Discussion of Academic Governance Roles

September 14, 2015

I. MSU Shared Academic Governance Issues

a. What is the role of the TSC regarding the decision-making flow of the shared academic governance system?

i. 3.4.2.4. The Steering Committee shall advise the Provost regarding the appropriate faculty, academic, and student governance bodies, if any, to consult on proposals for establishment, moratorium, discontinuance, or merger of basic academic units, including departments, schools, institutes, colleges, and the Graduate School.

ii. 3.4.2.5.1. The Steering Committee shall, where appropriate, refer matters brought to it to councils or committees for consideration.

iii. 3.4.2.5.2. When an issue is referred to more than one University-level Standing Committee for consideration, The Steering Committee shall designate one University-level Standing Committee the “lead committee” on that issue and make it responsible for any report on that issue.

iv. 3.4.2.8. The Steering Committee shall report to the University Council.

b. What is the role of the FS regarding the decision-making flow of the shared academic governance system?

i. 3.3.4.1. The Faculty Senate is a deliberative, representative, and legislative body for Michigan State University faculty. As such, the Faculty Senate is the major, regularly meeting body in which curricular issues, faculty tenure and promotion issues, and faculty salary and benefits issues are presented. Input may be sought from the University Council on appropriate issues. The Faculty Senate’s role is to communicate its position to the administration on these issues.

ii. 3.3.4.6. The Faculty Senate obtains and synthesizes the opinion of the faculty to form recommendations on key issues facing the University, and communicates those recommendations to the President and the Provost.

iii. 3.3.4.9. The Faculty Senate may propose changes in these Bylaws. Bylaw changes approved by the Faculty Senate may be submitted to the University Committee on Academic Governance or may be introduced to the University Council directly by a member of the University Council. The Board of Trustees must approve Bylaw changes.

c. What is the role of the UC regarding the decision-making flow of the shared academic governance system?

i. 3.2.5.1. The University Council brings together faculty, student, and administration representatives to discuss issues that involve the entire University. While the Faculty Senate may seek input from the University Council on proposals regarding curricular issues, faculty tenure and promotion issues, and faculty salary and benefits issues, the primary focus
of discussion in the University Council is on other issues that are not the core responsibility of the Faculty Senate.

ii. 3.2.5.2. The University Council shall consider and act upon all matters within its purview brought before it by The Steering Committee, shall consider and act upon all matters brought before it by the President or Provost, and shall provide a forum for the dissemination of information and exchange of views regarding University policy.

iii. 3.2.5.3. The University Council shall consider all major issues related to educational policy. The mode of participation shall be that which is specified on the matter in the ascription of functions to University-level Standing Committees (4.3.-4.9.).

II. Role of the Secretary for Academic Governance

a. What is the role of the SAG regarding the decision-making flow of the shared academic governance system?

i. 3.5.3. The Secretary for Academic Governance shall be the parliamentarian with regard to the Bylaws for Academic Governance, and shall serve as a non-voting, ex officio member of the University Council, the Faculty Senate, The Steering Committee, the Academic Congress and the General Assembly of ASMSU.

ii. 3.5.4. The Secretary for Academic Governance will serve as the liaison between ASMSU and academic governance and between COGS and academic governance.

3.5.4.1. The Secretary for Academic Governance will be responsible for sharing information with academic governance regarding actions being taken by ASMSU and COGS.

3.5.4.2. The Secretary for Academic Governance will serve as informational parliamentarian for ASMSU and COGS.

3.5.4.3. The Secretary of Academic Governance will receive and file the minutes of meetings of ASMSU and COGS in the Office of Academic Governance.

3.5.4.4. The Office of Student Life will consult regularly with the Secretary of Academic Governance regarding ASMSU and COGS elections and will provide assistance to ASMSU and COGS.

iii. 3.5.5. The Office of the Secretary for Academic Governance, along with other administrative offices, provides staff support to The Steering Committee, the University Council, the Faculty Senate, ASMSU, the Council of Graduate Students, and the University-level Standing Committees in the execution of responsibilities directly and indirectly expressed in these Bylaws. The Secretary of Academic Governance shall supervise elections to the University Council, ASMSU, the Council of Graduate Students, and of the at-large faculty of The Steering Committee, with review by the University Committee on Academic Governance.