

Faculty Senate

Draft Minutes

January 20, 2026



MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

A regular meeting of the Faculty Senate was held on January 20, 2026, at 3:15 PM via Zoom with Chairperson Wilson presiding. The agenda was approved as corrected. The minutes of December 16, 2025, meeting were approved as presented.

Remarks

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

Report of Committee on the Institutional Support for Research and Creative Activities (CISR)

Vice Chair Aerni-Flessner shared the final report from the Committee on Institutional Support for Research and Creative Activities, which was set up in November 2024. He explained who served on the committee and described how they gathered input from department chairs, school directors, research deans, and staff from central research and advancement offices. He mentioned that the report is widely available and not confidential, and he encouraged senators to share it within their colleges. Vice Chair Aerni-Flessner pointed out several key recommendations: making sure shared governance guides how research funds are distributed, finding new ways to fund research as budgets and federal funding change, using the capital campaign to support research goals, and ensuring all faculty appointment types have fair access to research support.

A.I. Guidelines at Michigan State University

Marcio Oliveira, Vice Provost for Teaching and Learning Innovation, presented background on the development of the Michigan State University Guidelines for the Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence, which were released in July 2025. Marcio explained that the guidelines were created to consolidate multiple existing guidance documents into a single, coherent resource for the campus and to articulate an institutional position on the responsible, ethical, and creative use of AI. The guidelines are not a policy but provide guidance applicable to teaching and learning, research and scholarship, and administrative work, with particular emphasis on academic integrity, data security, privacy, and human judgment. Faculty are given broad latitude in determining permissible classroom use, while administrative use is limited to



MSU-approved enterprise tools. Marcio highlighted ongoing challenges, including digital literacy, equitable access, misuse of AI tools, and the rapidly evolving AI landscape, and noted that the guidelines will require continued education, collaboration, and periodic review.

ACRI Nomination

Secretary Cuellar gave an update on the nomination process for the Advisory Committee for Responsible Investing (ACRI). At the President's Office's request, the Office of Academic Governance asked the Faculty Senate for self-nominations to recommend two candidates. The self-nomination period has ended. Next, the University Committee on Academic Governance will rank the nominees and send a list to the Faculty Senate for a vote. The virtual ballot should go out by email early next week, with a short voting period, so the recommended names can be sent to the President's Office quickly. The President will then choose one faculty representative from the two nominees.

Benefits question: Backup Child/elder/dependent care

Senator Devoss expressed concern about MSU ending its subsidized backup and emergency dependent care benefit on February 1, 2025. She asked how faculty could push for these benefits to return. She also pointed out that the new service, CareLoop, does not offer subsidized care but instead provides caregiving resources and referrals. Senator Allen replied that benefits are part of collective bargaining and said more talks with the Provost's Office and the Office of General Counsel are needed. Teresa Mastin said the subsidy ended during the FY26 budget cuts because of higher costs and no clear funding source. She described CareLoop as a broader support model for caregiving.

UCAG Update

UCAG Chair Gardner reported that, due to Chair Wilson's acceptance of a new position, she was no longer able to serve as an At-Large Member or as the Faculty Senate Chair. On behalf of the University Committee on Academic Governance, she described the process for identifying a replacement At-Large Member by selecting the next-highest vote-getter from the most recent election, Professor Kyoo-il Kim, and moved his nomination for approval; the motion was approved. UCAG Chair Gardner proposed that Vice Chair John Aerni



Flessner be elevated to Chair of the Faculty Senate for the remainder of the term ending August 15; the motion was approved. Finally, UCAG Chair Gardner moved that a special election be held among the remaining At-Large Members to fill the Vice Chair vacancy, in accordance with the established process; the motion was approved.

Resolution Green and White Council

Senator Allen brought forward a resolution about the Green and White Council and concerns over shared governance. She pointed out that recent initiatives announced on January 21, 2026, press release had not followed the usual faculty governance steps for curriculum and degree approval. She asked the Faculty Senate to show its dissatisfaction with the administration's actions and to request a pause on these initiatives until faculty review and approval could take place. After the resolution was seconded, senators discussed it at length. Some supported protecting faculty control over curriculum, while others suggested waiting to see how the administration revised the press release. In an electronic vote, the resolution passed with 27 in favor, 17 opposed, and 5 abstaining.

