MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
THE STEERING COMMITTEE MINUTES
BOARD ROOM, ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
OCTOBER 6, 2015 - 3:15-5:00PM


Absent: M. Crimp, J. Francese, L. Santavicca

1. CALL TO ORDER – 3:15
2. Approval of Agenda for October 6, 2015
   MOVED (Professor Chavez) and SECONDED (Professor Clemons) - APPROVED
3. Approval of Draft Minutes for September 8, 2015
   MOVED (Professor Fernandez) and SECONDED (Professor Dease) - APPROVED
4. President’s Remarks – Lou Anna K. Simon
   At the State level, the road budget issues are still pending with the Legislature. The current discussion includes money allocated by a mixture of new revenue and 400 million dollars cuts or re-allocation from existing funds. The revenue number for the State is soft, it is unknown as to the effect of the mega-tax credits will have on the 2017 budget. Some good news is that unemployment is low, but the average wage in Michigan is not growing in the post-recession years at a rate that is positive so as to turn unemployment rates into a positive factor for the State budget. On the plus side, the Internet sales tax will generate additional revenue for the State’s budget. Much of the effect for higher education won’t be known until the Governor set his priorities as he makes his budget proposal in January.
   The Business Leaders of Michigan (BLM) has continued to push for closing the billion dollar deficits that have been created for higher educations. It is good to have the support of the BLM, keeping in mind that they also support the resolution of roads budget issues. The Governor is convening a summit for higher education leaders from around the state to discuss collaboration, big picture issues, e.g., the demographics for declining high school graduation rates and the number of students being classified as “college ready”. This situation creates an interesting dynamic for the future.
   On the Federal level, the pessimistic camp sees a major problem with the impending debt ceiling debate. The optimistic point of view is that there is a narrow window of opportunity to do a two-year deal to let approved budget bills go forward. Neither view indicates that there is not a lot of money for higher education.

5. Provost’s Remarks – June Youatt
There are a variety of Dean searches underway and include the Dean of the Graduate School, the Dean of Agriculture and Natural Resources, the Dean of the Law College; we have identified search firms and committees to complete the processes. The search for the Dean of the College of Social Science is in the process of selecting a search committee and the College of Human Medicine’s College Advisory Committee is negotiating the criteria and guidelines for the search. The search for a new Director of the Broad Art Museum is beginning and early signs indicate a strong pool of candidates.

6. The Steering Committee Chairperson’s Remarks – Professor Mary Noel

Professor Noel announced that the Committee on Institutional Cooperation (CIC) Annual Academic Governance Conference will be held at Michigan State on September 28-30, 2016.

The at-large members are working with the Provost’s office to develop a job description and announcement for the position of Secretary for Academic Governance.

7. Committee Reports – Update

UCAG – The Committee will be working toward updating the Bylaws of Academic Governance regarding changes that have occurred as well as editorial issues regarding different aspects of the document.

UCC – The Committee Report will be made at the Faculty Senate meeting next week.

UCFA – The Committee is reviewing the Student Faculty Assault policy and moving toward a November report. The working group on the Discipline and Dismissal Policy proposed a unified policy that the UCFA members reviewed and for which it offered recommendations. The recommendation for the revision of the FGO policy revision were reviewed and supported.

UCFT – The Discipline and Dismissal Policy Report will be reviewed and returned to the Steering Committee in November.

UCGS – The Committee is revisiting some incomplete issues, e.g., MOOCs, joint programs, residence issues, and external committee membership guidelines for dissertations and theses.

UCSA – The Committee continued its conversation around the issue of bike safety on campus, student diversity, sexual assault, and MSU grading scales.

UCUE – The Committee is considering a major policy issue regarding the re-organizing of the Tier 1 writing requirement.

8. Council of Graduate Students Update; COGS President, Sudha Sankar

The Council of Graduate Students is in the process of revising bylaws between COGS and the Bylaws for Academic Governance. We have identified an improvement in integrity training for graduate students in responsible research. In our study, we identified inconsistencies in the follow-up training from faculty regarding the integrity issue. We are discussing how we would support continued emphasis on this issue. Another issue centers on the health insurance program for out-of-country graduate students.
9. Associated Students of Michigan State University Update: Vice Chair, ASMSU Academic Affairs, Lorenzo Santavicca (presented by designee)

The major issues on the agenda for ASMSU include how we might contribute to the conversations around sexual assault prevention and work toward a culture change on the issue, issues related to student mental health, and a review of the ASMSU bylaws.

10. Old Business

UCUE recommendation for department name changes will be returned to the Steering Committee in November.

UCGS has no problems or recommended modifications to the department name changes.

11. New Business

Anti-Discrimination Policy (ADP) – Revision – Kristine Zayko, Deputy General Council

As you know, we have signed a resolution agreement with the Office of Civil Rights (OCR) that has facilitated a number of policy adjustments regarding the Relationship Violence and Sexual Misconduct (RVSM) Policy. One of the last pieces to that puzzle is the anti-discrimination policy. We are not changing who is protected or their rights but we are integrating some of the features of the RVSM, e.g., where to report events, conflict resolution guidelines, and where the policy applies on- and off-campus. The biggest change is the elimination of the Anti-Discrimination Judicial Board (ADJB). The duties of the ADJB are being handled by the RVSM investigative office. We will be asking the Board of Trustees to approve the necessary steps to come into compliance regarding these issues.

12. Comments from the Floor

NONE

13. Secretary’s Summary

NONE

ADJOURNMENT: MOVED (Professor Francese) and SECONDED (Professor Dease) - APPROVED – 4:38 PM.