MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY COUNCIL MINUTES
INTERNATIONAL CENTER, ROOM 115
OCTOBER 20, 2015 - 3:15-5:00 P.M.


No Quorum at the meeting time. Moved to Provost’s Comments, Steering Committee Chair Comments and the presentation of the Anti-Discrimination Policy.

1. CALL TO ORDER 3:30 PM
2. Approval of Agenda for October 20, 2015 – APPROVED
3. Public Comments (2 minute time limit per speaker; 10 minutes total for comments) - NONE
4. Approval of Draft Minutes for September 22, 2015 – APPROVED.
5. President’s Remarks – Lou Anna K. Simon – Out of Town
6. Provost’s Remarks – June Youatt
President Simon was elected Chairperson of the Association of American Universities (AAU) October 20, by the board of directors at the association’s semiannual meeting in Washington, D.C.

Comments on Dean Searches:

* Agriculture and Natural Resources: The search committee is in the process of conducting airport interviews with ten candidates for the position.

* The Law School: The search committee has been seated and is soliciting applications.

* Director of the Broad Art Museum: The search committee met for the first time and has begun actively recruiting candidates.

* Social Science: The search committee has been identified and is beginning active recruiting.

* Human Medicine: College Advisory Committee (CAC) has responsibility for creating guidelines for the selection and to make its recommendation to the Provost.

* Graduate School: a search will begin in January.

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

At Faculty Senate last week, the Secretary for Academic Governance position was approved and it is posted. An announcement will be sent out tomorrow. She stated this is a very important position and encouraged all to apply. The Provost emphasized the importance of the position and encouraged interested members to apply.

8. OLD BUSINESS - NONE

9. NEW BUSINESS

Professor Sue Carter, Faculty Athletic Representative (FAR)

Professor Carter discussed the role of the FAR. Here at MSU, the FAR is Chairperson of the Athletic Council. This is not the case in many other institutions. The Council is advisory to the Athletic Director and the President. The NCAA identifies four areas of responsibility for the FAR: academic integrity, institutional control, the integration of student-athletes into the MSU student body, and finally, the FAR is independent of the Athletic Department and maintains a role as faculty member.

Mark Hollis, MSU Director of Intercollegiate Athletics

Athletics is experiencing many changes on a national scale. One of the top areas focuses on the importance of connecting athletics to the academic mission of the institution while national conversations are attempting to alter that connection. One of my goals has always been to have the faculty of MSU respect what athletics does for the academic mission of the University. We have strong academic records with an average GPA of over 3.0 for the last nine years. There are individual successes such as David Zulkowski’s (swimmer) Churchill Scholarship; and there are program successes with national championships.

One of the features of Athletic Departments is that they are constantly being compared with one another. There are more scoreboards for us than just the ones in our venues. People always compare us with the one just above. MSU competes on three levels in
sports. One level is with 347 schools that compete in Division I basketball. Another is the 120 schools that compete in football bowls and 65 that compete at the highest level.

The number of issues that face athletic departments are broad. At one time was admissions, academics and athletics; now it branches into legal and social issues. We continue to struggle with things common to all of us such as social media, entitlement and new attitudes.

We have created the Big Ten Integrity Standards that are of major importance and for which I am responsible. Among the standards are connections with the admissions and compliance offices, disciplinary standards for student-athletes, medical care, and training programs. This is to insure that the integrity of athletics meets or exceeds what is expected at the University level.

Our Athletic Department full-time personnel are about 51% of such schools as Ohio State. We take the approach of collaboration with our administrators, coaches, and staff, working together on the issues of student-athletes, events that bring people to our campus, revenues, allocation and administration.

I have been very proud of what athletics does for Michigan State. Money from licensing, concessions and parking goes directly to the University infrastructure. We provide about 16 million dollars in scholarships for over 800 student-athletes in 25 sports to attend Michigan State. We provide a percentage of revenues to the institution. There are no tax dollars and no student fee dollars, unlike many comparable programs, coming into our budgets.

Our budget is around 100 million dollars and modest when compared with other Big Ten universities. Our revenue is derived from ticket sales, fund raising, broadcasting and others, all at about a 25% clip. One of the challenges is that fewer people attend games, while television ratings are going up. We need to insure that we provide the atmosphere and environment where people want to attend events. Areas that may be of concern are in the amenities of the stadiums and the behaviors that people expect when they attend events. Safety has to be the top priority. The department expenses are in the areas of operations (55%), compensation (35%) and scholarships (15%) with about 95% of the monies coming from football and basketball.

Director Hollis answered a number of questions from the floor.

Anti-Discrimination Policy – Kristine Zayko, Deputy General Council

MSU has 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. The Anti-Discrimination Policy is one of the last pieces to that puzzle relating to the OCR resolution. Who is protected and their rights does not change, but features of the RVSM—e.g., where to report events, conflict resolution guidelines, and where the policy applies on- and off-campus—are being integrated. The Board of Trustees will be asked to approve elimination of the Anti-Discrimination Judicial Board (ADJB). The duties of the ADJB were established in 1993 as the body where people could raise complaints of discrimination or harassment, and that could would adjudicate those cases and make recommendations to the President of the University. Because the legal requirements have changed, the University now must
have an investigative process rather than an adjudicative process. Complaints must be sent to the University office that investigates. Therefore the board becomes redundant. In addition, there are a number of procedural changes. They include, recognizing the Office of Institutional Equity and providing their contact information, updating the language around informal resolution to be consistent with our OCR resolution, and clarifying that we will address discrimination and harassment complaints if they occur off-campus, creating or contributing to a hostile environment on campus. The University is currently in a holding position until confirmation of the revised language for the OCR is received. With that approval, implementation of the policy will begin immediately.

Annual Reports to University Council:

University Committee on Honors Programs (HP)
University Committee for the Library (UCL)
University Committee on Academic Governance (UCAG)*
University Committee on Undergraduate Education (UCUE)*
University Committee on Graduate Studies (UCGS)
University Committee on Student Affairs (UCSA)*
University Committee on International Studies & Programs (UISP)*
University Military Education Advisory Committee (UMEAC)*

*Academic Governance has not received.

Provost Youatt reiterated the importance of the annual reports and encouraged committee chairs to submit them routinely. There are many times that we need to verify actions, and these reports are a primary source of information.

Comments from the Floor

Vice President for Academic Affairs for ASMSU Lorenzo Santavicca thanked Provost Youatt for pointing out our current honor code project. The project is be managed and developed by ASMSU

ADJOURNMENT – 4:29 p.m.