

The Steering Committee

Draft Minutes

March 31, 2026



MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

Present: L. McIntyre, N. Reynolds (substitute for T. Cuellar), J. Aerni-Flessner, J. St. Charles, A. Tessmer, J. Lipton, E. Gardner, M. Mechtel, J. McElroy (substitute for J. Alan), K. Douglas, T. Wahl, M. Jagoda (substitute for S. Fireberg), C. Warren, D. Sparks (substituting for K. Harding), P. Kothari

Absent: K. Guskiewicz, K. Kim, A. Robison, T. Pham, N. Heilman

A regular meeting of the Steering Committee was held on March 31, 2026 at 3:17 PM via Zoom with Chairperson Aerni-Flessner presiding. The agenda was approved as presented. The minutes of the March 10, 2026 meeting were approved as presented/corrected.

Remarks

Chairperson Aerni-Flessner provided remarks to the Steering Committee.

Verbal Reports

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

Announcement of At-Large Member Elections (Round 1)

Deputy Secretary Reynolds provided the results of the Chair/Vice-Chair first round election results to the Steering Committee. Chair Aerni-Flessner and Vice-Chair Lipton were chosen to advance to the final round, with the ballot opening on April 6, 2026 and closing at midnight on April 10, 2026.

Composition of Graduate Student Guidance/Mentoring Committees

University Committee on Academic Governance Chair Liz Gardner gave a presentation regarding the composition of Graduate Student Guidance/Mentoring Committees. Chair Gardner brought up the issue of non-regular faculty needing to receive special permission from the Graduate School to serve on graduate committees. Chairperson Aerni-Flessner agreed that the issue could be steered to the University Committee on Graduate Studies, although the chances of the issue being addressed prior to the end of the year by that committee would be limited. Chairperson Aerni-Flessner agreed to reach out to Pero Dagbovie, Dean of the Graduate School to discuss the issue further.

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Force Reductions Discussion

Chairperson Aerni-Flessner brought up an email that had been sent to Deans, Directors and Chairpersons regarding force reductions in their units in the next fiscal year. Questions were directed to Provost McIntyre, who stated that these were simply instructions to units in accordance with the 6% cuts that were mandated as part of the overall budget cuts over the last few fiscal years. Provost McIntyre further indicated that there were no new cuts planned as of now.

Academic Unit Declaration Process Discussion

Assistant Provost for Faculty and Academic Staff Affairs Kara Yermak brought forward an update to the Steering Committee concerning the process for determining which non-college units will be considered academic units going forward. Assistant Provost Yermak indicated that there would be a process that would include a working group that would help determine solutions to this issue, with a hopeful completion date by the end of the summer.

Develop Faculty Senate and University Council Agendas

Faculty Senate

1. Approval of the Agenda for April 14, 2026

2. Approval of the Draft Minutes for March 17, 2026

3. Remarks

- 3.1. President Kevin M. Guskiewicz, Ph.D.
- 3.2. Provost Laura Lee McIntyre, Ph.D.
- 3.3. Chairperson John Aerni-Flessner

4. Returning Business

5. New Business

5.1. University Committee on Faculty Affairs Report

6. TBD

6.1. Faculty Athletic Representative Presentation

7. Chris Melde, Faculty Athletic Representative

7.1. Chair/Vice-Chair Election Results

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8. Secretary Cuellar

8.1. UCFA Status Quo Status

9. Brian Quinn, Vice President for Legal Affairs and General Counsel

9.1. Learning Goals

10. Emily Conroy-Krutz

10.1. Board of Trustees September Engagement Session

11. Stefan Fletcher, Secretary of the Board of Trustees and Chief of Staff

12. Comments from the Floor

University Council

1. Approval of the Agenda for April 21, 2026

2. Approval of the Draft Minutes for March 24, 2026

3. Remarks

3.1. President Kevin M. Guskiewicz, Ph.D.

3.2. Provost Laura Lee McIntyre, Ph.D.

3.3. Chairperson John Aerni-Flessner

4. Returning Business

5. New Business

5.1. University Committee on Curriculum

Chair Marci Mechtel

5.2. University Committee on Academic Governance

Chair Liz Gardner

5.3. Using Test Scores in Undergraduate Admissions

Dave Weatherspoon, Vice Provost of Enrollment and Academic Strategic Planning

6. Comments from the Floor

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Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:34 PM.

[name of the secretary]

Approved: [month day, year]