

Faculty Senate

Draft Minutes

October 14, 2025



MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

A regular meeting of the Faculty Senate was held on October 14, 2025, at 3:15 pm via Zoom with Chairperson Angela Wilson presiding. The agenda was approved as presented. The minutes of September 16, 2025, meeting were approved as presented.

Remarks

President Kevin Guskiewicz, Provost Laura Lee McIntyre, and Chairperson Wilson provided remarks to the Faculty Senate.

One Team One Health Survey Update- Ad hoc Committee

Senator Cunningham provided an overview of the One Team, One Health (OTOH) faculty survey conducted September 29–October 9, 2025. The survey received 1,244 responses with an 83% completion rate, representing a broad cross section of faculty perspectives from affected and non-affected colleges. Senator Cunningham thanked the One Health Council members and Academic Governance staff for their assistance in developing and distributing the survey. She highlighted recurring themes from the qualitative feedback, a desire for greater transparency and communication; questions regarding the initiative's scope, timing, and implications for accreditation and faculty governance; and support for continued consultation and shared governance throughout the process.

Following discussion, members deliberated on how to share results while maintaining confidentiality and accuracy of interpretation. At-Large Member Lipton moved that the aggregate university-level survey summary be released to all Faculty Senators and that college-level reports be shared only with the five directly impacted colleges (Human Medicine, Osteopathic Medicine, Nursing, Agriculture and Natural Resources, and Education).

Chair Wilson thanked the survey team and faculty participants for their engagement and reiterated that no decisions have been made regarding the OTOH proposal, which remains in an exploratory phase. Additional data and task force reports will be circulated when available.

Board of Trustees Summit

Senators Lipton and St. Charles provided an overview of the Board of Trustees' inaugural Stakeholder Summit, which replaced one of the Board's regular meetings this year.

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The Summit was designed to create more meaningful engagement between the Board and university stakeholders, moving beyond the limited public comment format of regular meetings. Discussions centered on five thematic areas: health and well-being; community and civic engagement; university extension and outreach; MSU's research enterprise; facilities planning; and the undergraduate experience.

The discussions were productive, and trustees appeared engaged and receptive. The senators emphasized the value of expanding participation in future summits to better include those directly affected by the issues discussed.

Senator St. Charles also suggested that future stakeholder events should supplement not replace a formal Board meeting, as skipping a regular business meeting created an extended gap in Board action. Both senators agreed the Summit was a promising first step toward more transparent and informed dialogue between trustees and the university community.

Working Group on Faculty Conflict Resolution

Senator Alan, Chair of the University Committee on Faculty Affairs (UCFA), provided an update on the ad hoc Working Group on Faculty Conflict Management. The group was initially formed to explore gaps in addressing faculty to faculty during conflicts within existing university processes.

With the recognition of the new faculty union, the working group's activities were temporarily paused to ensure compliance with labor law. Senator Alan shared that after recent consultation with the Office of General Counsel and FASA, the group may now be able to resume its work. A review of the charge and scope of the group is underway; if no substantive changes are required, the group will proceed under its existing charge. If changes are needed, UCFA will reconvene to update the charge and seek faculty input.

Academic Specialist Advisory Committee

Secretary Cuellar provided an informational update regarding Academic Specialist representation in Academic Governance. She explained that the Academic Specialist Advisory Committee (ASAC) was notified last April that it did not have representation on the Faculty Senate or University Council due to those seats not being codified in the Bylaws.

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Over the summer, the Office of Academic Governance began working to identify solutions and potential bylaw amendments to address this gap. This matter will be referred to the University Committee on Academic Governance (UCAG) for review and possible recommendations.

Loss of Title VI Funding and the future of Area Studies programs and loss of funding for migrant education programs (CAMP) at MSU

Vice Chair Aerni-Flessner gave remarks on the recent loss of federal funding from the U.S. Department of Education affecting several long standing MSU programs, including the College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP) and Title VI National Resource Center grants.

The CAMP program, previously funded at approximately \$400,000 annually, supports students from migrant and seasonal farmworker backgrounds. Although MSU has temporarily bridged the program through the Office of Undergraduate Education, the number of students served has been reduced.

