

How issues come to the attention of Academic Governance: Requesting a conversation of the Steering Committee

The requester

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The issue needing attention

What is a good process for issues to come to be considered by Academic Governance at MSU?

Sub-questions include

- *Should a standard form be required of individuals who are seeking to bring issues forward?*
- *Should a regular survey be done of certain people to see what issues should be addressed?*
- *Should all issues come first to the Steering Committee, which would then act as a filter and director, either to standing committees or Faculty Senate or University Council? Or should individual committees be primarily responsible for determining what their committee address and at what point they are brought to the Steering Committee?*

Example issues

- *This proposal*
- *The current lack of due process in the findings of the Office of Institutional Equity*

The goal

- *Make academic governance proactive and responsive without getting bogged down with too many issues*
- *Provide greater transparency and access regarding the process by which issues come to the attention of academic governance*

The request/proposal

Create a standard form for requesting issues to get put onto meeting agendas, and accept this form from individual faculty members as well as standing committees. (Note that this request is presented as a possible model.)

This form would go to the Steering Committee, which would then direct the form as it deems appropriate, with appropriate means to appeal this decision.

Importance / consequences of not addressing it

Of course the issues themselves are potentially very important for the work and work experience of MSU. As Chair of UCFA, I am experiencing the challenge of figuring out what should be on our agenda, as well as when our work should be reported to the Steering Committee and possibly to other committees. Individual faculty members have contacted me on issues, and I have identified issues myself that I would like to be discussed, yet it is not obvious what process should be used to direct to these issues appropriately.

At the same time, the time of committee members is incredibly valuable. So when we ask members to address issues, we need to be sure that we minimize time on secondary matters as well as maximize the efficiency of the process by which they are addressed.

What is already known

History at MSU as you know it

- *Recent history: this instance (your involvement and others)*

At present, it seems that individual faculty members are expected to be in touch with the chairs of individual committees. It is not clear how chairs then decide what should be addressed in that committee or redirected to another committee.

John Powell requests a memo when people want an issue to enter Academic Governance. He is also developing a form in the new SharePoint system. The memo is to include:

- Title:
- Background of the issue:
- Exact nature of the issue:
- What the specific request is:

- *Distant history: other times it has come up*

Not known at this time.

Peer institutions

Not known at this time. Such research should obviously be a part of this process.

Who has purview

Steering Committee seems to be the right first step