The resolution will be shared with the President and Board of Trustees and posted publicly on the Academic Governance website.

Whereas, The Bylaws for Academic Governance (Bylaws) establish that the faculty possesses delegated authority to review and approve all courses and curricula (Bylaw 4.5.3); and

Whereas, The Bylaws establish that the faculty shares responsibility with the administration for policies pertaining to curriculum revision, methods of instruction, and advising (Bylaw 4.4.5); and

Whereas, The Bylaws reserve to the faculty the exclusive right to "establish and maintain the intellectual authority of the university" (Bylaw 1.2.3.1.3); and

Whereas, The President and administration have announced the "Green and White Council Initiatives" via a press release dated January 21, 2026, stating that this external body has "designed" and intends to



"launch" specific initiatives, certificate programs, and university-wide degree frameworks (e.g., "AI-Ready Spartans," "Career-Connected Spartans") as directed by a \$5M donor gift; and

Whereas, Attempting to implement academic curriculum and degree requirements designed by external private interests circumvents the established academic governance system and degrades the faculty's role as the primary guardians of the University's educational standards; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Faculty Senate expresses its profound displeasure with the administration's failure to adhere to the Bylaws for Academic Governance regarding the development of the Green and White Council initiatives; and be it further

Resolved, That the Faculty Senate asserts that no "foundational AI course," "AI certificate," or "Career-Connected" degree requirement described in the January 21, 2026 announcement shall be implemented or listed in the University catalog until it has been proposed by an academic unit and approved through the established faculty governance process (UCC and UCUE) as required by Bylaws 4.5.3 and 4.4.5; and be it further

Resolved, That the Faculty Senate calls upon the President to immediately pause the implementation of these initiatives and submit the Green and White Council's recommendations to the appropriate Standing Committees for genuine review, amendment, or rejection, consistent with the faculty's delegated authority.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

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Teresa Cuellar

Teresa Cuellar

Approved: [month day, year]

Present:	Quorum
Total Present	72
Total Absent	6
Total	78
Quorum	40

Constituency	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	Eric Gurzell
Agriculture and Natural Resources	David Skole	Present
Arts and Letters	Lucas Nunn	Salah Hassan
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	Kathryn Harding
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

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Business	Naveen Khanna	Present
Business	Michelle Nessa	Absent
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	Present
Emeriti Faculty	Peter Berg	Present
Engineering	Neil Wright	Present
Engineering	Bei Fan	Present
Engineering	Rebecca Anthony	Present
Engineering	Ruigio Yang	Present
Engineering	Mark Worden	Present
Human Medicine	Natoshia Cunningham	Julie Christensen
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	Absent
Law	Stephen Wilks	Absent
Non-College Faculty (FRIB)	Oscar Naviliat-Cuncic	Present
Non-College Faculty (Library)	Eli Landaverde	Present
Non-College Faculty (Library)	Gen Iverson	Present
Lyman Briggs	Megan Halpern	Present
Lyman Briggs	Samantha Cass	Present
Music	Guy Yehuda	Present
Natural Science	Diana Bello DeOcampo	Present
Natural Science	Pavel Sikorskii	Present

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Natural Science	Yuying Xie	Present
Natural Science	Andrew Christlieb	Present
Natural Science	Demetre Kazaras	Present
Nursing	Horng-Shiunn 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
President	Kevin Guskieicz	Present
Provost	Laura Lee McIntyre	Present
Social Science	Ani Sarkissian	Joe Kozakiewicz
Social Science	Laurie Bulock	Present
Social Science	Sue Grady	Present
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	Present
UCUE	Chastity Warren	Present
UCSA	Erica Weeks	Present
Veterinary Medicine	Jim Wagner	Present
Veterinary Medicine	Andres Contreras	Present
Veterinary Medicine	Vacant	Vacant
RCAH	Laura MacDonald	Present
RCAH	Eric Aronoff	Absent