Additionally, the elimination of Title VI funding impacts MSU's African Studies, Asian Studies, and Latin American and Caribbean Studies programs, as well as the International Business Center and the Less Commonly Taught Languages Center, totaling approximately \$2.2 million in lost annual support.

These programs are critical to MSU's global mission, graduate training, and distinction as an AAU member institution. Vice Chair Aerni-Flessner urged continued discussion on sustainable funding strategies and the importance of preserving these academic centers.

Resolution on COMPACT

Vice Chair Aerni-Flessner introduced a resolution urging the University President and Board of Trustees to reject participation in the federal "Compact for Academic Excellence in Higher Education." The resolution cites concerns that the compact terms would infringe upon academic freedom and institutional autonomy.

Aerni-Flessner explained that the resolution was modeled on a similar statement adopted by the University of Virginia Faculty Senate and that recent reports indicate the offer may have been extended to all U.S. institutions.

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The motion was seconded and passed with the majority voting in the affirmative. The resolution will be shared with the President and Board of Trustees and posted publicly on the Academic Governance website.

Whereas, the United States Secretary of Education has requested that nine other universities enter in a “Compact for Academic Excellence in Higher Education,” and

Whereas, the “Compact” contains provisions antithetical to the missions and traditions of the public, land-grant universities, and

Whereas, the “Compact” violates long-standing legal decisions regarding the First^{[ii](#)} and Fourteenth^{[iii](#)} Amendments, and violates the Unconstitutional Conditions Doctrine of the Supreme Court of the United States,^{[iiii](#)} and

Whereas, Michigan State University stands for American academic values of the highest standard, including universal right to free speech^{[v](#)} and academic freedom^{[vi](#)}; therefore be it,

Resolved, That the Faculty Senate of Michigan State University firmly opposes the “Compact”, and

Resolved, That the Faculty Senate of Michigan State University stands in solidarity with faculty, students, and staff at other institutions rejecting the “Compact”, and

Resolved, That the Faculty Senate calls on President Guskiewicz and the Board of Trustees to reject this, or any similar compact that compromises the mission, values, and independence of Michigan State University.

^{[ii](#)} Section 2 of the “Compact” forces signatory institutions to “transform or abolish institutional units that purposefully punish, belittle, or even spark violence against conservative ideas” thereby granting special favor for a particular viewpoint. This is a violation of the First Amendment.

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[\[ii\]](#) Section 6 of the “Compact” mandates institutions “commit to defining and otherwise interpreting ‘male,’ ‘female,’ ‘woman,’ and ‘man’ according to reproductive function and biological processes.” This is designed to exclude transgender individuals from single-sex spaces and sports and would likely be challenged as unconstitutional sex-based discrimination under the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment.

[\[iii\]](#) **The Unconstitutional Conditions Doctrine** holds that the government cannot use its power to grant benefits (like federal funding) to indirectly coerce people or institutions into giving up their constitutional rights. The entire idea of a compact is based on the premise that an institution must agree to these terms of ‘elect to forego federal benefits’ including student loans, research funding, and the institution’s tax-exempt status. These and other provisions are financial inducements that are so great that they become coercive and, therefore, an unconstitutional violation of state and institutional autonomy.

[\[iv\]](#) Section 8 of the “Compact” requires universities to “screen out [foreign] students who demonstrate hostility to the United States, its allies, or its value.” This would require an institution to deny admission based on an applicant’s political beliefs. This would be a form of viewpoint discrimination that violates First Amendment principles.

[\[v\]](#) Section 4 of the “Compact” requires university employees to “abstain from actions or speech relating to societal and political events” which runs afoul of courts recognition that academic speech related to scholarship and teaching warrants special protection under the First Amendment.

