MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
THE STEERING COMMITTEE APPROVED MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 4, 2018 3:15 PM
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, BOARD ROOM

1. CALL TO ORDER
The meeting was called to order at 3:19pm.

2. Approval of Agenda for September 4, 2018
The agenda for September 4, 2018 was approved as presented.

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

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

5. Provost’s Remarks: Dr. June Youatt
Provost Youatt reported that this year features MSU’s largest and most diverse incoming class, as well as the best-prepared class. She also welcomed another 80-plus tenured faculty to MSU, as well as a number of Fixed-Term Faculty this fall and Academic Specialists. She noted that Friday was the groundbreaking for the new STEM building, which was partially funded by the State of Michigan.

She stated that MSU has not had any capital outlay money from the State of Michigan for several years, so the funding for the new STEM building was an important step in expanding MSU’s instructional space on campus. The location of this new building will be where the old Power Plant is situated. Located on each end of this building there will be a column of Science and Mathematics Engineering spaces, as well as instruction spaces. The central part of the complex will house a variety of student functions, everything from the Office for Undergraduate Research, to the Hub for Teaching, Learning and Technology.

Provost Youatt added that the Presidential Search Committee would be deciding on a search firm. She said that she was invited to look at the proposals from the multiple consultants who would like to assist with the process. Provost Youatt stated that she does not have a formal role in the selection process, but that her office, through Dr. Terry Curry, herself and others, will provide the needed resources. She noted that the Presidential Search Committee is undergoing training in implicit bias, and how to conduct an inclusive search.

When asked about the numbers of incoming freshman students, Provost Youatt replied that by next Friday they have an official number. She said that the number looks to be close to 8,400 students, but that the official number could be 8,200 students.

Provost Youatt was thanked officially for her having “open” office hours during the previous Spring Semester, where individuals could come and speak to her directly about their concerns. Provost Youatt replied that she will be continuing this opportunity for the University community.
6. **Chairperson’s Remarks**: Dr. Rob LaDuca
   Dr. Rob LaDuca introduced himself as the new Chair of the Faculty Senate and Steering Committee for this academic year. He noted that he is a Professor of Chemistry, jointly appointed between Lyman Briggs and the Chemistry Department. He said that he is also an Honors College Faculty Fellow for National and International Scholarships.

7. **Introductions**
   The members of the Steering Committee introduced themselves.

8. **Committee Reports**
   **University Committee on Academic Governance (UCAG) – Chair Pending**

   **University Committee on Curriculum (UCC) – Dr. Marci Mechtel**
   Dr. Mechtel reported that three new programs were approved, 31 new program changes were approved, and that there were six program deletions. She added that 119 new courses were approved, 70 course changes were approved, and 31 course deletions were approved. She stated that the “highlight” for the programs is a link, where an effort is being made to develop seamless student pathways between Undergraduate and Graduate education. Thus, Dr. Mechtel noted that there is an Accounting B.A. /M.S. linked (effective Fall Semester of 2018), and a Construction Management B.S. /M.S. link (effective Summer Semester of 2018). She said that a Teaching and Nursing Graduate Certificate was approved (effective Fall Semester of 2018). She identified the discontinued programs, which include the Plant Science Agriculture Technology Certificate (effective Summer Semester of 2018); the Beef Cattle Management Ag Tech Certificate (effective Summer Semester of 2018); the Grounds Management Ag Tech Certificate (effective Summer Semester of 2018); the Landscape and Lawn Management Ag Tech Certificate (effective Summer Semester of 2019); the Swine Management Ag Tech Certificate (effective Summer Semester of 2018); and the Computational Chemistry Bachelor of Science (effective Spring Semester of 2021). Dr. Mechtel concluded her remarks by saying that the new Math courses, (103A and B) were approved (effective Fall Semester of 2018).

   **University Committee on Undergraduate Education (UCUE) – Dr. Rich Bellon**
   Dr. Bellon reported that UCUE will be holding its first meeting on Thursday, and that they will be addressing various curricular matters.

   **University Committee on Faculty Tenure (UCFT) – Dr. Len Fleck**
   Dr. Fleck reported that the first University Committee on Faculty Tenure will meet the following day, and it will address the dismissal of two MSU faculty members.

   **University Committee on Faculty Affairs (UCFA) – Dr. Mark Waddell**
   Dr. Waddell reported that UCFT met earlier today for lunch. He stated that one issue that they will be dealing with is the dismissal for cause that came from the Board of Trustees, which will be on the agenda of their next meeting in two weeks. He added that Dr. Bill Donahue, the Faculty Grievance Official, has stepped down from his position, and that an interim officer has been proposed. He concluded his remarks by stating that UCFA will be helping to find a new Faculty Grievance Official during the Fall Semester.
University Committee on Graduate Studies (UCGS) – Dr. Gwen Wittenbaum
Dr. Wittenbaum identified herself as the new incoming Chairperson for UCGS. She reported that they do not hold its first meeting until Monday, when they plan to look at the new Graduate School Strategic Plan, in an effort to see how UCGS can partner with the Graduate School to help achieve the aims laid out in the goals and strategies for that plan.

University Committee on Student Affairs (UCSA) – Chair Pending
Regarding ASMSU, Dylan Westrin compiled a document on University By-Law change recommendations that UCAG will be reviewing at its first meeting. Regarding USCA, Dylan Westrin stated that they have yet to have their first meeting. Dr. Hoppenstand complimented the Ad Hoc Committee and Dylan Westrin for their extensive work over the summer.

COGS – No report.

