noted that the Office of IT Services is going to be putting out a RFA for potential platforms to use for teaching evaluation, and UCUE will gather some input that will help review in that process.

**University Committee on Faculty Affairs (UCFT) – Professor Michael Dease**

Professor Dease reported that UCFT reviewed and approved two tenure extension requests.

**University Committee on Student Affairs (UCSA) – Lorenzo Santavicca**

Lorenzo Santavicca reported that UCSA has been discussing campus challenges and the campus landscape. It was noted that their discussion about campus mobility, which includes mopeds and bicycles, was tabled to their next meeting. The general sentiment of the group was a desire to review the University Bylaws process.

8. **NEW BUSINESS**

8.1. **Faculty Health Care Council Slate of Nominees, for Selection, Dr. Laura McCabe**

Dr. McCabe reported that the approval of the slate will be delayed until the next Steering Committee meeting.

8.2. **Academic Specialists Bylaw Amendments, Dr. Gayle Lourens, University Committee on Academic Governance (UCAG) Chairperson**

Dr. Lourens reported that for the University Bylaws Amendments that would allow Academic Specialists voice and vote on a University committee, because Fixed-Term Faculty are required to have three years of consistent service before they can sit on a University committee, it was decided that Fixed-Term Faculty would be held to the same requirement. Discussion ensued regarding what constituted full-time employment at MSU. It was agreed that the University Bylaws should be amended to state that 90% employment constitutes full-time employment at MSU. It was agreed that UCAG would revisit the language of the Bylaws amendment and return them at a later time for
8.3. Next Steps Following the Vote of No Confidence in the Board of Trustees – Discussion, University Committee on Academic Governance (UCAG) and Faculty Comments

Professor Shawnee Vickery made the following statement and request regarding the Vote of No Confidence in the MSU Board of Trustees:

“I appreciate this opportunity to appear before this August group. And I'm here again with a request that we work to amend the proposal, the motion, concerning the confidence that was made last week at the Board of Trustees, to contain language that specifically states what happened in terms of the Board's failure to stop the criminal behavior of Larry Nassar. And then, to provide adequate support for the survivors.

…and I will share with you that after I spoke last week, I did get an email from the mother of a survivor, who thanked me for speaking up. And she included a quote of what I said in M-Live. She said basically that these were her sentiments exactly as the mother of a survivor. And she thanked me for saying it out loud.

…I just really think we need to keep the focus, if we're doing a vote of no confidence in the Board, on what happened with respect to Larry Nassar and the horrific abuse he subjected the women to. It is very unusual in a university system to do a vote of no confidence in the Board of Trustees. It's not so unusual to do it in a president, but it is very unusual for a Board of Trustees.

…and it seems to me, that this situation with Larry Nassar, and what occurred on this campus, rises to the level where it makes sense to do a vote of no confidence on the Board of Trustees. And it's the only thing that makes sense for us to do a vote of no confidence in the Board.

…and so I would respectfully request that we amend that motion to provide a clear distinct reason. And the reason is solely focused on the failure to stop, prevent the behavior of Larry Nassar, and then support the women, as they should have been supported after his abuses became known.”

Discussion ensued. It was agreed that there were two issues regarding the Vote of No Confidence in the Board of Trustees. The first involved an institutional failure to listen to faculty and students. The second involved a specific No Confidence Vote based on Larry Nassar’s criminal behavior and the Board of Trustees failure to respond to this specific situation in a timely and ethical manner. It was decided to allow the Faculty Senate an opportunity for a separate (and second) vote of No Confidence in the Board of Trustees, with specific language that addresses the Board of Trustees’ failure to deal with Nassar’s criminally abusive behavior.

8.4. It was reported that the Athletic Council met on Friday and that interest was expressed to form a group within the Athletic Council to examine the Bylaws. It was moved and seconded that the Bylaws review should be conducted by the Athletic Council, in conjunction with UCAG. The motion carried.
9. Draft Agenda for Faculty Senate for February 20, 2018

- Slate of Nominees for The Steering Committee At-Large, for Endorsement, Dr. Laura McCabe, (Action Item) (Appendix)

- Slate of Nominees for the Athletic Council, for Endorsement, Dr. Laura McCabe, (Action Item)

- University Committee on Curriculum (UCC) Report, Professor Marci Mechtel, UCC Chairperson (Action Item) (Appendix Short Report) (Long Report, click on Link)

- Next Steps Following the Vote of No Confidence in the Board of Trustees – Discussion (Appendix, University Committee on Academic Governance (UCAG) and Faculty Comments)

10. Draft Agenda for University Council for February 27, 2018

- University Committee on Curriculum (UCC) Report, Professor Marci Mechtel, UCC Chairperson (Information Item) (Appendix Short Report) (Long Report, click on Link)

- Next Steps Following the Vote of No Confidence in the Board of Trustees Continued

11. ADJOURNMENT
A motion to adjourn was made and first and seconded. The motion carried. 3:45pm.