Approved

2018-2019: Meeting # 5

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY COUNCIL DRAFT MINUTES
FEBRUARY 26, 2019 3:15 PM
115 INTERNATIONAL CENTER


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

2. Approval of Agenda for February 26, 2019
   The agenda for February 26, 2019 was approved as presented.

3. Approval of Draft Minutes for January 22, 2019
   The minutes for January 22, 2019 were approved as distributed.

4. President’s Remarks: Acting President Satish Udpa
   President Udpa reported that he delivered two messages to the Board of Trustees. The first message, he noted, was that he tried to convey a personal message to survivors, conveying his heartfelt apologies to all of them. The other message was that the Board of Trustees were restarting the “Healing Fund,” but perhaps calling it by a different name.
President Udpa stated that the extraordinary success that MSU has had with its Capital Campaign was also announced at the Board of Trustees meeting. He said that the Board of Trustees was informed that MSU was able to raise more than $1.8 billion in the past seven years, which included a total of 255,284 donors. He added that it was gratifying and clear that the University is “dear to a lot of people”. He stated that the original target dollar amount was 1.5 billion dollars, and that this target amount was exceeded by 300 plus million dollars.

President Udpa reported that last week he met with the House Appropriations Subcommittee for the State of Michigan. He said that it was a positive meeting. He added that at least seven or eight questions were asked, but that there were two important questions. One of these questions, he noted, was why he felt research universities should be treated somewhat differently than universities whose primary mission is teaching. He stated that he argued that one of the benefits of coming to a university like Michigan State is that undergraduate students have the ability to work alongside with graduate students and faculty members on cutting-edge problems, which he added couldn’t happen if a university focused solely on teaching. He stated that, typically, MSU is not compensated for this type of activity. He said: “We do it because it's the right thing to do, and because the faculty members think it's the right thing to do.”

President Udpa noted that the hope is that people will be attracted to the idea of “learning-for-learning’s-sake scholarship,” and all the things that MSU, as a University, embraces. He added that the other item that they asked him about was the closed nature of the Presidential Search. He said that he did spend some time talking about the rationale that the Presidential Search Committee put together, but that there was an objection from a House Representative with this stance. President Udpa promised to take these comments back to the Presidential Search Committee and share them.

President Udpa stated that, on Thursday, he will be holding a “Conversation with the Acting President” meeting. He said that what he intends to discuss (following his open remarks) are two reports, one from the General Counsel's Office on the Clery Report, and what is being done in response to that Clery Report. In addition, he said that the other issue to be discussed is the financial report. President Udpa said that presentations will be given on the digital humanities at MSU, as well as a status report on FRIB. He added that there will be discussions on Health Care Initiatives, as well as other exciting things that are happening on this Campus that should keep this University in a good state, not just now, but for the next ten-to fifteen years.

President Udpa said that one other point that he has been very concerned about students on this Campus who use mopeds and increasing on scooters. He stated that he is concerned about their safety. He added that in many ways MSU’s hands are tied by the State of Michigan Legislature, which is not too keen on imposing such requirements as wearing helmets, so he thought that perhaps MSU should lead by example. Therefore, he noted, MSU had conversations with the Athletic Department to see if all MSU athletes can wear these helmets. He said that 150 of MSU’s athletes have signed up for these helmets, and he sincerely hopes this practice sets a good example. He added that he encourages everyone to please wear a helmet, saying that he does not want to hear about another accident on this Campus.
5. **Provost’s Remarks: Dr. June Youatt**

Provost Youatt reported that several of the outcomes that she is especially happy to discuss regarding MSU’s Capital Campaign and the increased number of Endowed Chairs across Campus, as well as the number of scholarships that were in doubt as part of the Capital Campaign. She stated that MSU had hoped at the beginning of the Campaign to try to reach an additional 100 Endowed Chairs and Professorships, adding that at the end of the Campaign, the number achieved was 112. Provost Youatt congratulated the hard work on behalf of many people who will continue to make a difference on this Campus for a long time. She said that in addition to the benefits to MSU faculty, the Campaign yielded another 3,500 Endowed Scholarships for students. She thanked all of those individuals who worked so hard on this Campaign for the University.

Provost Youatt stated that during the last ten days, MSU celebrated two Award Ceremonies: “The Excellence in Diversity Recognition and Awards Program,” and the “MSU Outreach and Engagement Annual Awards Ceremony.” She said that in both cases again, MSU lifted up important parts of our mission of the University, and recognized the good work of faculty, graduate students, and undergraduate students. Regarding outreach and engagement, she stated that MSU appreciates the efforts of many of the University’s community partners.

Provost Youatt reported that Last Friday, about a hundred people gathered to talk about where MSU is regarding the University Arts Strategy. This meeting, she said, involved an update about the process and where the University stands to date. She stated that this meeting involved an effort to think about all of the assets in Arts and Culture across Campus, and see if there are not ways to better leverage those assets, to connect those assets in ways that allow students, faculty, and the MSU community to make sure that the Arts are an integral part of their experience at MSU (and thinking about how MSU strategically can decide where to put the next investments in the Arts).

Provost Youatt also posed the question, “How do we want it to shape the place where we live and work” and inviting everyone to be part of those meetings as they become organized? In addition, she offered “a last thank you to all of you”. She said that so many individuals serve on Standing Committees, where new curriculum and new programs are discussed. She said that many were consulted and provided input regarding the creation of two new Departments: one was the Department of Orthopedics and the second was the Department of African American and African Studies. She said that she was delighted to report that the Board of Trustees approved the recommendations made on February 15.

