

1. Call to Order

Call to order at 1:30pm.

Welcome from the University President.

A moment to recognize the sudden passing of Lissette Gutierrez, Executive Assistant to the Provost.

Gingerich: To summarize Lissette, she is the definition of professional support we all depend on. She was a loyal, successful, reliable, and honest colleague. I say farewell and thank you.

Hollister: She was extremely helpful, organized, generous and always with a smile. I was blessed to work with her.

2. Roll Call

In attendance: Alvares, Axelrod, Bellum, Berisha, Billings, Brater, Carr, Collins, Connolly, Coutras, Dinour, Fackina, Field, Fleming, Gurskis, Harness, Hollister, Hood, Jacobson, Judge, Korotkin, Lafountain, Landa, Lin-Cook, McCarthy, McDermid, McKinley, Misra, Mizzy, Sangregorio, Schmidt, Soufleris, Spitz, Taha, Temoney, Trubatch, Vernon, Wallace, Wolfson.

3. Approval of the Opening Meeting Minutes

Sullivan: Move to approve.

Spitz: Second.

Minutes from December 2021 approved.

4. Report from the SGA President

Lanada: We're coming into this semester looking to see more campus life. We are trying to find more ways to help students with finances and being able to afford their education.

Jacobson: Let us know when you do fundraising for scholarships and we will promote them.

5. Report from the Administration

a. Mask Mandates

Hollister: We continue to campaign about the wearing of masks and monitoring implementation in part, with mask ambassadors.

Sullivan: I've never seen a mask ambassador, and within 30 seconds of walking into University Hall I saw at least 5 students without masks.

Billings: We will ask what the staffing is for health ambassadors. It is also our responsibility as faculty to remind students as we see them.

Spitz: I've also seen a lot of staff and faculty in large public spaces such as Cole Hall not wearing masks, which sets a bad precedent for students.

Billings: We talked about supplying KN95 masks but there is a supply chain issue so we cannot mandate the wearing of KN95 masks.

Soufleris: Exactly, we are unable to supply all students, staff, and faculty with KN95 masks. But we can continue to educate everyone on how to find them, and to double mask if they're not available. Be careful about your language, N95 respirator masks are not what we are recommending, what we are recommending for general use is KN95 which are available for free in many pharmacies.

Curnutt: If they are going to be widely available can we strongly encourage students to wear the KN95 masks?

Soufleris: Yes, we can encourage them, but we cannot mandate it when we have no way to enforce it.

- b. Attendance Verification
Lin-Cook: There were questions about how to count students in quarantine for attendance verification. If they are engaging with course work and reaching out it can count towards attendance verification.
 - c. Final Grades
Hollister: We recognize there was confusion about the final grade deadlines this past Fall, the implied messaging was that Faculty were late with grading but that was incorrect. What we plan to implement is that for Fall and Spring semesters Faculty will have one deadline of 5 days to complete final grades. Anything after that will have to go through the workflow process. For Winter and Summer courses they will have 3 days to complete final grades.
 - d. Student Survey: Educate the Educators
Isaacs: Sent to all students for feedback on the Faculty, well-being, satisfaction, sense of belonging, etc. We are analyzing the data now, highlights are on the shared PowerPoint available on Canvas.
6. Voices of the Community
- a. African American Caucus
Hill: Flag raising ceremony is this Tuesday, Feb 1st to start Black History Month. *Black Wallstreet: A Case for Reparations* is a new exhibit opening in the George Segal Gallery on February 15th.
 - b. Disability Caucus
Broderick: We spent the last year getting the caucus up and running, this semester we are focusing on being present and engaging a wider community. We are starting a monthly brown bag series starting today at 3:30pm.
 - c. Land Acknowledgement Committee
Martini: First meeting of the year is February 7th and we will have more updates in the next Senate meeting.
 - d. Latinx/a/o Caucus
No report.
 - e. Open Floor
Wallace: OFA and Center on Human Trafficking upcoming event.
McCarthy: ITDS and Library has an upcoming event this Friday, January 28th on Open Education Resources and how students can save money for students on course materials.
7. Negotiations Agent Liaison (NAL) Report
Curnutt: The Local is continuing to work with HR to resolve grievances; we are hoping for a full Career Development program for the 2022-2023 academic year. We have updated our agreement with new booster requirements. We encourage everyone to wear a high quality mask and get boosted as soon as possible.
8. Standing Committees
- a. Elections Committee
Field: Several open seats this semester, an email is forthcoming for nominations and elections.
9. Council Reports
- a. Academic Affairs
Temoney: There has been discussion of re-opening an Undergraduate admissions criteria committee, if anyone is interested please contact Jean

Alvarez. The doctoral program draft recommendation is in progress. Full report available on Canvas.

Trubatch: UUCC has Senate Representatives, the UUCC now needs to have a clear protocol for procedures and reporting.

b. Administrative Affairs

Bellum: We have open inquiries with HR about the onboarding process and non-employee harassment. We hope to have updates at the next meeting. The new item is to look at best practices for calling meetings face to face vs Zoom meetings. Full report available on Canvas.

Lafountain: Urgent brief reminder for Mac users to update your printer drivers by tomorrow to resolve widespread printing issues. We continue to discuss issues around security in Google Drive applications, and OIT is putting together a team to look into this, they are looking for a Senate representative for that consultative team.

c. Student Affairs

Brater: Meeting with Soufleris and Coleman-Carter on procedures for students in quarantine, the timeline is still ten days. Faculty can request to receive the official letter from the Dean of Students from a student claiming to be in quarantine. Full report available on Canvas.

Korotkin: I had a student miss the first day of class but wasn't notified until days after the student was allowed to return to campus, the timeliness is ineffective.

Brater: We requested to be notified within 3-5 days that the student is notified.

Sullivan: I was notified right away. However, a responsibility for faculty is that if a student notifies us, we need to make sure the student notifies the University. The Medical Withdrawal, if students ask for it later on in the semester would they still lose financial aid retroactively?

Brater: Yes, they can lose their financial aid if they go on Medical Withdrawal later in the semester. We are requesting a meeting to understand this better.

Lin-Cook: It is complicated and regulated by the Federal Government, so it is best to check with Financial Aid before recommending it to a student.

10. Business

a. Recommendations

i. Recommendation on University Land Acknowledgement - Second Reading

Bellum: Some edits were made since our first reading, the full recommendation is available on Canvas.

Bellum: Move to vote to accept the second reading.

Sullivan: Second.

All in favor: 21 Yes, 3 Abstain, 0 No

The recommendation is approved.

b. Resolutions

No resolutions.

c. New Business

No new business.

11. Report of the Senate President

Jacobson: MSU Foundation updates: in February and March President Koppell will be meeting with Alumni and friends in key regions for fundraising. Save the date for Giving Day on Thursday, April 28th.

Jacobson: Please continue to email me any questions or comments you have on

Senate business. Additionally, I think the Land Acknowledgement Committee is a great example of how to get work done on campus and can be a model for other projects.

12. Adjournment

Jacobson: Move to adjourn.

Spitz: Second.

Adjourned at 3:21pm.