

University Council

Draft Minutes

October 28, 2025



A regular meeting of the University Council was held on October 28, 2025, at 3:15 PM via Zoom with Provost Laura Lee McIntyre presiding. The agenda was approved as presented. The minutes of September 30, 2025, meeting were approved as presented.

Remarks

Provost Laura Lee McIntyre, and Faculty Senate Chairperson Angela Wilson, provided remarks to the University Council.

Survey on Digital Learning Platforms

The ad hoc committee chaired by Chastity Warren was charged by the University Council to review MSU's use of complementary digital learning platforms through student and faculty surveys distributed in Fall 2024. Student responses showed that while digital tools are widely used—with D2L as the main hub and other tools like Piazza, Zoom, Gradescope, and Packback supplementing instruction students face challenges with inconsistent tool use across courses, multiple logins, non-intuitive platforms, and uneven costs. Their priorities centered on clarity, ease of use, affordability, accessibility, and stronger integration with D2L.

Faculty responses (258 total) confirmed that D2L is central to MSU's teaching environment but is often supplemented with both supported tools (Kaltura MediaSpace, Teams, Gradescope) and non-supported tools (Google Workspace, publisher platforms), indicating unmet needs. Faculty emphasized tools that support grading, content delivery, assignments, and assessments. Chair Warren reported that the committee recommends improving platform integration, evaluating support for high-performing tools, monitoring emerging technologies, and investing in faculty development.

Update from Council of Graduate Students COGS

Vice President for Internal Affairs Nic Heilman provided an update for COGS. He reported strong engagement from graduate and professional students, noting that COGS has already held two full council meetings and continues working to reengage departments that have been less active in recent years. COGS has hosted a wide range of weekly social events, offered multiple sponsorships for workshops and conferences, and is preparing for its 17th Annual Graduate



Academic Conference on February 21, 2026, with abstract submissions open through January 16. Heilman noted growing financial strain on graduate and professional students, citing rising funding requests, limited university-wide support, competitive positions, and program moratoriums that disrupt cohorts, culture, and course availability. He highlighted concerns about cuts to required courses, such as a recently removed bioinformatics class, and emphasized the need for transparency and timely communication. He closed by reaffirming that MSU's success depends on supporting graduate and professional students and expressed COGS's commitment to continued collaboration with university leadership.

Loss of Title VI Funding and the future of Area Studies programs and loss of funding for migrant education programs (CAMP) at MSU

Vice Chair John Arne Flessner provided an update on the significant loss of federal funding impacting MSU's College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP) and several Title VI National Resource Centers. CAMP, which previously received more than \$400,000 annually and supported 50–60 migrant students each year, has been cut and temporarily bridged by MSU's Office of Undergraduate Education but with reduced student enrollment. Additionally, all Title VI funding totaling roughly \$2.2 million annually has been eliminated for MSU's African Studies, Asian Studies, Latin American and Caribbean Studies, Broad's International Business Center, and MSU's National Less Commonly Taught Languages center. These cuts threaten MSU's ability to support language study, graduate training, professional development, and scholarly publishing. Vice Chair Flessner emphasized that these centers have long distinguished MSU within the AAU and are central to the university's mission and global engagement. He urged a campus discussion on sustaining these programs and welcomed suggestions and stories illustrating their impact.

Graduate Program Update

Dean Pero Dagbovie, joined by UCGS Chair A.J. Robison, provided an update on graduate programs, focusing on the recent rise in moratoria and temporary admissions pauses for Ph.D. programs. He explained that MSU currently has 11 Ph.D. programs under formal moratoria and nine additional programs with emergency admissions holds for 2026–27, driven by budget constraints, federal funding uncertainty, and national trends affecting graduate education. These

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pauses allow programs to reassess structure, funding, and long-term sustainability, but they will likely result in lower Ph.D. enrollment next year, potentially a 20% reduction. Both speakers emphasized that the issue mirrors challenges across the Big Ten and the AAU, where some universities are pausing additional programs.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:50 PM.

