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

2. Approval of Agenda for February 27, 2018
The agenda for February 27, 2018 was approved as presented.

3. Approval of Draft Minutes for January 23, 2018
The minutes for January 23, 2018 were approved as distributed.

4. President’s Remarks: Interim John Engler

President Engler reported that he was delighted to speak to the assembled group. He noted that that he likes to present a statement every week to the University community about the status of the University. He said that he will be traveling to Washington, D.C. to attend the Michigan Congressional Delegation on the status of the MSU investigations that are coming out in Washington. He also said that he will be meeting with Spartan supporters in Washington for their support and assistance.

President Engler stated that the status of the investigations in Washington are pretty straightforward, adding that the Office of Civil Rights at the Department of Education announced they would be joining the investigation. He added that, thus far, there has been the Cleary investigation, which is also part of the Department of Education, and two House Committees and a Senate Committee investigation, and so that there are five total ongoing investigations at this point. He noted that Christine Seiko is now MSU’s new acting General Council. President Engler stated that MSU has thus far produced about 170,000 pages of documents for the various investigative committees, noting that MSU has been meeting all deadlines, and fully complying with all requests, that have been received. At the State level, President Engler said that the State Attorney General’s investigation is the largest being conducted, and the most interested in getting documentation from the University. So, again, he stated, MSU is in the midst of what can be described as a “rolling production of documents.”

Regarding the question of litigation, President Engler reported that this issue is a more complicated problem, because MSU is at the point where the University was involved in some mediation where the mediator was in poor health. Thus, he noted, there is going to be a need to replace the mediator before proceeding, which will be important moving forward.

President Engler said that MSU is also focusing on a broader set of concerns on campus, because we not only have a group of survivors who were victims of Dr. Nassar, but also that there were females on this campus who had nothing to do with Nassar, who were assaulted, often in their dormitory, sometimes in a fraternity house, or sometimes in an off-campus
apartment. Thus, because of the national debate on sexual assault, MSU is front and center regarding the question of how do academic institutions deal with the question of sexual assault on campus. President Engler stated that he has met with a number of groups about how to prevent sexual assault and, if sexual assault does occur, how to deploy the best investigative methods of that assault.

President Engler wanted to follow-up on Ashley Fuente’s comments regarding the visit of Richard Spencer to the MSU campus. He stated that when one has a hate monger who comes to this campus. Placing him in the livestock pavilion is the perfect response. It gives him the proper message. He added that what Spencer wants is for people to show up to protest, to take the bait, as this gives him the media attention that he desires. The best way to embarrass Spencer is to not show up for his event. President Engler said that students should instead take advantage of what Ashley Fuente was discussing as alternative events, that this would be the most humiliating thing that could happen to Spencer.

A discussion ensued about the integrity of the MSU Presidential search. It was asked that a transparent plan should be in place for the search, and that students should be part of the search itself. Ashley Fuente was nominated to be a student member of the President Search process, and she agreed to participate.

As part of this discussion, Professor Andaluna Borcila of James Madison College stated:

“I think that faculty are working on ways in which we see that the process for the search and electing a President should happen. And I appreciate the idea that the Board would be in control of it, but we are suggesting Bylaw changes. And also that we want to have a say in the actual process, not just say what kind of student is going to be representing us. So, I think that we will have a voice in this and we want to have a voice in this beyond just picking one particular person. And there are some Bylaw changes that we've proposed and I'm sure we will continue to push for this because I think that as a faculty we have the responsibility to do that at this juncture.”

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

Provost Youatt reported that progress is being made on the searches for several Deans. She noted that MSU has concluded all of the interviews, as well as the deliberation for the Dean of the College of Natural Science, adding that there were faculty, Deans, and students in this room who were a part of that process. She thanked everyone involved for their efforts with this important work.

Provost Youatt also stated that as the other searches progress, she will report on those searches, and also continue to invite the MSU community to engage with candidates. All comments are welcome, and they can be sent to Provost Youatt or to Dr. Curry. All comments will be read.

Provost Youatt wanted to thank those who have put a good deal of work into thinking about next Monday, and the visit of Richard Spencer, which included the ways in which this campus might respond to his visit. She stated that she has never seen such a broad, enthusiastic coalition around a response. She then invited the COGS’ (Council of Graduate Students) President, Ashley Fuente, to summarize the kinds of things that are planned on Monday.
Ashley Fuente reported that, as the President of the Council of Graduate Students this year, she has had the privilege of working with other student groups on campus, including ASMSU, RHA, the Black Student Alliance, and the Interfaith Clergy Association. She noted that everyone came together to plan some phenomenal alternative events for Monday, March 5th, and that all are welcome to attend these events.

