The meeting began at 3:25 p.m. with a full quorum present.

Approval of Agenda:
The agenda was approved as distributed. A motion was passed to give representatives of UCFA voice as a part of the discussion of Conflict of Interest Policy.

Approval of Minutes:
The minutes of February 21, 2006 were approved as distributed.

President’s Remarks:
President Simon commended the ASMSU students for their work on the Advocacy bus schedule to go to the Capital to discuss the importance of funding public education for this generation of students. The President encouraged faculty to interact with the ASMSU students, commend them for their work and ask for ways the faculty could be of help.

The president gave a brief update on the budget. Since the Faculty Council meeting last week, we have moved from 2% in the Governor’s recommendation to 1.8% in the Senate Subcommittee recommendation. Efforts continue to move the Extension and Experiment Station monies from zero to two and also move the numbers for the research universities from 1.8% to 2%. The separation of the three research universities with medicine into a separate bill is tough going. Some view this as a segregation of the Higher Education System in Michigan. The President noted this was never an attempt by the three research universities with medical schools to indicate their role is of such importance that other institutions should be harmed by the separation. This was really intended to recognize that in the next phase of world competition, it
will be a world competition for the leading universities. The State is fortunate to have two universities in the list of the top one-hundred. When you have medical students and undergraduate students who are in professionally oriented health programs, being funded at the same level as institutions without medical schools it makes little sense. The formulas become hard to do when all institutions are together. The separation of institutions into two groups causes thinking about accountability issues in a different way. The expectations of the three universities with medical schools are to make an impact that is significant in terms of accountability through our knowledge, research and other areas.

The President commented on the articles in the news about the construction process. The University has been complying with the rules of the committee by submitting all of the projects. Housing has no general fund dollars or tuition dollars. The University responded to a letter received indicating compliance to the rules of the committee. The track record of compliance and the statement of the intent to comply do exist. The committee has asked for a specific Board of Trustees resolution and that is the issue of debate at this time. The University intends to continue to comply with the requests of the committee.

**Provost’s Remarks:**
Provost Wilcox thanked the University community for their work in preparation for the North Central Accreditation review. The site visitors shared with the President and Provost, at the exit interview, strong support for what the University has done in the last ten years and endorsement for the aspirations in the next ten years.

The Provost reported on the search for the Senior Associate Provost and said that the search committee will be meeting for the first time this week. Provost Wilcox thanked Dean Leroy, Professor Banks and Professor Andre for their willingness to serve on the committee. It is anticipated that an appointment will be made by the end of the semester.

The Provost gave an update on the progress of the Boldness by Design Initiative, which is a seven year plan (2005 to 2012). The Academic Quality Enhancement funding from fall, 2005 helped to get the effort under way. The annual review budget process under way currently is largely built on the Boldness by Design themes. There are five task force groups working on recommendations within the Boldness by Design framework. Each task force will make some broad recommendations on direction to set a framework for the next six years. It is anticipated that discussions will begin in the Fall about particular initiatives.

Provost Wilcox announced that an all day meeting on International Planning will be held on April 20, 2006 in the Breslin Center. Council members are encouraged to attend. The agenda is to compliment the Boldness by Design process in the area of internationalization. One of the conversations we need to have at MSU is which parts of the world and what themes might be the best for the University.

**ECAC Chairperson’s Remarks:**
Professor Sticklen noted an error made at the Faculty Council meeting and that was the report of the Working Group on Improvement of Undergraduate Education would be given next month at Academic Council.
University Committee on Curriculum Report:
Professor Schechter, Chairperson of UCC, presented the UCC Report, highlighting the following:

- There were recommendations for 9 changes in academic programs and the establishment of one new program, a Corporate Masters of Business Administration. The Corporate MBA program is intended for working managers who are part of a cohort sponsored by their employer.
- There were recommendations for 67 new courses, 42 of the courses were connected to the new MBA program.
- There were changes in 45 courses and deletion of 3 courses.

A motion passed to accept the report.

Final Examination Policy:
Professor Stanford, Assistant Provost for Academic Services and University Registrar, presented a proposed change to the final exam policy. The proposed change would transfer the approval for a change in the scheduling of a final examination from the “Undergraduate Committee of the Assistant Deans Group” to the Office of the Registrar, based on the approval of the Assistant/Associate Dean responsible for the offering of the course. Currently if there were a need for a final examination change, all of the Assistant/Associate Deans would have to be polled for their approval. A motion was passed to approve the proposed change.

Conflict of Interest Policy:
Professor Emmett, Chairperson of UCFA, presented a new endorsed university policy on Faculty Conflicts of Interest by UCFA and Faculty Council. Professor Brody explained the proposed policy is a way to move forward as it creates a Conflict of Interest Information Officer (FCOIIIO) to serve as a resource to faculty and administrators on defining and addressing conflicts of interest and to convene the Conflict Review Committee as described in the policy which was distributed to members. A motion passed to approve the proposed new policy.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacqueline Wright
Secretary for Academic Governance

Tapes of complete meetings of the Academic Council are available for review in the office of the Secretary for Academic Governance, 308 Olds Hall, 355-2337.

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