

Approved 1-12-15

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

Present: Provost Youatt, J. Bell, D. Clemons, M. Crimp, M. Dease, R. Fernandez, J. Francese, L. Goldstein, G. Hoppenstand, D. Nails, M. Noel, J. Powell, L. Santavicca, K. Sims, M. Sticklen, G. Urquhart; Others: T. Curry, S. Lott

Absent: President Simon, J. Farley, S. Sankar

1. CALL TO ORDER 3:15

2. Approval of Agenda November 3, 2015

Moved by Professor Nails/Seconded by Professor Hoppenstand. A motion to remove Item 9.1, Request to Discontinue Interior Design and Facilities Management, Master of Arts, in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources from the agenda was introduced and approved. **The motion to approve the modified agenda was APPROVED.**

3. Approval of Draft Minutes for October 6, 2015

Moved by Professor Nails/Seconded by Professor Sticklin to approve the minutes of October 6, 2015 was APPROVED.

4. President's Remarks – Lou Anna K. Simon – Out of Town

5. Provost's Remarks – June Youatt

Dean searches are making good progress and others are moving in the right directions. In addition to the continuing searches, Dean Don Heller of the College of Education has accepted the position as Provost of the University of San Francisco, effective January 1, 2016. The search for a new Dean will begin during the spring semester.

Last evening former MSU President Clifton Wharton made a presentation at the Wharton Center regarding his new book published by MSU Press. I recommend the book; especially the sections on his time at MSU are a very interesting description of the University when he became its President.

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

The Position Announcement of the Secretary for Academic Governance has been posted. Please contact and encourage colleagues to consider applying for the position.

7. Committee Reports

University Committee on Academic Governance – Deferred to the agenda items.

University Committee on Curriculum

In addition to our regular agenda, two new major programs for a Bachelor of Science in Economic Geography and a Minor in Sports Business Management were approved.

Catalog definition updates and modification are in the works.

Discussing a modification of the grading scale, e.g., add a .25 level for each unit.

University Committee on Faculty Affairs

Assault issue is still under consideration.

Discussion of retirement pay for summer work for faculty.

University Committee on Faculty Tenure

Approved the Reappointment, Promotion and Tenure memorandum distributed with a recommendation for it to be sent earlier.

Discussion of the practices and implementation of requests for extending the tenure clock, specifically in relation to item #3 the birth or adoption of a child.

University Committee on Graduate Studies

- NONE

University Committee on Student Affairs

- The Committee has had presentations from MSU Bikes, IPF Planning and the Bike Advisory Committee. Our goal is to develop a unified approach to programs that promote bike safety.
- Additionally, we are looking closely at the issue of gun/weapons safety on campus.

University Committee on Undergraduate Education

- Discontinuance of specializations in Postcolonial and Diaspora Literature and Culture and in Spatial Information Processing.

8. OLD BUSINESS

The name changes for the Department of Geological Sciences and Department of Geography were approved by the University Committee on Undergraduate Education. Place on University Council Agenda in January.

9. NEW BUSINESS

Professor Bell, Chairperson of University Committee on Faculty Affairs, presented background and recommendations from a joint discussion with University Committee on Faculty Tenure related to integration of the policy on faculty discipline and dismissal into one coherent policy. In addition, there is a Faculty Grievance Policy that will be moving to the Board of Trustees for consideration. The recommendation focus on having the chair and the faculty member meet prior to action, stating clearly that the faculty may have an advisor present, the separation of minor and serious discipline to insure both are handled well and the use of Standing Committee as resources for the resolution of issues. The Faculty Grievance Policy would modify the appeal process following a formal hearing be limited to the written documentation from the original panel and that review based on the process of the formal grievance. This topic will be placed on the Faculty Senate for December.

Professor Debra Nails, Chair, University Committee on Academic Governance presented a series of editorial modification proposed for clarification of the By-Laws for Academic Governance. There was a motion to move the recommendations to the University Council meeting in January for discussion and approval.

Professor Crimp moved to provide voice to Professor Judy Palac, College of Music. Motion was seconded by Professor Dease. The motion was APPROVED.

Professor Judy Palac, College of Music presented a discussion regarding the inclusion of a fall break in the academic calendar for the University. The topic has been addressed a number of times over the past few years.

Provost Youatt reviewed the issues surrounding of the academic year calendar that must be considered. There are still a number of graduate classes that meet only one day per week. The Wednesday is Monday and the Thursday/Friday compensate for Labor Day and Thanksgiving Day.

Any type of fall break would dismantle that condition. In addition, the Colleges that have extensive laboratory activities that provides consistency in large classes. One of the questions that remain is the inequity of the length of the fall semester (14 weeks) versus the spring semester (16 weeks).

There was a motion by Professor Fernandez and seconded by Professor Francese to conduct a full review of the Academic Calendar by the Standing Committees of Academic Governance. The charge is to provide a review the full academic year to make recommendations regarding calendar issues. Professor Crimp called for the question. Motion rejected by a vote of Yes-5/No-7.

Professor Urquhart moved and seconded by Professor Simmons to send the question of a “fall break” to the three University Committee on Student Affairs, University Committee on Graduate Studies and University Committee on Undergraduate Education for review. The charge is to examine the fall break not the entire academic calendar. The motion was approved by a vote of Yes – 7/No - 5

Professor Crimp presented a review and discussion of the Committee on Institutional Cooperation (CIC) Annual Conference on Academic Governance. The meeting was held at the University of Illinois in late September. The attendees addressed a number of issues related to academic governance among the different universities. One topic that fostered a lengthy discussion was the controversy surrounding the recent appointment of the new President at the University of Iowa. It is clear that issues that are important to the faculty among the CIC institutions are very diverse.

10. DRAFT FACULTY SENATE AGENDA

Revised Faculty Grievance Policy and revised Discipline and Dismissal Policy for the Faculty Cause policy for the Faculty Handbook: Professor Nails, Professor Bell and Kristine Zayko, Deputy General Counsel

The Annual CIC Academic Governance Conference will be held here on September 28-30, 2016. The Steering Committee is developing a plan for the agenda and activities for the conference: Professor Crimp.

11. Draft University Council Agenda

Dominique Clemons, ASMSU President, moved to cancel the November University Council Meeting. The motion was seconded by Professor Crimp. Motion was approved.

12. ADJOURNMENT 5:10.