6. Chairperson’s Remarks: Dr. Laura McCabe

Dr. Laura McCabe reported that a letter was sent to the Board of Trustees noting that the Faculty Senate called for their resignation. She said that 85% of the voting faculty were in favor of the call for resignation of the Board of Trustees at the Faculty Senate meeting. She added that faculty comments that were received on the Academic Governance website were provided, as well as the two letters that were on the agenda for the meeting and the minutes of that meeting. The Steering Committee is trying to be transparent, allowing the Board of Trustees to view all the comments of the faculty that were discussed at the Faculty Senate.

Dr. McCabe stated that another letter was sent to Dr. Beauchamp. She said that the At-Large Members of the Steering Committee have been meeting with the Board of Trustees to increase faculty input in decision-making at MSU. She added that on Friday February 16th, based on the Members of the At-Large Steering Committee request, the Board of Trustees did not vote on the Medical School name change, which will allow faculty input on this decision. Dr. McCabe added that the At-Large Members of the Steering Committee asked Dr. Beauchamp on the next steps to seek faculty input, which can then be used in the report forwarded to the Board of Trustees.

Dr. McCabe reported that the issue regarding changes to the Bylaws of the MSU Board of Trustees were discussed at the Faculty Senate meeting, as well as Bylaw suggestions that have come through the Academic Governance website. She noted that these comments have been forwarded to the University Committee on Academic Governance (UCAG), so they can look at potential changes to suggest to the Board of Trustees. Ultimately, though, she said that the Board of Trustees has the power to approve or not approve any Bylaw changes at the University.

Dr. McCabe stated that Trustee Brian Breslin and interim President John Engler have asked for input from the MSU faculty for selecting a new President. Dr. McCabe read the email note sent by the Board of Trustees: "We are following up on our conversation prior to the most recent Board of Trustees meeting. The Board welcomes your thoughts as we begin the process of selecting MSU's next President. We join President Engler in inviting you to provide the Board with examples of recent Presidential searches that might serve as a model for our search with component parts, which work well for MSU."

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1. University Committee on Curriculum (UCC) Report, Professor Marci Mechtel, UCC Chairperson (Long Report, click on Link)

Professor Marcy Mechtel stated that, as reported to Faculty Senate, new programs were approved: a Minor in Broadcast Journalism, effective Fall Semester of 2018; a Masters in Clinical Medicine; a Masters in Arts degree, effective Summer Semester
of 2018; and a Masters in Legal Studies, effective Fall Semester of 2018; and a Minor in Sports Journalism, effective Fall Semester of 2018.

Professor Mechtel also reported that 13 program changes were approved, and three program deletions were approved. She stated that 19 new courses were approved, 111 course changes were approved, and nine course deletions were approved. Regarding moratoriums: a moratorium on Quantitative Biology, the dual major Ph.D., was approved, effective Spring Semester of 2018 to Spring Semester of 2019; a moratorium on Latin as a Disciplinary Teaching Minor was approved, effective Spring Semester of 2018 through Fall Semester of 2018; and a moratorium on Italian as a Disciplinary Teaching Minor was approved, effective Spring Semester of 2018 through Fall Semester of 2018. A discontinuation of three programs were also approved: the American Studies PhD program, effective Fall Semester of 2017; the Russian Disciplinary Teaching Minor, effective Summer Semester of 2018; and the History Disciplinary Teaching Minor, effective Fall Semester of 2018.

These curricular changes were approved at the Faculty Senate meeting. This report is an informational item for University Council.

7.2. Next Steps Following the Vote of No Confidence in the Board of Trustees – Discussion Continued

Group sessions were established to focus on two items: 1) characteristics you want in an MSU President, and 2) how to implement a process in the President search. The information collected will be provided to the MSU Board of Trustees.

The issues that were addressed during this session included:

1) Receive clarity from the Board of Trustees regarding what they are going to allow or not the MSU community to do, as far as the formation of a search committee.
2) Require efforts from the Board of Trustees to rebuild trust with the MSU Community.
3) Adopt what faculty are asking for as good faith, in good faith, because the members of the Board of Trustees are public servants and have a responsibility for this Institution.
4) Adopt an important, strategic plan that identifies a single important step, and to be aggressive about that step.
5) Elect new members of the Board of Trustees who are not “clueless” about the interests of the MSU community.

8. Comments from the floor

No Comments.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made and first and seconded. The motion carried. 5:00 pm.