Academic Council Standing Committee Report

COMMITTEE NAME: University Committee on Faculty Tenure

COMMITTEE CHAIR: Timothy Levine

MEETINGS HELD: Every other Wednesday during the academic year from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. (Sept. 14, Oct. 12, Nov. 9, Dec. 7, Feb. 1, Feb. 15, Feb. 29, March 28, April 11, April 25)

1. Description of Committee Activities and/or Issues Discussed

- Reviewed the annual memorandum issued by the Office of the Provost on Appointment, Reappointment and Tenure. The memorandum was endorsed as presented.

- Discussed University expectations/requirements for the annual review of tenure system faculty.

- Discussion with Provost Wilcox on establishment of a University-level Tenure Committee. Committee discussion will continue in the fall.

- Discussion with Leo Kempel and Paul Hunt regarding establishment of a University Research Organization (URO). UCFT supports the establishment of a URO at MSU.

- Reviewed and provided input on changes to the policy on External Letters of Reference. Policy revisions included the number of letters to be submitted, guidance about comparisons from peer institutions, materials to send to the reviewer, and instructions to the reviewer.

- Discussed development of a policy on post-tenure review/faculty development. Associate Provost Curry will draft a policy for consideration by the Committee in the fall.

- Reviewed and approved fourteen (14) requests for extension of the tenure system probationary appointment period.
2. Matters Pending before the Committee
   
   • Election of Committee Chairperson and Faculty Liaison to the Board of Trustees
   
   • Consideration of establishment of a University-level Tenure Committee
   
   • Consideration of development of a Post-tenure Review/Faculty Development policy

3. Issues Making the Committee’s Work more Difficult

   None to report.

4. Changes to the Academic Governance System to Improve the Committee’s Work

   None to report.