9. New Business

9.1. IT Centralization Process and Fielding Questions, Rob McCurdy, Associate Vice President, Technology Services and Chief Information Officer
Rob McCurdy reported that his office has been discussing how, with various units and individuals, about how they currently consume IT (Internet Technologies) services, and what they think they will need in the future. He said that MSU’s HR (Human Resources) classification system has also been reviewed, including the way IT classifies individuals in IT-related roles. He added that he would appreciate people reaching out to him regarding any questions that they might have. He noted that IT is interested in how it continues to partner with MSU to deliver better IT services.

Professor Moriarty responded that currently there are many faculty members who do not have trust in a centralized IT. She stated that she believes that central IT in the past has not been responsive and not helpful in terms of assisting people in a timely fashion. She commented on Interim President Engler’s statement of disinterest in “what faculty thought”. She asked, “How can faculty bridge this communication gap with the Interim President on such issues as the reconfiguration of IT?” Discussion ensued. Various concerns were expressed about IT Service locations, and about individuals perhaps losing their positions with the reconfiguration of IT. Dr. Hoppenstand also raised a concern about the lack of visibility of the Academic Governance website on the MSU main webpage.

9.2. Request for Revised Reporting Procedures for Standing Committee Reports, Dr. Gary Hoppenstand
Dr. Hoppenstand requested of the various Standing Committee Chairs to provide a brief report of their work to his office, to be included in the Steering Committee minutes.
9.3. **Presidential Search Committee Update, Dr. Rob LaDuca**
See 9.4.

9.4. **Issue Regarding the Board of Trustees (BOT) and the Michigan Constitution, Dr. Rob LaDuca**

Dr. LaDuca noted that the Steering Committee has heard about the state of the Presidential Search Committee from Provost Youatt regarding the selection of the search firm. He stated, “I do want to register some modicum of disappointment that of the six members elected by Faculty Senate to serve on the Search Committee, only one was suggested, and one was taken up. The remaining five have said that they are willing to serve as alternates, but we had people who were involved in searches at other universities, major universities. We have had people that were the NSF Directorate Chair and they were passed over.”

Dr. LaDuca added, “We do acknowledge that the Board wanted to limit the Presidential Search Committee to 19 people. Then we figured the Board was overseeing the process. However, I was personally dismayed to see that certain members of the Board of Trustees are actually on the Search Committee, especially people who have had a checkered history in acknowledging the issues that this University has faced. That was disheartening, but we are going to work with the Board as presently constituted, as the Search Committee is constituted. We are going to ask that person, the Faculty Senator who was selected, to as much as possible, inasmuch as she can, to give the nondisclosure agreements that have to be signed, so that she could keep Faculty Senate aware of the process and how things are going.”

Professor Moriarty noted that not one individual representing the Arts is serving on the Presidential Search Committee. Others expressed concerns about representation issues as well, regarding the Presidential Search Committee. Dr. LaDuca noted that changing the composition of the MSU Board of Trustees in a State of Michigan Constitutional issue, and the procedural difficulties in changing the State Constitution. Discussing ensued.

9.5. **Trustee Foster’s Attendance at the September 11 Faculty Senate Meeting, Dr. Rob LaDuca**

About addressing transparency concerns regarding the Presidential Search process, Dr. LaDuca reported that Board of Trustee member, Melanie Foster, has volunteered to come to the Faculty Senate meeting on September 11 to answer questions from the faculty.

9.6. **Academic Specialists as Voting Members, Dr. Gary Hoppenstand**

Dr. Hoppenstand reported that there is a problem about the specific language regarding how Academic Specialists are going to be elected. Such language has not been vetted, or approved. He stated that specific language for Academic Specialists elections need to be developed, noting that there is no consistency from college to college in terms of how the election process is conducted. It was agreed that these issues would be brought to the University Committee on Academic Governance for review and discussion.
10. **Draft Agenda for Faculty Senate for September 11, 2018**

10.1. University Committee on Curriculum (UCC) Report, Professor Marci Mechtel, UCC Chairperson (Information Item) (Appendix)

10.2. IT Centralization Process and Fielding Questions, Rob McCurdy, Associate Vice President, Technology Services and Chief Information Officer (Information Item)

10.3. Presidential Search Committee Update, Mary Finn, Director, Criminal Justice (Information Item)

10.4. Issue Regarding the Board of Trustees (BOT) and the Michigan Constitution, Dr. Rob LaDuca (Information Item)

10.5. Trustee Foster (Information Item)

A motion was made to approve the agenda, taking Academic Specialists off the agenda and placing it on the University Council’s agenda, and was seconded. **The motion carried.** A friendly amendment was made to take the Presidential Search Update off the agenda and was seconded. **The amended agenda was approved.**

11. **Draft Agenda for University Council for September 18, 2018**

11.1. University Committee on Curriculum (UCC) Report, Professor Marci Mechtel, UCC Chairperson (Information Item) (Appendix)

11.2. IT Centralization Process and Fielding Questions, Rob McCurdy, Associate Vice President, Technology Services and Chief Information Officer (Information Item)

11.3. Presidential Search Committee Update, Mary Finn, Director, Criminal Justice (Information Item)

11.4. Issue Regarding the Board of Trustees (BOT) and the Michigan Constitution, Dr. Rob LaDuca (Information Item)

11.5. Academic Specialists as Voting Members, UCAG Chair (Action Item) – move to #1

A motion was made to approve the agenda and seconded. **The motion carried.**

12. **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made to adjourn and was seconded. **The motion carried.** The adjournment motion was amended to have the Academic Specialists action item as the first article discussed. **The amended motion was approved.** 4:40pm