

The Steering Committee

Approved Minutes

February 3, 2026



MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

Present: L. McIntyre, T. Cuellar, K. Kim, J. Aerni-Flessner, J. St. Charles, J. Lipton, A. Tessmer, E. Gardner, M. Mechtel, J. Alan, A. Robinson, T. Wahl, C. Warren, K. Harding, N. Heilman, S. Fireberg (M. Jagota substituting), K. Douglas

Absent: K. Guskiewicz, T. Pham, P. Kothari

A regular meeting of the Steering Committee was held on February 3, 2026, at 3:15pm via Zoom with Chairperson Aerni-Flessner presiding. The agenda was approved as presented. The minutes of the January 6, 2026, meeting were approved as presented.

Verbal Reports

Verbal reports from standing committees were provided to the Steering Committee for review.

Discussion of AI Initiatives at MSU

Chair Aerni-Flessner discussed AI Initiatives at MSU and what the next steps will be for this topic. Members discussed potential next steps, including whether the topic should return to the Faculty Senate agenda, continue as conversations between the At-Large Members and the Provost's Office, or be informed by existing AI-related work. Senator Lipton brought up the idea of using multiple meetings to have discussions on the AI topic and how the committee should potentially be constructed to assure that development of an AI policy is properly done. Chair Mechtel mentioned the Gen Ed Council and how further updates will be forthcoming on AI.

Announcement of Vice Chair Election

Secretary Cuellar provided an update on the results of the Vice Chair of the Steering Committee. Senator Jack Lipton was elected as Vice Chair.

Announcement of ACRI Results

Secretary Cuellar announced the results of the ACRI election. Senator Antoinette Tessmer and Jean Hardy, College of Communication Arts and Sciences were elected to serve on the ACRI.

Proposed Change to the Student Athlete Missed Class Policy

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Vice Provost and Associate Vice President for Faculty and Academic Staff Affairs Teresa Mastin and Faculty Athletic Representative Christopher Melde provided an update on the proposed change to the Student Athlete Missed Class Policy. Discussion was had on where the proposed change should be steered. The proposed policy was then steered to both the University Committee on Undergraduate Education and the University Committee on Graduate Studies with the understanding that it would subsequently advance to University Council for consideration prior to any formal approval processes.

Search Process: Vice Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Education

Provost McIntyre provided an update on the search process for the Vice Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Education position and further sought consultation with the Steering Committee on procedures for the search, including how the Steering Committee can provide input on the search. Provost McIntyre discussed the composition of the search committee, including specific faculty types. Further clarification was provided by Vice Chair Lipton that the University Council will need to ultimately vote on the procedures.

FRIB Representation in Academic Governance

Senator Oscar Naviliat-Cuncic discussed the topic of FRIB's representation in academic governance and issues that have arisen in this space. Specifically, the loss of the unit's dedicated Faculty Senate seat, which FRIB faculty have held since 2015, and outlined the unit's composition, faculty roles, and historical election practices. Chair Gardner also brought up the issue of how an academic unit is truly defined under the Bylaws for Academic Governance and whether the issue should be steered to the University Committee on Academic Governance, which was granted.

Develop Faculty Senate and University Council Agendas

Faculty Senate

Announcement of Vice Chair Elections Results

Secretary Cuellar

Announcement of ACRI Results

Secretary Cuellar

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General Education Modernization Initiative

Project Lead and Assistant Provost Stacia Moroski-Rigney
Co-Chairs of the GEC Jonathan Weaver and Natasha Jones

Approval of Slates

Chair Gardner

University Council

Green and White Council – Pending Availability

Administration Preparedness for Immigration Issues

Chair Aerni-Flessner

UCL Report

Chair Wahl

UCFT Report

Chair Douglas

UCUE Report

Chair Warren

ASMSU Update

President Harding

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:49 p.m.

Teresa Cuellar

Teresa Cuellar

Approved: March 10, 2026