Michigan State’s Academic Governance Bylaws call for an Athletic Council. University Council approves its composition and bylaws. (5.2.1)

The Athletic Council shall function as the faculty voice in the intercollegiate athletic program.

Composition: Eight faculty, three alumni/ae, three students, UCUE Rep.

Ex officio: Athletic Director; Faculty Athletic Rep. (FAR); Ex. Dir. of the Alumni Association; V.P. for Finance and Operations (or designee)
The Athletic Council meets seven times during the academic year.

All members are appointed by the President.

Staggered member terms: two years, renewable for two.

The FAR is appointed by the President – must be a member the regular faculty.

The FAR serves at President’s discretion. Currently a five-year appointment.
Michigan State University
Athletic Council Report

• Responsibilities of the Athletic Council:
  
  o The deliberative body for academic policies relating to student-athletes & intercollegiate athletics

  o Advise the Athletic Director on policies, procedures, and organization relating to intercollegiate athletics
Four Athletic Council subcommittees:

- Academic Compliance and Services
- Planning and Equity
- Communications and Operations
- Drug Education and Testing (NCAA mandated)

Each Athletic Council member serves on a subcommittee
• **Additional Council responsibilities:**
  - Represent Michigan State; avoid extra privileges beyond those of the Faculty
  - Any tickets received are for Athletic Council members and their use
  - Report to the University Council annually, including a record of trips and tickets
  - Members also attend non-revenue sports and report back to Athletic Council
• The NCAA requires each member institution to have a Faculty Athletic Representative (Articles 4, 5, 6) – a liaison between institution/faculty and the NCAA.

• The FAR is one of five individuals at Michigan State to interact with the NCAA and the Big Ten.
• Four Principal FAR Functions

  o Academic Integrity
  o Academics-Athletics Integration
  o Institutional Compliance and Control
  o Maintain Independence from Athletics
Michigan State University
Athletic Council Report

• The Faculty Athletic Representative at Michigan State
  o *Chairs the Athletic Council*
  o Meets with the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee
  o *Serves on the Big Ten Joint Group body (Presidents/Chancellors, ADs, FARs)*
  o Represents Michigan State faculty interest in athletics to both the Big Ten and the NCAA
  o Participates in University discussions about intercollegiate athletics
Michigan State University
Athletic Council Report

• Meets regularly with Athletics Director
• Meets regularly on issues of athletics with:
  o General Counsel
  o Asc. AD for Compliance
  o Asc. AD for Student Services
• Monitors Student-Athlete experience – attends practices and games/matches & team travel

At Michigan State, the FAR duties are 20% of a professor’s annual load
Specific FAR duties include:

- Appeals and Waivers by coaches and athletes
- Violations notification to NCAA and enforcement
- Assist in preparing self-study report
- Play leading role in academic integrity, governance compliance, equity, student-athlete welfare
- Nominate student-athletes for Big Ten and NCAA scholarships
More specific duties:

- Proctor the NCAA Coaches Certification exam (for 130+ coaches and staffs at Michigan State)
- Monitor Student-Athlete academic performance
- Be senior faculty advisor to CEO
- Sign off on student-athlete eligibility
- Write a column for every football game program
Michigan State University
Athletic Council Report

• The Student-Athlete Experience – some highlights:

  o Only amateurs can be student-athletes
  o *Must be enrolled full time; in good academic standing; maintain progress toward degree (APR)*
  o Not all 800 student-athletes are on scholarship. Some are partial or no scholarship
  o *Student-athletes on roster must sign a drug-testing consent form*
  o Student-athletes are held to same academic integrity rules that apply to all students
Practice and Playing: General Rule:

- In-season: NCAA limit is 20 hours/week of playing & practice, 4 hours/day with 1 day off a week. Out-of season: 4 hours/day; 8 hours/week and 2 days off.

- First Day of Practice is determined by first regularly-scheduled contest.
Michigan State University
Athletic Council Report

• Student Athletes and Academics
  o Michigan State student-athletes missed class days: 7/semester. Additional missed days must be approved by the FAR
  o Student-athletes are actively engaged in community service: food bank drives, reading programs, and hospital visits.
The annual Food Drive brings in hundreds of pounds of canned and dry goods for the Greater Lansing Food Bank.

This academic year, the students collected from residents in East Lansing.
Student Athlete Support Services

Academic Services

- Academic Coordinators (8)
- Learning Specialist (1)
- Tutorial Program (85)
- Learning Assistants (15)
- Subject Tutoring
- Assessments
- Interest Inventories
Fall Semester 2015 was the best ever for student-athletes at Michigan State.

- Posted Highest semester (3.0983) and cumulative (3.0960) Athletics Department GPA all-time
- Posted 10th consecutive semester with a cumulative Department GPA over a 3.00
- Posted highest number of 4.00 semester GPAs (65)
- Posted highest number of semester GPAs over a 3.00 (459)
- Posted highest number of cumulative GPAs over a 3.00 (448)
- Posted highest number of teams with a 3.00 semester GPA (19)
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Athletic Council Report

- Women’s Golf had the highest semester team GPA (3.60)
- Ice Hockey and Men’s Cross Country also had their highest team GPAs ever – 3.23 and 3.39 respectively.
- Michigan State University student-athlete Sarah Kovan, women’s soccer team captain, was named a Rhodes Scholar.
Student Athlete Support Services

Student Athlete Development

- Personal and Career Development
- Leadership and Education
- Diversity and Inclusion
- Community Service