

Police and Public Safety Oversight Committee

Election Slate

University Committee on Academic Governance

February 11, 2026



Michael Everett (Page 1 of 1)

Unit: College of Agriculture and Natural Resources

Academic Appointment & Rank: Academic Specialist

Initial MSU Appointment: 2008

Previous Academic Governance Service: N/A

Also Applied To: N/A



Please explain why you are interested in serving on the Academic Hearing Pool and what qualifies you to do so.

I would like to better understand and support the campus police at MSU through serving on this committee. I do not have any experience in criminal justice or through the policing system, however I do have an interest in serving the University.

Please provide a brief statement about your past efforts and/or future plans to contribute to a collaborative, respectful work environment and to uphold the values of integrity and accountability that are central to shared governance.

I have served on a number of departmental (CSUS), College (CANR) and University committees (Athletic Council, Military Council) and believe that I have a strong degree of integrity and accountability in serving MSU.

(Optional) Use this space to add anything else you would like those considering your application to know, including whether you are willing to serve on multiple academic governance bodies and whether you would prefer to serve on certain academic governance bodies over others.

I am certainly willing to serve on other committees if the University deems that my skillset is important to the committee.



Tianyi Kou-Herrema (Page 1 of 2)

Unit: College of Arts and Letters

Academic Appointment & Rank: Academic Specialist

Initial MSU Appointment: 2025

Previous Academic Governance Service: N/A

Also Applied To: Academic Hearing Pool, Student Faculty Staff Hearing Board, University Military Education Advisory Committee, University Appeals Board



Please explain why you are interested in serving on the Academic Hearing Pool and what qualifies you to do so.

As a Spartan who has lived, studied, and is now working at MSU, I understand and care deeply about safeguarding the rights of students, faculty, staff, and broader community members. At the same time, I recognized the importance of having proper procedures when concerns arise. Although you might have noticed that I only recently began working at MSU full-time as an Academic Specialist, I have been part of the Spartan community for many years. I started my doctoral program at MSU in 2017 and taught numerous undergraduate courses from 2018 to 2023. Being an instructor provided me with insights into students' academic experiences and challenges. During that time, I encountered situations that required collaboration with MSUPD, and adherence to university safety protocols, including filing Behavioral Threat Assessment Team (BTAT) reports. On top of that, I actively try to help other graduate students who might run into similar scenarios by co-designing and facilitating annual summer training (2019-2024) for incoming graduate teaching assistants on topics related to university policies. Beyond the classroom, I have firsthand knowledge of the residential side of student life and its complexities. I lived in Van Hoosen Hall from 2021 to 2022 while my husband served as an Assistant Community Director for the River Trail community. The live-on experience exposed me to emergency response procedures and conduct-related training for our students and scholar residents. Observing how things were run outside of the classroom certainly deepened my understanding of the complexities of campus living. Overall, I believe that serving on the Police Oversight Committee would allow me to contribute to a fair and transparent process that upholds the rights of all community members.



Tianyi Kou-Herrema (Page 2 of 2)

Please provide a brief statement about your past efforts and/or future plans to contribute to a collaborative, respectful work environment and to uphold the values of integrity and accountability that are central to shared governance.

In my work at MSU, I have always valued collaboration and respect, whether co-designing training materials for incoming graduate teaching assistants or working with colleagues to support student success. I believe in active listening and clear, direct communication, which is reflected in my current role as a research coordinator, where I listen to researchers' needs and clearly communicate what can and cannot be achieved. As I navigate shared governance practices within higher education, I am learning to follow established policies. Looking ahead, I hope to help build spaces where all voices are heard and decisions reflect our shared values as Spartans.

(Optional) Use this space to add anything else you would like those considering your application to know, including whether you are willing to serve on multiple academic governance bodies and whether you would prefer to serve on certain academic governance bodies over others.

I hope to be selected for at least one committee and would be happy to serve on up to three. I have listed my preferences below (from most preferred to least):

1. Student-Faculty-Staff Hearing Board
2. Department of Police and Public Safety Oversight Committee
3. University Student Appeals Board
4. University Military Education Advisory Committee
5. Academic Hearing Pool



Nichole ValElls (Page 1 of 2)

Unit: College of Nursing

Academic Appointment & Rank: Assistant Professor – Fixed Term

Initial MSU Appointment: 2022

Previous Academic Governance Service: N/A

Also Applied To: Athletic Council, Faculty Healthcare Council, Police and Public Safety Oversight Committee



Please explain why you are interested in serving on the Academic Hearing Pool and what qualifies you to do so.

I am interested in serving on the Department of Police and Public Safety Oversight Committee because I am committed to supporting fair, transparent, and community-focused policing. Having been raised by a police lieutenant, I have a lifelong appreciation for the dedication, challenges, and responsibilities involved in public safety work, as well as the importance of accountability and ethical leadership.

As a full-time faculty member in the College of Nursing with over 25 years of professional experience, I bring a strong foundation in critical thinking, ethical decision-making, and advocacy.

Please provide a brief statement about your past efforts and/or future plans to contribute to a collaborative, respectful work environment and to uphold the values of integrity and accountability that are central to shared governance.

As a full-time faculty member in the College of Nursing, I prioritize collaboration, respect, and integrity in all interactions. I engage colleagues, staff, and students in open dialogue, address conflicts constructively, and support fair, accountable decision-making. Moving forward, I will continue to foster a respectful, collaborative work environment and uphold the values of integrity and accountability central to shared governance in all aspects of teaching, service, and committee work.



Nichole ValElls (Page 2 of 2)

(Optional) Use this space to add anything else you would like those considering your application to know, including whether you are willing to serve on multiple academic governance bodies and whether you would prefer to serve on certain academic governance bodies over others.

I would prefer to serve on just one committee and would prefer my first choice as the Police and Public Safety Oversight Committee.



Quinn Yeargain (Page 1 of 2)

Unit: College of Law

Academic Appointment & Rank: Associated Professor – Not Tenured

Initial MSU Appointment: 2024

Previous Academic Governance Service: N/A

Also Applied To: N/A



Please explain why you are interested in serving on the Academic Hearing Pool and what qualifies you to do so.

As a law professor, I focus my research and teaching on criminal law, criminal procedure, and constitutional development; as a result, I spend my time thinking about how the criminal legal system is structured. I have subject-matter knowledge and expertise on the underlying area of concern (e.g., allegations of officer misconduct) and interest in how to approach complicated questions of how to appropriately educate law enforcement officers in the first instance to deter misconduct, how to properly adjudicate allegations, and how to work collaboratively between the police and the policed community to develop a system with trust and mutual earned respect. I would hope to bring a careful, deliberate approach to adjudicating these disputes, as well as a legal background that would inform how these allegations are handled.

Please provide a brief statement about your past efforts and/or future plans to contribute to a collaborative, respectful work environment and to uphold the values of integrity and accountability that are central to shared governance.

As a faculty member at both the College of Law and at my previous institution (the Widener University Commonwealth Law School), I actively participated in the project of faculty governance. Faculty governance can sometimes be contentious, but I have always strived to engage with others in respectful, but substantive ways, and to disagree without being disagreeable. I have always worked to maintain positive relationships with my colleagues, whether we agree or disagree on a particular governance question. I do not take good-faith disagreements or disputes personally, and my default assumption is that others are acting in good faith.



Quinn Yeargain (Page 2 of 2)

(Optional) Use this space to add anything else you would like those considering your application to know, including whether you are willing to serve on multiple academic governance bodies and whether you would prefer to serve on certain academic governance bodies over others.

Beyond the single committee to which I applied, I am happy to discuss where I could best be of service to the university.

