

University Senate Meeting
Wednesday, October 23rd, 2019

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call

In attendance: Abrams, Acquah, Bal, Berger, Berisha, Brater, Carnevale, Carr, Collins, Curnutt, Dinour, Emery, Field, Fleming, Friedman, Ganory, Gingerich, Sharps for Gurskis, Halaby, Herness, Hood, Jacobson, Judge, Kay, Kelly, Wilson to Kingstone, Korotkin, LaFountain, Aiello for Lucas, Mamonov, McDermid, McKinley, Misra, Nurse, Panorkou, Spitz, Trubatch, Vernon, Wolfson.

3. Approval of Minutes

a. 2019 Sept 25

Trubatch: Move to approve minutes

McDermid: Second

Approved by unanimous consent

b. 2019 Sept 3

Trubatch: Move to approve minutes

McDermid: Second

Approved by unanimous consent

4. Report from the Administration

a. Strategic Plan

Gingerich: Status of the Strategic Plan is done and will be presented tomorrow to the CUE. Afterwards it will be posted on the website. Implementation of the plan will be considered by Associate Provosts Ken Sumner and Joanne Cote-Bonnano. They will develop plans to monitor adherence to the Plan as well as reporting to Middle States and institutional self-assessment.

b. General Education/MSU Core Redesign

Gingerich: First meeting with the group of faculty, they are up to the challenge. Three kinds of rumors: 1. We did this 20 years ago, not much happened so sit back and wait - this will not happen, this group will examine what we do, rescue the parts that work, and rework the things that don't. 2. The President and Provost already know what they want it to be, and it won't change- that is not true either, the President has ideas about the program, but the Task Force will work with ideas and it is not predetermined. 3. The Provost picked Associate Professors so they can be manipulated- that is not true either. the Professors are tenured and fully aware and fully charged- they will not be manipulated. Kate McCaffrey is the Chairperson of the Task Force.

McCaffrey: We had a great first meeting, reviewed the executive summary of the faculty focus groups- its available on Canvas for all Faculty. There will be designated time slots for public comment at each Task-Force meetings.

c. Compilation and Review of University Policies

Gingerich: The VPs have all been charged to examine their policies so every policy is reviewed, up to date, and accessible. Academic Policies are online.. Read them carefully and see if they say what the policy should be, that they're not repetitive, and that they are clear. The expectation is that we have a standard, uniform index of policies.

Fleming: IT has also gone through the same process, almost all of them are online in one location.

Gingerich: We also just sent an email to call attention to calendar issues. People are not respecting the common hours so we sent the policy on scheduling meetings.

d. Board of Trustees

Gingerich: BOT has approved the new PhD program in Industrial Psychology which will take effect in fall 2020 and add to our R2 standing. Also approved: masters-degree programs Data Science and Cyber Security, for a total of 4 masters-degree programs in Computer Science. MA in Social Research and Analysis in Sociology Department.

e. Report by US News and World Report

Gingerich: We became a National University and R3 four years ago, the first time we were ranked nationally. We've been nationally ranked every year since then. If you look only at Nation Public University list: MSU ranks 79th out of 140; tied with Rowan and Rutgers, Camden. In the National Public and Public University list, MSU ranks 166th out of 387; and again tie with Rowan and Rutgers, Camden. Nationally we are number 1 in the percent over graduation rate based- they predicted we would graduate 48% of our entering class in 6 years, and we graduated 71%. That is a testimony to our commitment to students.

f. Questions for the Administration

Wolfson: When I spoke to BOT about contingent faculty, that over 50% of our courses were taught by contingent labor such as adjuncts. You didn't think this was correct but would like to know the accurate data to the Senate. Tenure and Tenure Track faculty have decreased by 40%.

Gingerich: If by contingent faculty you mean adjunct and specialist, then yes over 50% of the courses are taught by that cohort. If you limit it only to adjuncts, that is not 50% but perhaps close to it. It is not the number of students but the number of sections. I'll provide the exact number.

5. Council Reports

a. Academic Affairs

McDermid: We have a few outstanding questions on the Curriculum Review Guidelines, we listed the URL for your input.

Report in packet for details on all open matters.

Trubatch: We intend to have a first reading in November for the Curriculum Review Recommendation.

b. Administrative Affairs

Report in packet. Discussion on new Scheduling Grid.

c. Student Affairs

Misra: The students didn't know what was going on with Navigate, did they get any communication?

Danielle Insalaco-Egan: Yes, they were emailed that Navigate and Progress Reports would happen this week. We have received a lot of participation from faculty with progress reports.

6. NAL Report

Curnutt: Update on negotiations, not going as well as we wanted at this point. We think it is unlikely that we will have a ratified contract by the end of the semester.

7. Committee of the Whole

a. Resolution for Kenneth Brook

Resolution in packet and read aloud to recognize Ken Brooks.

Collins: Move to approve.

Resolution is approved by acclamation.

b. Amendment on VPs- 2nd reading

Trubatch: The effect of this is to remove specific unit titles and include anyone with the VP title ex officio in Senate.

c. Recommendation on Service Requests to Facilities- 1st reading

Trubatch: Time to make comments or suggest changes on this first reading.

Recommendation in packet for review. Move to approve first reading, we will hold the second reading in November.

First reading approved by acclamation.

d. Recommendation on Environmental Stewardship - 1st reading

Trubatch: Executive Board met with President and Provost for comments on this, there are already things in the works with facilities. Recommendation in packet for review.

Gingerich: The Administration and President are fully committed to the elimination of single use plastics, it has to be done in phases. Water fountains are systematically being changed across campus for refillable water bottles.

Trubatch: Move to approve first reading, we will hold the second reading in November.

First reading approved by acclamation.

8. Report of the Senate President

a. Recognizing new Senators

Trubatch: Welcome the new CHSS and CART faculty to the Senate, Judge and McKinley.

b. Capital Planning

Trubatch: During meeting with President and Provost we also asked about whether there would be a new Capital Plan in alignment with new Strategic Plan; response was that there would not be a capital plan on that scale for now.

c. Liberal Core Task Force

Trubatch: Urge you to take up the opportunity to comment on the new Liberal Core with task force members.

9. New Business

- a. **Friedman:** A year ago, film faculty were not allowed to use film studio or equipment for our research or FSP. I want to thank the Senate and the Provost to put a policy into place that allows us to use some of that equipment but only for two weeks in the summer- it is not enough. Why can't we use a studio during a day and time when students are not using it? Do we have any additional recourse?

Gingerich: So we have an existing policy now, but it is not satisfactory- so the proper communication channel would be to go through the Dean and then to me before going to the Senate.

Friedman: We have done a lot for the program and the students and have brought a lot of donation money in.

Gingerich: Present any objections to the Dean in writing, with a copy to me. It is not an issue that will be resolved by the Senate, but of course you can bring it up here if the process of communication does not work.

- b. **Abrams:** Recently a considerable investment in electrical infrastructure, last Wednesday with the weather there was issues with lighting and hvac, is that specific to our building or an issue all over campus?

Gingerich: I will have to consult Facilities for a more specific answer. Generally, we have created a second support generation system which will allow us to operate off the grid, but it might not translate immediately.

- c. **Wolfson:** We have two new cell towers on campus? AT&T and Verizon?

Fleming: We had those before. We are almost at the point of having a better system, I'd say by summer 2020.

- d. **Misra:** Senate used to be Faculty Senate and now it is University Senate, what changed?

Collins: It was restructured in 1994, there is a history to it all. A change in the body of members.

10. Voices from the Community

11. Adjournment

Adjourned at 4:37pm