The meeting began at 3:15 p.m. with a full quorum present.

Approval of Agenda:
The agenda was approved as distributed.

Approval of Minutes:
The minutes of November 15, 2005 were approved as distributed.

President’s Remarks:
The President was called to a meeting at the Capitol and not able to attend.

Provost’s Remarks:
Provost Wilcox commented on the coming visit by the North Central Association of Schools and Colleges Accreditation team, February 27 and 28, 2006. The University goes through the accreditation process every ten years. The accreditation process is important in order to qualify for Federal funds and other support. It is also important for the University to have this opportunity to reflect on what we have accomplished and what we aspire to do in the future. Two years ago President Simon, in her role as Provost, set
about a series of discussions that lead our NCA review to focus on international issues. MSU has chosen to select a special emphasis in the area of international issues. The accreditation team is well versed on research universities and also heavily slanted on experts on international issues and education. Faculty will be receiving materials in preparation for the site visit, including important themes of interest to the site team. Dean Klomparens has lead the campus self study process and organized the NC review.

Provost Wilcox announced that Professor Esquith has agreed to serve as the first Acting Dean of the New Residential College in Arts and Humanities. He will be an Acting Dean for one year, as there are no faculty at this point.

ECAC Chairperson’s Remarks:
Professor Sticklen reported that the five Faculty Voice Task Force Groups are all meeting and working on their respective charges. Professor Wright requested members to encourage faculty to consider submitting a nomination for the Faculty At-Large positions on ECAC for next year. It would be good if we could increase the number of women represented.

University Committee on Curriculum Report:
Professor Schechter, Chairperson of UCC, presented the UCC Report, highlighting the following:

- There were two new Specializations, one in Agronomy and a Specialization in Natural Resource Recreation to be effective Fall, 2006.
- There were some minor changes in the degree requirements for the Bachelor of Music and the Bachelor of Arts degree in Journalism.
- There were recommendations for 20 new courses, changes in 92 courses and the deletion of 4 courses.
- Most of the new courses reflect the fact that the MSU College of Law courses are now being added to the MSU Academic Programs catalog and the large number of changes reflects the movement of the Department of Family and Child Ecology from the College of Human Ecology to the College of Social Science.

A motion passed to accept the report.

Level 3 Appointment Policy for RA and TE Graduate Assistants:
Professor Wurst, Chairperson of UGC, presented a recommendation out of the committee regarding the Level 3 Appointment Policy for RA and TE Graduate Assistants. The following proposed recommended modifications for the Policy are:
Level 3 Appointment Policy for RA and TE Graduate Assistants:

1. Six semesters of experience as a graduate RA/TE at Michigan State University, or equivalent. The definition of equivalent experience as an RA/TE should be left to the discretion of the chairperson of the appointing unit, but it is expected that only experience in research-oriented assignments would count toward the six semesters of experience as an RA. (Consistent with current practice, ¼-time and ¾-time appointments count the same as ½-time appointments, and Summer Semesters count the same as Fall and Spring Semesters.) and,

2. Successful completion of doctoral comprehensive exams, as defined by the department in which the student is enrolled.

Professor Wurst indicated this modification was to be effective Summer Semester, 2006. A motion was passed approving the modification proposed.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacqueline Wright
Secretary for Academic Governance

Tapes of complete meetings of the Academic Council are available for review in the office of the Secretary for Academic Governance, 308 Olds Hall, 355-2337.