

University Council

Draft Minutes

January 27, 2026



A regular meeting of the University Council was held on January 27, 2026, at 3:15 PM via Zoom with President Guskiewicz presiding. The agenda was approved as presented. The minutes of November 27, 2026, meeting were approved as presented.

Remarks

President Guskiewicz, Provost Laura Lee McIntyre, and Faculty Senate Chairperson John Aerni-Flessner, provided remarks to the University Council.

Report of Committee on the Institutional Support for Research and Creative Activities (CISR)

Chair Aerni-Flessner gave a summary of the final report from the Committee on Institutional Support for Research and Creative Activities (CISR), which was formed in November 2024. The committee included 13 faculty from 11 colleges, plus representatives from the Office of the Vice President for Research and Innovation, University Advancement, and the former Office of Faculty and Academic Staff Development. He said the committee gathered information through surveys of department chairs, school directors, and research deans, as well as interviews with research support units across the university. The report shows funding conditions before recent changes in the budget environment. Chair Aerni-Flessner described four main sources of research funding at MSU: base budget support, indirect cost returns, revenue-based initiatives, and philanthropic funding. He pointed out concerns about unequal distribution, effects on research productivity and retention, and differences across appointment types, including cases where faculty paid research expenses themselves. He shared key recommendations, such as making research funding decisions based on shared governance, reviewing funding models as budgets change, using the comprehensive campaign to support research with new endowments and expendable funds, checking the sustainability of area studies centers and similar units, and reassessing internal funding programs that have lost value due to inflation. Chair Aerni-Flessner said the report has been shared with research deans and senior administrators, is not restricted, and can be shared widely for feedback.

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Ai- Ad Hoc Committee

Elizabeth Gardner expressed concerns about creating an AI ad hoc committee in Academic Governance before understanding the roles of other related committees. She asked that the proposal be postponed until more information is available. The University Council agreed to table the proposal, with no objections.

Update from Council of Graduate Students COGS

President Kothari shared an update from the Council of Graduate Students (COGS), mentioning that the last report to University Council was in October and summarizing what COGS has done since then. She described strong participation in graduate student events, such as Coffee and Connections, and announced upcoming activities like a sewing workshop, ice skating, and rock climbing. She also highlighted the 18th Annual Graduate Academic Conference, set for February 21, 2026, at the MSU Union, and encouraged faculty and departments to attend and support graduate student research. President Kothari talked about financial support for graduate students, including about \$9,000 for conference travel, \$17,500 for professional development with the Graduate School, and an increased \$11,000 donation to the MSU Food Bank after recent SNAP benefit disruptions. She added that COGS has decided to join the national Graduate Coalition policy platform, with plans to review this decision each year. Looking ahead, she said COGS is reviewing its bylaws and governance, especially the election process, as they get ready for spring elections and leadership changes. President Kothari also brought up concerns about public transportation for graduate students, especially issues with bus frequency, reliability, and limited evening service, and said she plans to discuss these with administrators. She finished by recognizing the retirements of Dr. Doug Gage and Dr. Alan Shaw and thanked them for their long-term support of graduate and professional students.

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Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Teresa Cuellar

Approved: [month day, year]

Present:	Quorumn
Total Present	99
Total Absent	35
Total	134
Quorum	68.5

Constituency	First Name	Last Name	Attendance
Athletic Council	Rebecca	Malouin	Present
Administration	Dave	Weatherspoon	Absent
Administration	Allyn	Shaw	Absent
Administration	Doug	Gage	Present
Administration	Pero	Dagbovie	Present
Administration	Laurie	Van	Absent
Administration	Mark	Largent	Absent
Administration	Richard	Czarnecki	Absent
Administration	Steve	Shablin	Absent
Administration	Teresa	Mastin	Present
Administration	Judith	Stoddart	Present
President	Kevin	Guskiewicz	Present
Provost	Laura Lee	McIntyre	Present
Administration	Vennie	Gore	Absent
Administration	Marcio	Oliveira	Present
Administration	Kwesi	Brookins	Present
Agriculture and Natural Resources	Matt	Daum	Present
Arts and Letters	Thomas	Stubblefield	Present

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ASMSU	Kathryn	Harding	Substitute: Tanvi Rayapeddi
ASMSU	Nicholas	Chenault	Present
ASMSU	Jason	Mason	Present
ASMSU	Andie	Anghel	Present
ASMSU	Blake	Grosfield	Absent
ASMSU	Riya	Jacob	Absent
ASMSU	Suriay	Feto	Absent
ASMSU	Pavithra	Elavarasan	Absent
ASMSU	Aesha	Zakaria	Absent
ASMSU	Adharshini	Ananth	Absent
ASMSU	Miriam	Taleb	Present
ASMSU	Tony	Pham	Absent
ASMSU	Vacant	Vacant	Vacant
ASMSU	Vacant	Vacant	Vacant
ASMSU	Vacant	Vacant	Vacant
ASMSU	Vacant	Vacant	Vacant
Business	David	Souder	Substitute: Ranjani Ananthakrishnan
COGS	Priyanka	Kothari	Present
COGS	Nic	Heilman	Present
COGS	Paige	Baisley	Absent
COGS	Derek	Bowman	Present
COGS	Kyle	Davis	Present
COGS	Shatrughan	Shiva	Present
COGS	Meghana	Karumuri	Present
Communication Arts and Sciences	Heidi	Hennink-Kaminski	Present
Education	Jerlando	F.L. Jackson	Present
Emeriti Faculty	Jane	Vieth	Present
Engineering	John	Papapolymerou	Present
Faculty Grievance	Francisco	Villarruel	Present
FRIB	Thomas	Glasmacher	Absent
Human Medicine	Aron	Sousa	Substitute: Carol Parker
International Studies and Programs	Titus	Awokuse	Present
James Madison	Cameron	Thies	Present
Law	Michael	Sant'Ambrogio	Absent
Libraries	Neil	Romanosky	Present
Lyman Briggs	Kendra	Spence Cheruvelil	Present

