The meeting began at 3:19 p.m. with a full quorum present.

Approval of Agenda:
The agenda was approved as distributed.

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

President’s Remarks:
The President commented on the State Budget noting the news that had been expected regarding the month to month revenue projections has shown a fundamental structural deficit that is part of the State’s budget. Over the last few years the State has used almost $7 billion dollars worth of non-recurring revenue to work through the structural and cyclical budget challenges. Looking at the Higher Education budget and correct for inflation we are working on the 1980 dollars from the State per student. There is less money from the State today than four years ago. The amount of money eliminated from Higher Education over the past cycle equates to about the seven smallest universities which is the significant reason the tuition has been increased.

The President noted that for the State of Michigan to be competitive there needs to be a quality work force that is competitive not within the State but internationally. Health care costs are rising and the prisons, as a portion of the budget, continue to grow. The question is how to solve these issues. There is no single silver bullet that will fix this easily. It does require putting partisan rhetoric aside and learn the art of compromise around principles and policy and not around political positions. Professor Ballard and his colleagues have been testifying before various committees at the Capitol. Professor Ballard commented that the tax system is antiquated and it is not keeping up with our economy. If policies are not changed, then we fall behind by a few to several hundred million dollars a year. Although there are ways the State can
cut spending, it is the opinion of Professor Ballard that it can not be done without reforming the tax system. The President noted that part of the role of the Land Grant University is to educate beyond the borders of the campus. Now is the time collectively to find that bi-partisan approach to Michigan’s future and to do that through education, research and scholarship.

President Simon indicated the other challenges we have discussed remain with the passage of Proposal 2 and all of the legal maneuvering through December. The President referred everyone to the web site in order to keep up to date.

**Provost’s Remarks:**
Provost Wilcox reported that the President, Dean Rappley, Dean Mundt and others were in Grand Rapids today and signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Grand Valley State University as the last signature on the partnership agreements that are part of the expansion of the College of Human Medicine to Grand Rapids. The Medical School changes are an expansion of the program. The College of Osteopathic Medicine is in the process of a similar type of expansion but also different in South Eastern Michigan to expand and respond to shortages of physicians. Grand Rapids is a community with a clear single voice and single sense and South Eastern Michigan is a federation of communities sometimes with a single sense and voice and also at times with different voices. The planning with South Eastern Michigan is at the beginning stages and the Provost noted he will report to the body on the planning. There are no plans to change what goes on in East Lansing only to supplement and expand the base in East Lansing. The reason for the expansions is the reputation and quality at MSU.

The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching has identified MSU as one of the first of a set of community engaged colleges and universities. The University also received word from the American Association of Colleges and Universities that they have selected MSU as one of eighteen partners (selected from 200 universities) in their Core Commitments Project. The Core Commitments Project focuses on undergraduate education. The MSU application was coordinated by the Residential College in Arts and Humanities, James Madison College and Lyman Briggs School as an effort to highlight what MSU does in living/learning on campus and also to offer it as a test bed for creative innovation in undergraduate education.

The Provost noted MSU is part of the National Research Council (NRC) review and preparation for ratings of graduate programs across the country. The effort has been going on for over one year and many faculty have been working with the Graduate School to prepare MSU’s response. Much of the institutional information has been completed and submitted to NRC and they are currently in the process of organizing and submitting information on individual faculty. The Provost thanked everyone for their efforts. The NRC rankings are the most important and respected of all the rankings of academic programs.

**ECAC Chairperson’s Remarks:**
Professor Potchen reported that the Faculty Liaison group met with the Board of Trustees in Grand Rapids and on campus. Professor Potchen indicated the relationship is good and the Board has been responsive to the faculty concerns. He encouraged faculty to communicate with the Faculty Liaison group if they have an issue. There was some discussion at this meeting about the security of the Medical Schools in the East Lansing area and the members were supportive. The ECAC is seeking a replacement of Professor Lloyd who is on leave. This position will be for the remainder of this year through August 2008. The nominations are open for the election of at-large faculty on ECAC until January 29, 2007.
University Committee on Curriculum Report:
Professor Campbell, Chairperson of UCC, presented the following report to members:
- There was action taken on four program proposals and all four were for program changes.
- There were no new programs or moratoria on any programs.
- The moratorium on the admissions to the B.A. degree in Women’s Studies was extended to summer 2007. The request for extension was reviewed by the University Committee on Academic Policy (UCAP) and approved by the Provost.
- There were 42 course proposals with 23 new courses, 18 changes in courses and one course deletion.

A motion was passed to approve the UCC report.

Creation of a College of Music:
Professor Potchen presented a proposal from the Provost regarding a shift in the School of Music from a unit within the College of Arts and Letters to an autonomous unit, the College of Music. Professor Potchen reported the proposal has moved through the governance system. Professor Forger, Director of the School of Music, was given permission to speak. Professor Forger identified three principle reasons why the transition to a College of Music would be good. The reorganization of the School to a College would provide an institutional identity and flexibility consistent with peers and is necessary to advance excellence in the music, academic and performance arts in a highly competitive environment. It will also streamline the ability to collaborate with others across campus and across the State in outreach and engagement efforts. Professor Forger also believes becoming a College will foster a structure that will enhance development in Alumni relations. Following some brief discussion a motion was passed to change the status of the School of Music to a College of Music.

Voice Implementation Committee (VIC) Status Report:
Professor Potchen, member of VIC, reported the committee has continued to meet and is making progress. Task Force 5 recommendations were referred to UCAG for appropriate amendments to be proposed to Faculty Council. VIC has consulted with Professor Hembroff from IPPSR to join ECAC for a discussion of ideas for implementation. The recommendations from Task Force 2 and Task Force 3 are with the President. Task Force 1 is the most complex and recommendations will be coming forward. There have been a range of questions and concerns and VIC is reviewing all input.

Other Business
No additional items were identified.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:55 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.