CALL TO ORDER

1. Approval of Agenda for October 13, 2015
   Professor Nails moved (seconded by Professor Sticklin) to add an item from the University Committee on Academic Governance. The Agenda was APPROVED as AMENDED.

2. Public Comments (2 minute time limit per speaker; 10 minutes total for comments)
   NONE

3. Approval of Draft Minutes for September 15, 2015
   Professor Nails moved (seconded by Professor Sticklin) to approve the minutes. The minutes were APPROVED.

4. President’s Remarks – Lou Anna K. Simon – out of town

5. Provost’s Remarks – June Youatt
   The Provost had recently returned from a meeting of the Association of American Universities (AAU), an organization of 62 leading public and private research universities in the US and Canada that focuses on issues such as funding for research, research policy issues, and graduate and undergraduate education. The main topics of the meeting included a discussion of the University Presses and costs involved with assisting young faculty with their early publications; freedom of speech and hostile learning environments; the changes in health care, medical school funding and medical education; and the growing compliance and federal requirements environment.

   The Provost, preliminary to an update on searches for deans and directors, explained the rationale for using professional search firms: that they identify “rising stars” and people who are doing a good job elsewhere—not merely the pool of people who are looking for a new position.
Agriculture and Natural Resources: The search committee is in the process of conducting airport interviews with ten candidates for the position.

The Law School: The search committee has been seated and is soliciting applications.

Director of the Broad Art Museum: The search committee met for the first time and has begun actively recruiting candidates. The search firm has identified a number of very interested persons. The reputation of the Broad Museum architecture and education programs have generated a great deal of interest nationally and internationally.

Social Science: The search committee has been identified and is beginning active recruiting.

Human Medicine: College Advisory Committee (CAC) has responsibility for creating guidelines for the selection of a search committee to make its recommendation to the Provost.

Graduate School: a search will begin in January.

6. Chair’s Remarks – Professor Noel

The Chair provided guidance for the order of the agenda. In addition she described the process that is underway to search for the position of Secretary for Academic Governance.

7. OLD BUSINESS

University Curriculum Report: Professor Gerald Urquhart delivered a summary of the activities of the Committee during the summer months.

8. NEW BUSINESS

University Curriculum Report for September: Professor Gerald Urquhart moved (second by Professor Nair) the approval of the Committee Report of September 2015. Motion was APPROVED.

Secretary for Academic Governance Proposed Job Description was presented and followed by an informal discussion of a number of issues, among which were whether the position was open to only tenured faculty or inclusive of all faculty and the nature of the percent time for the appointment. Following the discussion, Professor Nails moved and seconded to accept the job description text as presented. Motion was APPROVED.

Annual Reports to Faculty Senate

University Committee on Curriculum (Professor Urquhart, see annual Report of 2014-2015) The committee continues to work on a variety of curricular issues. In addition it is examining the how curriculum proposals fit with the University Curriculum on Liberal Learning goals. This may be an issue when the Higher Learning Commission accreditation begins regarding how we demonstrate learning outcomes. The committee is continuing its discussion of the grading scale.

University Committee on Faculty Affairs (Professor Floyd). Last year UCFA reviewed the Relationship Violence and Sexual Misconduct policy changes,
reached a final decision on the salary disparity that occurred due to the change from annual year to academic year salary, completed the review of the Grief Absence Policy, and conducted a review of the Discipline and Dismissal of Tenured Faculty for Cause policy. The committee is continuing to follow discussions on the health care center and the inconsistencies in the academic calendar.

University Committee on Faculty Tenure (Professor Dease). The committee is working on the revised Discipline and Dismissal of Tenured Faculty for Cause policy, improvement of Form D, and is working on the Application of Implementation Practices policy (Stopping the Tenure Clock).

University Committee on Academic Governance (UCAG) Appointments: Professor Nails moved to approve the slate of nominees of Professor Manuel Chavez to be reappointed and Professor Debra Nails to be appointed for the term 2015–2017. Motion was seconded and APPROVED. During the discussion, Professor John Fitzsimmons and Professor Rita Edozie volunteered for service on the University Committee on Academic Governance for the term 2015–2016. A motion to appoint both professors was seconded and APPROVED.

9. Comments from the Floor – The topic of active shooting on campuses was brought to the floor and information requested regarding how MSU would handle such situations. The Provost encouraged faculty to go online to the Department of Police and Public Safety (DPPS) which has developed a presentation that discusses the issue in detail. The presentation lasts about 45 minutes and is designed for group discussion, e.g., a college faculty meeting. The Provost asked faculty to please consider including this training at the college level. In addition, she said, MSU is actively paying attention to students on campus who have raised worries. Faculty should know that, if they have students whose behavior is a matter for concern, the Counseling Center, Paulette Granberry Russell’s office or DPPS can be notified confidentially.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned at 4:25 p.m.