Teresa Cuellar

Approved: [month day, year]

Present:96	Quorumn
Total Present	96
Total Absent	37
Total	133
Quorum	68

Athletic Council	Rebecca	Malouin	Present
Administration	Dave	Weatherspoon	Present
Administration	Allyn	Shaw	Present
Administration	Doug	Gage	Present
Administration	Pero	Dagbovie	Present
Administration	Laurie	Van	Absent
Administration	Mark	Largent	Present
Administration	Richard	Czarnecki	Absent
Administration	Steve	Shablin	Absent
Administration	Teresa	Mastin	Absent
Administration	Judith	Stoddart	Present
President	Kevin	Guskiewicz	Absent
Provost	Laura Lee	McIntyre	Present
Administration	Vennie	Gore	Present
Administration	Marcio	Oliveira	Present

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Administration	Kwesi	Brookins	Present
Agriculture and Natural Resources	Matt	Daum	Present
Arts and Letters	Thomas	Stubblefield	Present
ASMSU	Kathryn	Harding	Present
ASMSU	Nicholas	Chenault	Absent
ASMSU	Jason	Mason	Present
ASMSU	Andie	Anghel	Present
ASMSU	Blake	Grosfield	Present
ASMSU	Riya	Jacob	Absent
ASMSU	Suriay	Feto	Present
ASMSU	Pavithra	Elavarasan	Absent
ASMSU	Aesha	Zakaria	Present
ASMSU	Adharshini	Ananth	Absent
ASMSU	Miriam	Taleb	Absent
ASMSU	Tony	Pham	Present
Business	David	Souder	Present
COGS	Priyanka	Kothari	Present
COGS	Nic	Heilman	Present
COGS	Paige	Baisley	Present
COGS	Derek	Bowman	Present
COGS	Kyle	Davis	Absent
COGS	Shatrughan	Shiva	Present
COGS	Meghana	Karumuri	Present
Communication Arts and Sciences	Heidi	Hennink-Kaminski	Absent
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	Present

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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 Cheruvellil	Present
Music	Jim	Forger	Present
Natural Science	Eric	Hegg	Absent
Nursing	Leigh	Small	Present
Ombudsperson	Shannon	Burton	Present
Osteopathic Medicine	Joyce	deJong	Absent
RCAH	Glenn	Chambers	Absent
Social Science	Brent	Donnellan	Present
Veterinary Medicine	Kimberly	Dodd	Absent
Agriculture and Natural Resources	David	Skole	Absent
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	Present
ASMSU	Ahmed	Amir	Absent
At Large	Justin	St. Charles	Present
At Large	Angela	Wilson	Present

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At Large	Jack	Lipton	Present
At Large	Antoinette	Tessmer	Present
At Large	John	Aerni-Flessner	Present
Business	Naveen	Khanna	Absent
Business	Dwight	Handspike	Absent
Business	Michelle	Nessa	Present
Communication Arts and Sciences	Casey	O'Donnell	Present
Communication Arts and Sciences	Rabindra "Robby"	Ratan	Present
Education	Doug	Hartman	Absent
Education	Kristy	Stein	Absent
Education	Jungmin	Kwon	Absent
Education	Matthew	Brodhead	Present
Engineering	Neil	Wright	Present
Engineering	Rebecca	Anthony	Present
Engineering	Ruiguo	Yang	Absent
Engineering	Mark	Worden	Present
Engineering	Bei	Fan	Present
FRIB	Oscar	Naviliat	Present
Human Medicine	Natoshia	Cunningham	Present
Human Medicine	James	Anthony	Present
Human Medicine	Sabrina	Ford	Absent
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	Absent
Libraries	Gen	Iverson	Present
Libraries	Eli	Landaverde	Present
Lyman Briggs	Megan	Halpern	Present
Lyman Briggs	Samantha	Cass	Present

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Music	Guy	Yehuda	Present
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
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	MacDonald	Present
RCAH	Eric	Aronoff	Present
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
UCC	Marci	Mechtel	Present
UCFA	Jamie	Alan	Present
UCFT	Kevin	Douglas	Present
UCGS	Alfred (AJ)	Robinson	Present
UCL	Tiffany	Wahl	Present
UCSA			Absent
UCUE	Chastity	Warren	Present
Veterinary Medicine	Jim	Wagner	Absent
Veterinary Medicine	Andres	Contreras	Present
Veterinary Medicine	Dodd	Sledge	Absent

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Secretary for Academic Governance	Teresa	Cuellar	Present
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