

The Steering Committee

Draft Minutes

July 7, 2026



MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

Present: Justin St. Charles, Antoinette Tessmer, Jack Lipton, Kyoo il Kim, Marci Mechtel, John McElroy, Kevin Douglas, Alfred Robinson, Tiffany Wahl, John Aerni-Flessner

Absent: Chastity Warren

A special meeting of the Faculty of Steering Committee was held on July 7, 2026, at 12:30pm via Zoom with Chair Aerni-Flessner presiding. The agenda was approved as presented.

Chairperson's Remarks

Chair Aerni-Flessner explained that the special meeting was called in response to recent developments involving university leadership. He emphasized the faculty's role as long-term stewards of the institution and the importance of ensuring that faculty have an opportunity to express their views during periods of leadership instability.

Under Section 3.1.3.1 of the Bylaws for Academic Governance, the faculty members of the Steering Committee have the authority to call a meeting of the Academic Congress. A minimum participation level of 10% of the Academic Congress is required to establish quorum.

Call of the Academic Congress

A motion was made and seconded to call the Academic Congress to vote on resolutions concerning university leadership.

During discussion, members emphasized the importance of allowing the broader faculty to express their level of trust and confidence in university leadership. Members also discussed the need to recognize broader concerns regarding institutional stability, transparency, and the relationship between the president and the Board of Trustees.

The motion to call the Academic Congress passed by electronic vote:

- Yes: 8
- No: 2

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Resolutions Regarding University Leadership

The committee agreed that the Academic Congress should consider two separate resolutions:

1. A resolution regarding confidence in President Kevin Guskiewicz.
2. A resolution regarding confidence in the MSU Board of Trustees.

Members agreed that each resolution would contain only a “Resolved” clause, without accompanying “Whereas” clauses. The resolutions and cover letter would be circulated to committee members before distribution.

A motion was made and seconded to send both resolutions to the Academic Congress. The motion passed by electronic vote:

- Yes: 9
- No: 0

Voting Period

The committee agreed that the Academic Congress vote would open on Wednesday, July 8, 2026, and close on Tuesday, July 14, 2026. Members noted that the extended voting period would provide faculty who were off contract or away during the summer with sufficient time to participate. Reminder messages would be sent to individuals who had not completed their ballots.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

Teresa Cuellar

Teresa Cuellar

Approved: [month day, year]