Vacancy in Student Affairs Vote

Senator Gardner presented a motion to approve Emily Abrams as a replacement member for the University Committee on Student Affairs, filling the vacancy created by Emily Langhart’s departure. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Teresa Cuellar

Approved: [month day, year]

Present:	Quorum
Total Present	72
Total Absent	9

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Total	81
Quorum	41.5

Constituency/Title	Name	Attendance
Agriculture and Natural Resources	Satish Joshi	Present
Agriculture and Natural Resources	Henry Chung	Present
Agriculture and Natural Resources	Holly Wang	Present
Agriculture and Natural Resources	Lorraine Weatherspoon	Present
Arts and Letters	Lucas Nunn	Present
Arts and Letters	Alejandra Marquez	Present
Arts and Letters	Tze-Lan San	Present
Arts and Letters	Victor Rodriguez-Pereira	Present
Arts and Letters	Danielle DeVoss	Present
ASMSU	Tony Pham	Present
At Large	Justin St. Charles	Present
At Large	Antoniette Tessmer	Present
At Large	John Aerni-Flessner	Present
At Large	Angela Wilson	Present
At Large	Jack Lipton	Present
Athletic Council	Rebecca Malouin	Present
Business	Naveen Khanna	Substitute: Musaib Ashraf (Absent)
Business	Michelle Nessa	Present
Business	Dwight Handspike	Present
COGS	Priyanka Kothari	Absent
Communication Arts and Sciences	Casey O'Donnell	Present
Communication Arts and Sciences	Rabindra "Robby" Ratan	Present
Education	Matthew Brodhead	Present
Education	Doug Hartman	Present
Education	Kristy Stein	Present
Education	Jungmin Kwon	Absent
Emeriti Faculty	Peter Berg	Present
Engineering	Neil Wright	Present

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Engineering	Bei Fan	Present
Engineering	Rebecca Anthony	Present
Engineering	Ruigio Yang	Present
Engineering	Mark Worden	Present
Human Medicine	Natoshia Cunningham	Present
Human Medicine	Sabrina Ford	Present
Human Medicine	Kelly Hodges	Present
Human Medicine	Bruce Uhal	Present
Human Medicine	James C. Anthony	Present
Secretary for Academic Governance	Teresa Cuellar	Present
James Madison	Andaluna Borcila	Present
James Madison	Yael Aronoff	Present
Law	Glen Staszewski	Present
Law	Stephen Wilks	Present
Non-College Faculty (FRIB)	Oscar Naviliat-Cuncic	Present
Non-College Faculty (Libraries)	Eli Landaverde	Present
Non-College Faculty (Libraries)	Gen Iverson	Present
Non-College Faculty	Pending	
Non-College Faculty	Pending	
Lyman Briggs	Megan Halpern	Present
Lyman Briggs	Isaac Record	Absent
Lyman Briggs	Samantha Cass	Present
Music	Guy Yehuda	Present
Natural Science	Diana Bello DeOcampo	Present
Natural Science	Pavel Sikorskii	Present
Natural Science	Yuying Xie	Absent
Natural Science	Andrew Christlieb	Absent
Natural Science	Demetre Kazaras	Substitute: Avery St. Dizier
Nursing	Horng-Shiuann Wu	Present
Nursing	Rhonda Conner-Warren	Present
Osteopathic Medicine	Nathan Tykocki	Present
Osteopathic Medicine	Martha Faner	Present
Osteopathic Medicine	Sarah Tilden	Absent
Osteopathic Medicine	Shane Crandall	Present

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President	Kevin Guskiewicz	Present
Provost	Laura Lee McIntyre	Present
RCAH	Laura MacDonald	Present
RCAH	Soct Yoder	Present
Social Science	Ani Sarkissian	Present
Social Science	Laurie Bulock	Lori Skibbe
Social Science	Sue Grady	Absent
Social Science	David Wheat	Present
UCAG	Liz Gardner	Present
UCC	Marci Mechtel	Present
UCFA	Jamie Alan	Present
UCFT	Kevin Douglas	Present
UCGS	Alfred J. (AJ) Robison	Present
UCL	Tiffany Wahl	Kathleen Oberst
UCSA	Robert LaDuca	Present
UCUE	Chastity Warren	Present
Veterinary Medicine	Jim Wagner	Present
Veterinary Medicine	Andres Contreras	Present
Veterinary Medicine	Dodd Sledge	Absent