

University Committee on Student Affairs

Minutes

October 15, 2021 | 8:29 a.m.



MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

Voting Members Present: Nikunj Agarwal, Ellie Bennett, Kyle Biel, Georgia Frost, Carl Austin Miller Grondin, Myesha Johnson, Shelby Wilcox, Ali Zahorec, d'Ann de Simone, Nicolas Gisholt, Linda Keilman, Joyce Meier.

Non-Voting Members Present: Shannon Burton

Guests Present: Cathy Fitzpatrick, Genyne Royal, Allyn Shaw, Tyler Silvestri, Taylor Thrush, Anthony Williams, Jr.

A regular meeting of the University Committee on Student Affairs was held on October 15, 2021 at 8:30 a.m. via Zoom. Chairperson Nikunj Agarwal presided. The agenda was approved as distributed. The draft minutes of the September 17, 2021 meeting was approved as distributed.

Presentations:

- a. Covid and Academics- Provost Woodruff
 - i. Would love to be here, but scheduling issues. Thanked us all for the work that we have done. We have had thousands of people on campus since last July, mask wearing is essential with a high vaccination rate. There have been 72 cases in the last week and a half out of 50,000 students and total population of 60,000 something; 16 per 100,000 cases. Grateful for the president for taking us to the mandate of masks and vaccinations.
 - ii. 91% vaccination rate
 - iii. Why we stop notifying if something is found to be positive
 1. Became informal. There were no actionable things in the report. There are some students in the dorms and all over the area about masking. We must be attentive to things that are attentive to campus. Linda Vail (Ingham County Health Dept.) asked us to stop doing the call of spreading the word of a positive case in class. Could have made instructors feel deputized.
 2. We want to be as supportive as possible to all on campus.
 - iv. Plans for spring semester



1. Call by call basis. We can't be sure of how campus will look in January. Plan to follow in our code of conduct that we currently have. Boosters are starting to come out. CDC does not have booster as a requirement.
2. S/NS grading
 - a. Was established during very different conditions. Not the case for this year as we are back to normal
 - b. Worth noting, the option does have a significant negative impact.
 - c. Very grateful to this group
- v. Meier
 1. Classes are half in and half out; instructors are getting better as masking instructing. Students are not wearing masks correctly. Students are closer than 6 ft. from one another. When it created a climate of fear, it was actually the opposite because instructors do not know what to do.
 2. We keep getting the comparison to K-12, not a good comparison to make
- vi. Woodruff
 1. Apologize from the comparison. Do appreciate your points

Updates on New Division, Vice President Gore

a. Shaw

- i. As reported in September meeting, new division of Student Life and Engagement
- ii. The Board of Trustees (BOT) will vote on October 29.
- iii. Bringing different units together
- iv. How will this work, what is the timeline? Shaw indicated the need to make sure BOT votes yes first. Will discuss at next meeting.

b. Dean Williams

- i. Three phases. One will start immediately, one slated to begin in January. Invitation of policy to start next academic year.



- b. Gisholt
 - i. Are these offices already in place?
- c. Shaw
 - i. Yes
- d. Meier
 - i. Not sure what the power lines were like prior. Move to centralize things more. What was the impetus of this merger?
- e. Williams
 - i. Gore was charged with reviewing an external and internal review. One recommendation was to merge. Division needs financial stability. RHS has quite a bit of policy and procedure that we, Student Affairs can use.
- f. Grondin
 - i. Many students feel as though this move is to rip power and their voice from them. What do I say to students who feel this way when I don't even feel as though I know enough and very ignorant on the subject as though no real information has been given?
- g. Shaw
 - i. In the planning process, a survey went out to all students. I hope the student voice would amplify. We hope to bring them together to work better. We hope that student voice would be louder and hope students will help
- h. Proposed GSR Revision Updates
 - i. Charged with seven points
 - ii. 3-to-6-month timeline
 1. Require registration of all student groups through student life.
 2. Hire a process advocate who can serve as a university complainant.
 3. Review current interpretation of existing language for jurisdiction of off campus conduct.



- iii. 6 months to 1 year timeline
 1. Minor revisions to SRR to allow for any MSU community member to file a grievance against an RSO.
 2. Minor revisions to GSR to clarify that GSRs apply to student groups and to clarify off-campus conduct jurisdiction language.

Reports

- c. Taylor Thrist, new
- d. Myesha Johnson, At large member of the board of trustees
- e. Steering committee
 - a. Very short
 - b. Not a lot of discussion
- f. Faculty Senate
 - a. Seemed like there was a lot of reports in names changes in roles in terms of offices or roles of faculty
 - b. Office of the Provost
 - i. Change to Academic Staff and Affairs
 - ii. Meeting of Sept. 21st and October 12th
 1. First one was to better understand and talk about the name “regular faculty”
 2. Talked about some people didn’t want to use “non-regular”
 3. A committee will probably be made to discuss this
 - iii. Junior faculty
 1. Committees were made to better help junior faculty
 - iv. Council of Graduate Students
 1. Last meeting/ Sept. 22nd
 - a. Cases of Graduate student health insurance, etc.
 - b. Discussion on the COVID policy
 - c. Concern on mandatory fee on the Rec. Center
 - d. Concern on graduate student input
 - v. ASMSU



1. Few updates
 - a. Internal retreat this weekend
 - i. Hopeful for team building
 - b. Provost woodruff will be at the next meeting of Full General Assembly
 - c. Consider policy next week for college internship international
 - d. New College reps
- vi. Vice President of Student Affairs and Services
 1. No report
- g. New Business
 - a. None
- h. Discussion
 - a. Gisholt
 - i. Asked fellow academic advisors on concerns they also have with their students
 - ii. Ask undergraduate students in meeting if he could ever meet with us to discuss
 - b. Keilman
 - i. When the provost was speaking, Post pandemic. Very worrisome, we are still in a pandemic. Not for us to decide.
 - c. Zahorec
 - i. Sports recreation fee
 - ii. MSU will be assessing to nonrefundable fee
 - d. Grondin
 - i. My name is Austin, not C.A.L. my error
 - e. Simone
 - i. Wished there was more discussion when provost was here
 - f. Chair Agarwal
 - i. Shaw and Gore will not be in attendance next month, will look to move the Nov. 15th meeting.
 - g. Silvestri

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- i. de'Simone's last meeting
- ii. de'Simone said her goodbyes

The meeting adjourned at 9:55 a.m.

Carl Austin Miller Grondin
Secretary