MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
FACULTY SENATE AGENDA
March 15, 2016 - 3:15-5:00 P.M.
INTERNATIONAL CENTER, ROOM 115


1. CALL TO ORDER: 3:20 PM

2. Approval of Agenda for March 15, 2016 APPROVED

3. Public Comments NONE

4. Approval of Draft Minutes for February 16, 2016 APPROVED

5. President’s Remarks – Lou Anna K. Simon

   The governor’s increased funding for higher education by 4.3% in the context of 1.6% increase of general fund/general purpose revenue. The funding, in aggregate, was enough to restore the funding to the FY2011 levels. Institution by institution recommendations were based on a performance formula rather than an allocation that fixed those institutions that were below the FY2011 level. He also recommended a tuition cap of 4.8% which is higher than prior year recommendations. With all of the other financial commitments that are in place, the actual higher education budget may remain relatively flat. The MSU budget request was for 3.9% in general funds and 2.5% for AgBio and University Extension programs. There is additional work to be done by the Michigan Legislature before the discussion is completed.

   On the federal level, sequestration is still in effect and continues to have a major impact on higher education if there is no budget deal. As we continue to move forward, there are a number of issues that affect our planning, e.g., global education initiatives, MSU technology deficits, energy efficiencies and infrastructure maintenance, as well as increased space for research and teaching. These are all funded out of the revenues of the University.

   Here is a macro-level exercise in University budget planning. (See attached presentation)

6. Provost’s Remarks – June Youatt (out of town)

7. The Steering Committee Chairperson’s Remarks – Professor Mary Noel
There will be a Professional Development session on March 24th. The speaker will be Dr. Vincent Tinto, who is well respected for his work with faculty.

Deborah Moriarty (Music) and Laura McCabe (Osteopathic Medicine) have been elected to serve as At-Large members of the Steering Committee for 2016-2018.

The Election of the Chairperson.

8. OLD BUSINESS NONE

9. NEW BUSINESS

9.1. University Committee on Curriculum–Report, Professor Gerald Urquhart, Chairperson

The Committee reports three new programs, 16 changed programs and one deleted program. The new programs are a minor in Communication Arts & Sciences-Journalism titled “Animation in Comics Storytelling in Media”, in Social Science a teaching minor in “Early Childhood General and Special Education”, and minor in “Leadership and Organization”. There were 29 new courses, 67 changed courses and 20 deleted courses.

Professor Urquhart moved to approve the February Curriculum Report. APPROVED

9.2. The Spartan Code of Honor, Lorenzo Santavicca, ASMSU Vice President for Academic Affairs

The Spartan Code of Honor proposed text has been reviewed by a number of student and faculty bodies. The text of the code is not intended to be a policy but a reflection of policies that are in place in the Spartan Life Handbook, e.g., the Integrity of Scholarship and Grades, the Student Rights and Responsibilities, General Student Regulations and Examinations. The following Standing Committees have reviewed the proposed text; University Committee on Faculty Affairs, University Committee on Graduate Studies, University Committee on Student Affairs and University Committee on Undergraduate Education. A video outlining the program was shown to the Faculty Senate.

The structure of the text very useful in that it takes the different policies that are in place and turns them into an understandable statement that reflects the general expectations for students. The remaining discussion will be on what to call this statement. It is not a full honor code and it not a judicial system such as exists at other institutions. The discussion will continue to move to beginning the implementation of the statement as a feature in the Spartan Life Handbook.

9.3. Safety in the Classroom, Professor John Bell, University Committee on Faculty Affairs Chairperson

The issue of safety in the classroom has been in discussion for the last few months. The Committee has sought advice from the General Counsel’s Office, the Vice President for Student Affairs, the Registrar, and the Department of Police and Public Safety. The discussion led us to recommendations that identify the need to communicate the existence of a number of resources and their appropriate locations so that the MSU community has direct access. The three recommendations are as follows:

1. Designate and equip a point person for classroom safety for MSU employees and another for students; they would guide members of the MSU community toward
appropriate MSU resources both for prevention of and response to threats and safety in the classroom.

2. Each semester, highlight these persons for the campus community using both passive and proactive communication for both students and employees.

3. Foster improved communication and coordination of academic units related to behavioral concerns in the classroom.

The issue of classroom safety is another example of a just-in-time communications challenge. A central focus for the discussion is the development of a mechanism that clearly and efficiently identifies the resources and access points that support individuals who perceive issues of safety in the classrooms. Simply creating another webpage is no longer the solution of choice; and we will need to utilize today’s technology and be ready to change as the technology changes.

10. Comments from the Floor          NONE

11. ADJOURNMENT                     4:35 PM