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

Professor Moriarty reported that at the previous University Council meeting, a “Work Session” was conducted with John Beck, and that the comments of this Work Session are included in the appendices attached to the Agenda. She noted that there were three sets of comments, and that these comments were sent to the Board of Trustees, as well as to the Presidential Search Committee. In addition, she noted that at the last Steering Committee meeting, there have been a number of comments about the MSU website, and individuals having difficulty finding items on the new website.

Professor Moriarty also stated that Heather Swain from CABS (Communications and Brand Strategy) attended the Steering Committee meeting. She noted that Heather Swain suggested
that individuals should be informed to email her if they have concerns about the website, and
that her email address is Heather.Swain@cabs.msu.edu. Professor Moriarty said that Heather
Swain promises that she will answer all of her emails, so if an individual has concerns, to
please get in touch with her.

7. NEW BUSINESS

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

Professor Mechtel reported on the UCC’s activities. She stated that, as an
informational item for the University Council, the Faculty Senate approved the
following: four new Programs were approved, highlighted by an Accounting Analytics
Graduate Certificate, effective Summer Semester of 2019; an Agricultural Food and
Natural Resources Education Master of Arts degree, effective Fall Semester of 2019; a
Film Studies Graduate Certificate, effective Fall Semester of 2019; and a Race and
Ethnicity in The United States Minor, effective Fall Semester of 2019. Additionally,
she noted, there were eighteen program changes, and no program deletions. Regarding
courses: there were forty-one new courses approved, ninety-nine course changes, and
five course deletions. She added that there were no Moratoriums or discontinuations to
report. She concluded her report by saying that there is the short report and a link to
the long report in the Appendix.

A motion to approve the UCC Report was made and seconded. The motion carried.

7.2. Revised Emeritus Policy Changes Request, Professor Mark Waddell, University
Committee on Faculty Affairs (UCFA) Chairperson

Professor Mark Waddell reported that attached to the agenda is the cover memo from
Dr. Terry Curry. He said that there is a change to the MSU Emerita Policy. He noted
that one of the important parts of this change is that MSU faculty are granted Emeritus
status upon retirement at MSU, but if an individual has served for a significant length
of time, and they do not meet that threshold for retirement, then they do not achieve
that status upon leaving MSU. He said this change would alter that situation. He noted
that here are also changes to the Policy concerning “Good Standing” for those
individuals who want to achieve that status.

A motion was made to approve the change in the Revised Emeritus Policy and was
seconded. Discussion ensued. Dr. Curry, responding to questions, stated that “So the
current Policy, with regards to retirement at Michigan State, is [that] one has to serve
for either twenty-five years, or option two, fifteen years, and be at least age 62. It is
not unusual for us to hire senior faculty, as we recruited a Dean, and they're not going
be able to be in the position for fifteen years. Therefore, they could never earn
Emeritus status . . . We chose instead in the draft proposed Policy . . . to say a
significant period of time, but also [to] include language that would say, if this
decision is to be proposed, it would be done in consultation with UCFA. The President
and the Provost wouldn't independently say, ‘You’ve been here nine-and-a-half years.
That's not enough.’"

Dr. Curry added: “Let's talk it through in those cases with the UCFA, and get
agreement through Academic Governance that there is support, that [there] has been
significant accomplishments over a significant period of time. When we looked at the
elements that some of our peers had, some did have a number, ten years for instance;
we chose to be a little bit more vague, and rely on the consultation with faculty
colleagues. The second question was about the circumstances under which it could be
removed. Again, we were careful to say that these would be extraordinarily rare
instances, but chose not to try to identify [them specifically]. But again, it's there to
say in those exceptionally rare, unusual cases, we would consult the President, and the
Provost would consult with the UCFA, and if that faculty panel concurred that this is
one of those situations in which you've done something that is so beyond the pale, that
it doesn't reflect what we expect of Michigan State Faculty members, then a decision
would be made to revoke the emerita of status.” Discussion ensued. A motion to table
the Revised Emeritus Policy until further review from UCFA was made and seconded.
The motion carried.

7.3. IT Update, Rob McCurdy, Associate Vice President and Chief Information
Officer

Rob McCurdy presented an IT update. He reported that IT exists to enable research,
education, and outreach, and that much progress has been achieved. He stated that IT
is working with all of the Departments to create more stable environments. He
discussed the ongoing dimensions of IT work on the MSU campus, including security
concerns. Discussion ensued. The IT discussion was extensive and included
substantive concerns.

President Udpa stated: “We want to make sure that IT works for everybody. If it
doesn't, then we have embarked on something that is fatally flawed, and I don't want
to see that happen. At the same time, I'm acutely aware of what lack of security can
lead to. And believe me, it's not pleasant, and I've seen new units that do not have the
expertise to deal with some of the things that are being thrown in our way . . . And I
would suggest to you there's a lot of expertise on this Campus that can help us take
care of those issues. And I do not want to go back to the good old days, where each
unit could do whatever it wanted to deal with security.”

President Udpa also said: “Let me tell you one thing. We are a fully networked
system. And what happens in James Madison, affects the Physics Department and the
Music Department, and every other Department. And we cannot allow that, because
the other people are bearing all these problems. For not any fault of their own, but
because somebody in one of the Departments did not choose to keep their wireless
protection systems updated. We are a network system, and a cancer in one part of the
system spreads very quickly to the other parts of the system. We have to be very
careful. If you guys, or if anyone of you here, at anywhere at the Department, wants to
create an ‘air gap,’ meaning you are not connected to the internet, or you're not part of
the central network, I'll give you full freedom.”

8. Comments from the floor

Board of Trustee member Brianna Scott was in attendance, but had to leave and will attend
another meeting.

9. ADJOURNMENT
A motion to adjourn was made and seconded. The motion carried. 4:37 pm.