Approved 3-1-16

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
THE STEERING COMMITTEE MINUTES
FEBRUARY 2, 2016 - 3:15-5:00PM
BOARD ROOM, ADMINISTRATION BUILDING


Absent: M. Dease, R. Fernandez, M. Sticklen

CALL TO ORDER 3:17

1. Approval of Agenda for February 2, 2016

Professor Bell moved to modify the agenda by removing item 6.6 from Old Business and 8.3 from New Business. Seconded and APPROVED.

The motion to approve the meeting agenda as amended APPROVED.


APPROVED.

3. President’s Remarks – Lou Anna K. Simon

Thank you to the Council on Graduate Students and the success of their recent forum. All indications are that the conversations were valuable and important as we deal with the issues in Flint. I recently talked with Mayor of Flint regarding our continuing work with his office, the Governor’s office and representatives of the Federal government on both short- and long-term resolutions of the situation. The work that MSU Extension has done in supporting the day to day activities in Flint has been a cornerstone for the resolution of the problem. They have worked along with local organizations in providing information and programs that cover the needs of the people of Flint across the board. Programs include Supplemental Nutrition Assistant Program (SNAP) in providing nutritional programs that are tailored specifically to deal with issue of iron in the water supply. In addition, the College of Human Medicine is actively working on the health issues for children and adults; and the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources is working to develop activities to get the right kinds of foods to the areas in Flint. There are areas in Flint that are still having trouble, and others that are on a recovery path. There are a series of town hall meetings on continuing to improve programs, and some solutions are emerging.

4. Provost’s Remarks – June Youatt

There was a session this morning for University leadership on implicit bias and related topics that was very well attended and, by all accounts, very well done. We recognize it is difficult to get groups of people together for these types of discussions. We are a part of the National Network on Faculty Diversity that was established by a couple of MSU alumni that is particularly concerned about the
issue of underrepresented faculty across campus. The group provides support to faculty and links groups of people among campuses. The Network is conducting a number of webinars this month on inclusive classrooms; and I will be sending information along to the faculty so that you may participate. We will also be sponsoring pre-tenured faculty to the Networks’ summer boot camps designed to support young faculty.

I am happy to report that we have a new Dean for the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. We are interviewing the last two candidates during this week for the Law College and are scheduling two remaining candidates for the Director of the Broad Art Museum.

This Friday will be the first meeting of the exploratory group to examine the issues relating to the improvement of the facilities for recreation, health and fitness for faculty, staff and students.

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

At-Large member nominations for The Steering Committee are due February 5, 2016.

Reminder: President Simon’s State of University address and All University Awards program is being held on Tuesday, February 9 at 3:30 in the Wharton Center. Please plan to attend.

6. Committee Reports

University Committee on Academic Governance, Professor Debra Nails, Chair. We have been working on providing stronger software programs for working with our elections and appointments tasks. We are continuing to work on bylaws.

University Committee on Curriculum, Professor Gerald Urquhart Chair. No Report.

University Committee on Faculty Affairs, Professor John Bell Chair. Safety in classroom will be ready for discussion in March.

University Committee on Graduate Studies, Professor Lynn Goldstein, Chair. We discussed a code of advising responsibility proposal and found it difficult to build a program for both undergraduate and graduate advising as one document. We will continue the discussion. The issue of a fall break remains on our agenda.

University Committee on Student Affairs. Dominique Clemmons, Chair. We are continuing to work on the issues of a fall break, the student counseling center, and mental health programs to assist students in understanding the available services and the methods to access the services.

University Committee on Undergraduate Education, Professor Gary Hoppenstand, Chair. We are finishing our recommendations for the issue of a fall break and will be ready to present them to the Steering Committee in March.
Council on Graduate Students, Sudha Sankar, President.
Associated Students of Michigan State University, Lorenzo Santavicca, Vice Chair of Academic Affairs. We are continuing work with the bike share and safe ride programs, moving the honor code forward, and possibly bringing candidates to the campus.

7. OLD BUSINESS

Report of the ad hoc Committee to Restructure the University Committee on Academic Governance with a Bylaws amendment, Professor Debra Nails, University Committee on Academic Governance Chairperson.

The ad hoc committee has proposed that the Bylaws be amended to reflect a recommendation to modify the structure of the University Committee on Academic Governance (UCAG) to include elected representatives from each of the Colleges, three representatives from ASMSU, and two from COGS. The elected faculty representatives are required to have served previously on the a University-level standing committee or the Faculty Senate. It was suggested that the recommended changes be placed on the University Council agenda in February and, if passed, be moved to the Board of Trustees in April. In the meantime, a request would go out to the colleges to elect representatives to UCAG for next year. This would put the new structure in place beginning in August 2016. A memo will be drafted to the Colleges requesting that they elect a member for University Committee on Academic Governance.

Recommended Bylaws Amendments, Professor Debra Nails, University Committee on Academic Governance Chairperson

It was moved by Clemmons and seconded by Crimp to place the recommendations for Bylaws changes to the University Council in February. APPROVED

Proposal for Items on the Agenda – Professor John Bell, University Committee on Faculty Affairs Chairperson

Professor Bell moved to develop a form that could be used by administration, committees, faculty, and students to introduce issues for consideration by Academic Governance. The template would be available on the Academic Governance webpage. APPROVED

ASMSU Spartan Code of Honor and Code of Honor Brochure, Lorenzo Santavicca, Vice President of Academic Affairs

The presentation regarding ASMSU’s proposal to establish an MSU Student Honor Code described the work done to establish the materials describing “what it means to be a Spartan”. The recommendation would not affect existing policies but serve as their preamble. This will provide a consistent location for everyone to understand the program.

The issue of the Spartan Honor Code was moved to the University Committee on Faculty Affairs, University Committee on Graduate Studies, University Committee on Student Affairs, and University Committee on Undergraduate
Education for discussion; a report will be returned to The Steering Committee in March.

Moved to the Faculty Senate for discussion and then to University Council in March. **APPROVED**

Fall Break Update - University Committee on Graduate Studies, University Committee on Student Affairs, and University Committee on Undergraduate Education, Professor Mary Noel

The issue has been moved to the March Steering Committee meeting to facilitate reports from the three committees. **APPROVED**

8. **NEW BUSINESS**

Draft Proposal for Modification in the Grading Scale, Professor Jerry Urquhart, University Committee on Curriculum Chairperson

Professor Urquhart proposed that University Committee on Undergraduate Education conduct a survey of faculty for comment to gain insight into their concerns regarding the issue of modifications in the MSU grading scales. **APPROVED**

Conversations on Inclusiveness in the Classroom, Provost Youatt

It was moved that the University Committee on Undergraduate Education identify and charge an *ad hoc committee* made up of representatives from groups and faculty members who have been engaged in the discussion of inclusiveness in the classroom. The Committee will report regularly on the progress of the *ad hoc committee*. **APPROVED**

9. Comments from the Floor

10. Draft Faculty Senate Agenda

University Committee on Curriculum – Monthly Report

Athletic Council Slate of Nominees {Action Item}

The Steering Committee At-Large Slate of Nominees {Action Item}

11. Draft University Council Agenda

Bylaws Amendments including the UCAG modifications. {Action Item}

IT Security

UCC report

12. **ADJOURNMENT: 5:05**