

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

MEMORANDUM

TO: Angela K. Wilson, Ph.D.
Faculty Senate Chair
John A. Hannah Distinguished Professor of Chemistry

FROM: Thomas D. Jeitschko, Ph.D. 
Interim Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Governance
Professor, Department of Economics

DATE: January 31, 2025

SUBJECT: Consultation with The Steering Committee on Academic Unit Changes

I am writing to formally request that the topic of RCAH be added to The Steering Committee agenda for February 4, 2025. I would like to consult with The Steering Committee in accordance with Bylaw 3.4.2.4, which states:

"The Steering Committee shall advise the Provost regarding the appropriate faculty, academic, and student governance bodies, if any, to consult on proposals for establishment, moratorium, discontinuance, or merger of basic academic units, including departments, schools, institutes, colleges, and the Graduate School."



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The purpose of this discussion is to provide transparency and obtain guidance on which governance committees should be consulted regarding the proposal to integrate RCAH into the College of Arts and Letters (CAL).

During the meeting, I plan to:

1. Provide The Steering Committee with an update on the charge given to the RCAH-CAL Committee (Attachment 1). *Note:* The RCAH-CAL Committee is comprised of faculty, staff, and students from both colleges, and chaired by Kelly Millenbah.
2. Outline the anticipated timeline for the university's decision-making process.
3. Seek The Steering Committee's advice on which governance bodies should be consulted.

At this time, I believe the following governance bodies should be consulted, and welcome guidance around this:

- University Committee on Faculty Affairs (UCFA)
- University Committee on Faculty Tenure (UCFT)
- University Committee on Curriculum (UCC)
- University Committee on Undergraduate Education (UCUE)

Additionally, I plan to engage with the Associated Students of Michigan State University (ASMSU).

Consultation Timeline

The RCAH-CAL Committee has been charged to provide a preliminary report by April 1 of the potential benefits and challenges of integrating RCAH into CAL. I anticipate governance consultation occurring in multiple phases and welcome The Steering Committee's input on the most effective approach.

Phase 1 (April, 2025): An initial opportunity for governance bodies to review the RCAL-CAL Committee Report and provide input on the potential benefits and challenges of integrating RCAH into CAL. The intent is to gather additional feedback that may help refine the RCAH-CAL Committee's report before its final submission. I would appreciate guidance from The Steering Committee on how best to structure this consultation and help ensure meaningful engagement.

Phase 2 (TBD): If a decision is made to proceed with integration, there will be further engagement with governance bodies to discuss implementation considerations as relevant to each governance body. I look forward to working with The Steering Committee to determine the appropriate steps for this phase.

I value The Steering Committee's perspectives and welcome its thoughts on this process.

Cc: Kevin Guskiewicz
Kelly Millenbah
Victoria Nelson