

MICHIGAN STATE **UNIVERSITY**

March 4, 2026

TO: MSU Steering Committee on Academic Governance
CC: University Committee on Academic Governance;
MSU Libraries Faculty

Dear Members of the Steering Committee on Academic Governance,

We write on behalf of the Libraries Faculty to address implications of recent bylaws changes that impact Libraries' access to representation on Faculty Senate and request that the consequences of these changes be rectified. We share this request with the unanimous consent of the Libraries Steering Committee, as representatives of the Libraries Faculty writ large.

Librarians at Michigan State University have been included as "regular faculty" per Academic Governance Bylaws (section 1.1.1.1) since at least 1975. We are presently comprised of over 80 faculty engaged in teaching, research, and service activities as well as supporting the academic activities of the entire University community. We are appointed as part of a parallel-to-tenure continuing appointment system, with rigorous expectations of scholarly and creative activity and professional service. The Libraries' governance structure mirrors that of colleges. We are led by a Dean of Libraries reporting directly to the Provost and supported by an executive team of Associate Deans. Our bylaws conform to MSU Bylaws for Academic Governance, including their approval by periodic review by the University Committee on Academic Governance (UCAG). The Libraries Steering Committee is an advisory body to the Dean functioning as a College Advisory Committee and convenes twice-yearly Library Faculty Assemblies, which enact our governance. Our librarians serve on University standing committees, including UCAG. Our continuing appointment and promotion are recommended by votes of our continuously appointed Library Faculty.



MSU Libraries

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Given the Libraries' standing, prior to recent bylaw changes, we had the responsibility of nominating representatives for Faculty Senate and were nearly always represented by two Librarian Faculty. This level of representation was rescinded with recent interpretation of the bylaws change of 2025 to bylaw 3.3.1.2.4, which removed reference to "regular faculty" to refer merely to "faculty." Our Faculty Senate representatives understood this change to be egalitarian in spirit: to open the opportunity for additional non-college units to have access to a nomination process for representation in Faculty Senate. However, in the process of interpreting and implementing these changes it has been determined that faculty from the Libraries are now considered together with other non-college units as one non-college constituency. From this new group, five representatives are to be selected but no more than one from any single non-college unit. In addition to this reduction, the implementation leaves open the possibility that the Libraries could have no representative at all.

We believe that this interpretation and implementation of the bylaws change is not in keeping with its egalitarian spirit given its impact on Libraries representation. Further, it disregards the strong parallels to college governance that the Libraries has built and maintained in our five decades of committed service to University Academic Governance as regular faculty. Removing our existing levels of representation by ruling out the prospect of two representatives from the Libraries, despite this being proportional to our size per

bylaws applicable to colleges, excludes us from participating in the same voice and vote enjoyed by our regular faculty peers.

We therefore request that action be taken to rectify the situation, either by a revised interpretation or new attention to bylaws language. We request that the Libraries be granted assured representation in Faculty Senate with a proper proportion via two representatives.

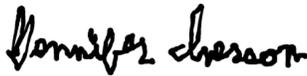
Respectfully submitted,



Joshua Barton
Libraries Steering Committee
Chair, 2025-2026



Eli Landaverde
Faculty Senate Representative
2024-2026



Gennifer Iverson
Faculty Senate Representative
2025-2027



Amanda Tickner
UCAG Member, 2016-2022
UCAG Chair, 2018-2021



Tad Boehmer
Faculty Senate Representative
2023-2024



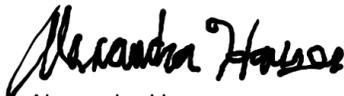
Emilia Marcyk-Taylor
Faculty Senate Representative
2018-2020



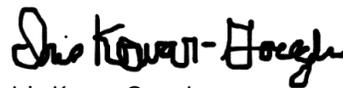
Lisa Lorenzo
Faculty Senate Representative
2020-2022



Jill Morningstar
Faculty Senate Representative
2016-2018



Alexandra Hauser
Faculty Senate Representative
2019-2022



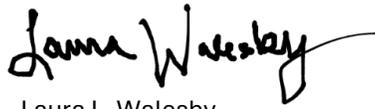
Iris Kovar-Gough
Faculty Senate Representative
2016-2018



Nicole Smeltekop
Faculty Senate Representative
2018-2021



Andrea C. Kepsel
Faculty Senate Representative
2015-2017



Laura L. Walesby
Faculty Council Representative
2009-2011



Michael Rodriguez
Faculty Council Representative
2005-2009



Terri Miller
Faculty Council Representative
2008-2010



Shawn Nicholson
Faculty Council Representative
2003-2005



Susan Kendall
Faculty Council Representative
2006-2010