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Music	Jim	Forger	Absent
Natural Science	Eric	Hegg	Absent
Nursing	Leigh	Small	Absent
Ombudsperson	Shannon	Burton	Present
Osteopathic Medicine	Joyce	deJong	Present
RCAH	Glenn	Chambers	Absent
Social Science	Brent	Donnellan	Present
Veterinary Medicine	Kimberly	Dodd	Absent
Agriculture and Natural Resources	David	Skole	Present
Agriculture and Natural Resources	Satish	Joshi	Present
Agriculture and Natural Resources	Henry	Chung	Present
Agriculture and Natural Resources	Holly	Wang	Present
Agriculture and Natural Resources	Lorraine	Weatherspoon	Present
Arts and Letters	Alejandra	Marquez	Present
Arts and Letters	Tze-Lan	San	Absent
Arts and Letters	Victor	Rodriguez-Pereira	Present
Arts and Letters	Danielle	DeVoss	Present
Arts and Letters	Lucas	Nunn	Absent
ASMSU	Ahmed	Amir	Absent
At Large	Justin	St. Charles	Present
At Large	Kyoo il	Kim	Present
At Large	Jack	Lipton	Present
At Large	Antoinette	Tessmer	Present
At Large	John	Aerni-Flessner	Present
Business	Naveen	Khanna	Present
Business	Dwight	Handspike	Present
Business	Michelle	Nessa	Present
Communication Arts and Sciences	Casey	O'Donnell	Present
Communication Arts and Sciences	Rabindra "Robby"	Ratan	Present
Education	Doug	Hartman	Present
Education	Kristy	Stein	Present
Education	Jungmin	Kwon	Present
Education	Matthew	Brodhead	Absent
Engineering	Neil	Wright	Present
Engineering	Rebecca	Anthony	Present
Engineering	Ruiguo	Yang	Present
Engineering	Mark	Worden	Present

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Engineering	Bei	Fan	Present
FRIB	Oscar	Naviliat	Present
Human Medicine	Natoshia	Cunningham	Substitute: Christensen
Human Medicine	James	Anthony	Present
Human Medicine	Sabrina	Ford	Present
Human Medicine	Kelly	Hodges	Present
Human Medicine	Bruce	Uhal	Present
James Madison	Yael	Aronoff	Present
James Madison	Andaluna	Borcila	Present
Law	Glen	Staszewski	Absent
Law	Stephen	Wilks	Present
Libraries	Gen	Iverson	Present
Libraries	Eli	Landaverde	Present
Lyman Briggs	Megan	Halpern	Present
Lyman Briggs	Samantha	Cass	Present
Music	Guy	Yehuda	Absent
Music	Elden	Little	Absent
Natural Science	Diana	Bello DeOcampo	Present
Natural Science	Pavel	Sikorskii	Present
Natural Science	Andrew	Christlieb	Present
Natural Science	Demetre	Kazaras	Present
Natural Science	Yuying	Xie	Present
Non-College	Jonglim	Han	Present
	Mahmoud	Parvizi	Present
Nursing	Horng-Shiuann	Wu	Present
Nursing	Rhonda	Conner-Warren	Present
Osteopathic Medicine	Sarah	Tilden	Present
Osteopathic Medicine	Shane	Crandall	Present
Osteopathic Medicine	Nathan	Tyckocki	Present
Osteopathic Medicine	Martha	Faner	Present
RCAH	Laura	McDonald	Present
RCAH	Eric	Aronoff	Absent
Social Science	Sue	Grady	Absent
Social Science	Joseph	Kozakiewicz	Present
Social Science	Laurie	Bulock	Substitute: Ryan Bowles
Social Science	David	Wheat	Absent
UCAG	Elizabeth	Gardner	Present

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UCC	Marci	Mechtel	Present
UCFA	Jamie	Alan	Present
UCFT	Kevin	Douglas	Present
UCGS	Alfred (AJ)	Robinson	Present
UCL	Tiffany	Wahl	Present
UCSA	Erica	Weeks	Absent
UCUE	Chastity	Warren	Present
Veterinary Medicine	Jim	Wagner	Present
Veterinary Medicine	Andres	Contreras	Present
Veterinary Medicine	Vacant	Vacant	Vacant