

# The Steering Committee

Minutes

January 12, 2021



MICHIGAN STATE  
UNIVERSITY

**Present:** M. Abel, B. Aiello, S. Anthony, S. Barman, A. Bih, D. Catalano, A. Corner, M. Donahue, Z. Hansen, B. Van Dyke (for D. Hershey), J. Johnson, A. Kepsel, M. Mechtel, A. Pegler-Gordon, T. Silvestri, S. Stanley, A. Tickner, T. Woodruff

**Absent:** M. Fulton

**Others Present:** N. Beauchamp, S. Lang, M. Largent, S. Lott

The Steering Committee of Michigan State University held a regular meeting on Tuesday, January 12, 2021, at 3:15 p.m. via Zoom. The agenda was approved as presented. The draft minutes of the November 9, 2020 meeting were approved as presented.

President Samuel L. Stanley Jr., Provost Teresa K. Woodruff, Executive Vice President for Health Sciences Norman J. Beauchamp Jr., and Chairperson Jennifer E. Johnson gave remarks.

Reports were given by Associated Students of Michigan State University President Abii-Tah Bih, Council of Graduate Students President Meagan Abel, University Committee on Academic Governance Chairperson Amanda Tickner, University Committee on Curriculum Chairperson Marci Mechtel, University Committee on Faculty Tenure Chairperson Susan Barman, University Committee on Graduate Studies Vice Chairperson Ben Van Dyke, and University Committee on Undergraduate Education Chairperson Andrew Corner.

The Chairperson shared a concern related to the university's budget that she received from a faculty member. By consent, the committee postponed action until administrators presented to Faculty Senate on the subject.

Silvestri provided an update on Fulton's behalf regarding an issue brought to the Steering Committee and referred to UCFA in March 2020. The issue involved recommended syllabus language forbidding the use of racial slurs in class materials. The committee agreed by consent that academic governance had no further role, as the introducer withdrew the request from UCFA.

The Chairperson asked EVPHS Beauchamp to check why MSU had not yet been added as a signatory to the [Time's Up Health Care Pledge](#) despite MSU indicating its assent in the spring. Beauchamp agreed to follow up.

The Chairperson shared a concern related to fraudulent unemployment claims that she received from a faculty member. The committee agreed by consent that no action was required.

The Chairperson facilitated a discussion about administrators' social media presence and communication efforts.

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Following feedback from various faculty members, the Chairperson led a discussion about moving the remarks of the President, Provost, EVPHS, and Chairperson to the end of academic governance agendas. Abel moved that remarks remain at the beginning, with members being allowed to ask directly relevant questions following the remarks for a given period time. Following debate, the motion was adopted by consent.

Following debate, the committee agreed to postpone discussion of livestreaming meetings of academic governance bodies.

Agendas for the January 19, 2021 Faculty Senate and January 26, 2021 University Council meetings with the following new business were adopted by consent after debate and amendment:

## Faculty Senate

1. University Committee on Curriculum Report | Marci Mechtel
2. [Amendments](#) to Faculty Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Motion
3. Solicit Volunteers for Office for Civil Rights Report Working Group
4. Budget Issues | Vice President for Planning and Budgets Dave Byelich & Vice President for Finance Mark Haas
5. Discussion of Hardships Faced by Faculty Caregivers
6. Faculty Recruitment, Hiring, and Retention | Provost Teresa Woodruff & Vice President and Chief Diversity Officer Jabbar Bennett
7. Promotion and Tenure | Provost Woodruff, VP/CDO Bennett, & Associate Provost Suzanne Lang

## University Council

1. University Committee on Undergraduate Education Mid-Year Report | Andrew Corner
2. Ad Hoc Committee on Revocation of Awards and Honors Report | Anna Pegler-Gordon and Meagan Abel
3. Institutional Review Board Human Research Protection Program Procedures | Kristen Burt & J. R. Haywood
4. Introduction to New Vice President and Chief Diversity Officer

The meeting adjourned at 4:57 p.m.

Tyler Silvestri  
Secretary for Academic Governance

**Approved:** February 2, 2021