Approved 4-14-16

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC GOVERNANCE
MINUTES
THURSDAY 17 MARCH 2016, 3:15 P.M.
HANNAH ADMINISTRATION BUILDING 443

Present: Manuel Chavez (CAS), John Fitzsimmons (CHM), John Gaboury ex officio, Xia Gao (CAL), Lynette Guzman (COGS), Debra Nails (CAL), John Powell ex officio, Janice Schwartz (COM)
Absent: Edward Budeca (AA), Stephan Carey (VM), Rita Edozie (JM), Elle Gulotty (COGS)
Pending (but not expected): four undergraduate representatives

Call to order: 3:15 p.m.
Agenda: Approved as distributed.
Minutes of the Previous Meeting: Approved as distributed.

Chairperson Comments: Nails said the final set of UCAG-approved Bylaws amendments, and the motion to include the restructure of the UCAG in the current cycle of spring elections, subject to later review and approval by the Board of Trustees, were approved by the University Council 23 February.

Associate Provost for Academic Services and Enrollment Management Comments: Gaboury described the process envisioned for the Higher Learning Commission's accreditation visit to campus 4–5 April and encouraged committee members to note especially parts 2 and 3 of the University's 35,000-word statement <https://provost.msu.edu/hlc/index.html>.

In response to the question of how egregious non-compliance with University Bylaws by colleges should be addressed, given that UCAG has no powers of enforcement, Gaboury suggested that UCAG provide copies of the reviews of college bylaws to Associate Provost Curry, noting any serious violations requiring immediate attention.

BUSINESS OF THE COMMITTEE:

College Bylaws Reviews. Reviews completed and returned to the deans (with lead committee member) are the College of Veterinary Medicine (Nails), College of Osteopathic Medicine (Schwartz), College of Human Medicine (Nails), College of Nursing (Fitzsimmons), College of Education (Nails). UCAG members are copied when bylaws are returned to deans.

Gao’s edits of the College of Engineering bylaws were projected and discussed in detail, particularly the issues of faculty status and curriculum; Nails agreed to enter further suggestions before returning them to the dean. Chavez provided handwritten comments on the bylaws of the College of Communication Arts and Sciences that Nails agreed to enter. In Edozie’s absence,
the committee was unable to move forward with the review of James Madison College. Nails said her work on the Law College bylaws remains incomplete.

Schwartz volunteered to take the lead on the bylaws of the Eli Broad College of Business; and Fitzsimmons volunteered to lead the review of the College of Natural Science. A volunteer is still needed for the bylaws of the Libraries, the most recently reviewed of all colleges on the original list.

New Business: Powell reiterated the importance of the UCFA’s settlement of issues surrounding specialists so the UCAG can amend the Bylaws accordingly; he asked that the Steering Committee be reminded of this looming issue. He added that there is no written policy regarding the sharing of committee representatives by the three residential colleges and that the Law College has sometimes added itself to the “sharing” group although it has a large number of faculty. He said his annual report will include a number of items relevant to UCAG business in the coming academic year.

Nails said that there are likewise issues discussed by the UCAG that have not yet been resolved and will carry over to next year: the problem (Bylaws 2.1) that administrators tenured in units are considered faculty members for some purposes (e.g. service on task forces requiring faculty), but administrators for other purposes (e.g. ineligibility to file grievances).

Roundtable: Discussion (speculation) about terms and the importance of continuity on UCAG: three consecutive two-year terms is the rule. Sherry Lott informed the committee that “since the bylaws have changed, each college will be electing one faculty member for UCAG. The current faculty members who are serving until 2017 [http://acadgov.msu.edu/university-committee-academic-governance-membership] can still stay on providing their college elects them and they agree. The four members going off this August can be re-elected by their colleges if they so choose.”

Adjournment: 4:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Debra Nails