

# Final Report

The Ad Hoc Committee on  
Social Media, Pedagogy,  
Academic Rights and Responsibilities  
March 25, 2014



# Committee Members

- **William Donohue (Chair)**, Professor, Department of Communication
- **Liza Potts**, Assistant Professor, Department of Writing, Rhetoric
- **Manuel Chavez**, Associate Professor, School of Journalism
- **Ronald Fisher**, Professor, Department of Economics
- **Erik Skogsberg**, Doctoral Candidate, Curriculum Instruction and Teacher Education
- **Rob LaDuca**, Professor, Lyman Briggs College



# Committee Charge

- Examine experiences at other universities and present best practices as they relate to social media, teaching, and speech rights and responsibilities in the classroom.
- Make recommendations about how MSU might best utilize this information.
- Four Sections:
  1. Peer Institution Policy Review
  2. Summary of Laws and University Policies
  3. Sample Syllabus Language
  4. Committee Recommendations



# Peer Institution Policy Review

| Institution                      | No Policy Currently in Use | Policy Currently in Use | Rights and Responsibilities Addressed |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| University of Illinois, Urbana   | X                          |                         |                                       |
| Indiana University               |                            | X                       |                                       |
| Rutgers University               |                            | X                       |                                       |
| Northwestern University          | X                          |                         |                                       |
| University of Michigan           | X                          |                         |                                       |
| University of Iowa               | X                          |                         |                                       |
| University of Nebraska           | X                          |                         |                                       |
| Pennsylvania State University    |                            | X                       |                                       |
| University of Maryland           | X                          |                         |                                       |
| Purdue University                |                            | X                       |                                       |
| University of Minnesota          | X                          |                         |                                       |
| University of Chicago            | X                          |                         |                                       |
| University of Wisconsin, Madison | X                          |                         |                                       |
| Xavier University                |                            | X                       |                                       |
| Seattle University               |                            | X                       |                                       |
| Ball State University            |                            | X                       |                                       |
| Oregon State University          |                            | X                       |                                       |



# Summary of Laws and University Policies

- Faculty are responsible for course content and procedures and entitled to freedom in the classroom, but must refrain from introducing matters that are unrelated to the course.
- Faculty retain ownership of course materials, including lectures.
- Students retain ownership of materials or works created for classes.
- Students are assured of personal privacy.
- Faculty and students are expected to behave professionally toward one another.



# Sample Syllabus Language

- As members of a learning community, students are expected to respect the intellectual property of course instructors. All course materials presented to students are the copyrighted property of the course instructor and are subject to the following conditions of use:
- Students may (may not) record lectures or any other classroom activities and use the recordings only for their own course-related purposes.
- Students may (may not) share the recordings with other students enrolled in the class, provided that they also use the recordings only for their own course-related purposes.
- Students may (may not) not post the recordings or other course materials online or distribute them to anyone not enrolled in the class without the advance written permission of the course instructor and, if applicable, any students whose voice or image is included in the recordings.
- Any student violating the conditions described above may face academic disciplinary sanctions.



# Committee Recommendations

1. Include syllabus language about ownership of course materials.
2. Include language about posting classroom activities/materials.
3. Update Spartan Life about posting/ownership of class materials.
4. Create a communication plan to inform faculty about this report.
5. Monitor MSU-sponsored social media sites for reputation management.
6. Ask UCFA to review MSU social media policy in light of this report.
7. Create a course in Digital Literacy and Presentation for all students.

