

The Steering Committee

Draft Minutes

October 6, 2026



MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

Present: L. McIntyre, T. Cuellar, J. Aerni-Flessner, J. Lipton, J. St. Charles, E. Gardner, K. Kim, D. Bello-DeOcampo, M. Mechtel, J. McElroy, K. Douglas, R. Shillair (Sub for T. Smith), S. Barnwell, J. DeFeo, R. Barnard, G. Lucas, N. Heilman

Absent: K. Guskiewicz, M. Hanes, P. Kothari

A regular meeting of the Steering Committee was held on October 6, 2026, at 3:15 PM via Zoom with Chair Aerni-Flessner presiding. The agenda was approved as amended. The minutes of September 1, 2026, meeting were approved as presented.

Remarks

Chair Aerni-Flessner provided remarks to the Steering Committee.

Reports

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

UCUE Feedback on Standing University Committee on General Education

UCUE Chair Rachel Barnard provided feedback from UCUE concerning the proposal to create a Standing University Committee on General Education. UCC Chair indicated that UCC was supportive of the creation of the Committee. Discussion will likely occur at the Faculty Senate meeting later in the month regarding where the proposal will go next.

Faculty Eligibility for University-Level Academic Governance

Vice-Chair Lipton brought forward a proposal concerning prohibiting academic administrators from serving in university-level academic governance. Questions were raised concerning which faculty would exactly fall under this definition. A motion was made and seconded to refer the issue to UCAG, which was passed.

University Bylaw Update Discussion

Vice-Chair Lipton introduced an issue concerning the update of the Bylaws for Academic Governance with respect to the Executive Vice President for Health

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Sciences. A motion was made and seconded to refer the matter to UCAG, which was then passed.

Clarity on the Promotion Process for Academic Specialists

At-Large Member Liz Gardner brought forward a topic concerning the promotion process for Academic Specialists. Specifically, there is confusion over different promotion processes and the timeline for each group of Academic Specialists. A motion was made and seconded to refer the matter to UCFA, which was then passed.

Course Change Schedule Conflicts

At-Large Member Liz Gardner brought forward a topic concerning the policy of changing course times for students that then affect another department's faculty and their teaching schedules. A motion was made and seconded to refer discussion of this topic to UCUE, which was then passed.

Student Voting Issues

UCSA Chair JJ DeFeo discussed a topic concerning potential issues with students being able to vote in the upcoming November elections. Questions were asked as to whether this issue should be referred to a particular standing committee or go directly to the Faculty Senate through the resolution process. A motion was made and seconded to have a resolution referred to Faculty Senate, which was then passed.

Develop Faculty Senate and University Council Agendas

Faculty Senate Agenda

1. **Approval of the Agenda for October 13, 2026**
2. **Approval of the Draft Minutes for September 15, 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, Ph.D.
4. **Returning Business**

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- 4.1. **Student Athletic Policy**
- 5. UCUE Chair Rachel Barnard
- 5.1. **UCUE Feedback on Standing University Committee on General Education**
- 6. UCUE Chair Rachel Barnard
- 7.
- 8. **New Business**
- 8.1. **Student Voting Plans Resolution**
- 9. Chair of UCSA J.J. Defeo
- 9.1. **UCAG Motion on Senate Vice Chair**
- 10. Chair Diana Bello-DeOcampo
- 11. **Comments from the Floor**

University Council Agenda

- 1. **Approval of the Agenda for October 20, 2026**
- 2. **Approval of the Draft Minutes for September 22, 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 Ph.D.
- 4. **Returning Business**
- 5. **New Business**
 - 5.1. **Council of Graduate Students Update**
President Priyanka Kothari
- 6. **Comments from the Floor**

Motions were made to approve each agenda and were seconded and subsequently approved.

Adjournment

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The meeting adjourned at 4:42 PM.

Teresa Cuellar

Approved: [month day, year]