

**MICHIGAN STATE**  
**UNIVERSITY**

January 19, 2012

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Board of Trustees Policy Committee

**FROM:** Kim A. Wilcox, Provost *K.A.W.*

**SUBJECT:** Revision to Bylaws for Academic Governance for Review by the MSU Board of Trustees

Attached please find proposed changes to the Bylaws for Academic Governance related to the Associated Students of Michigan State University (ASMSU), and a resolution recommending support of those changes. Given the scheduling of our Board meetings and our desire to accommodate the students in their implementation timeline (by the end of the spring semester), these changes are being sent to you prior to their review by University Council. In anticipation of University's Council's endorsement at their January 24, 2012, meeting, we have included this item on your agenda so that you have adequate opportunity to review.



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PROVOST**

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**cc:** Trustee Finance Committee  
President Simon  
Secretary Beekman  
Vice President Poston  
Vice President Noto

**MICHIGAN STATE**  
**UNIVERSITY**

January 25, 2012

**MEMORANDUM**

To: Board of Trustees Policy Committee

From: President Lou Anna K. Simon 

Re: Revision to Bylaws for Academic Governance for Review by the  
MSU Board of Trustees

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Trustee Policy Committee recommends to the Board of Trustees approval of the recommended revised Bylaws for Academic Governance (attached), as approved by University Council.

In accordance with those Bylaws (8.3.2.1), I have reviewed the changes, concur with the proposed revisions, and now request action by the Board of Trustees. I also request that the Board join me in commending the diligent and thoughtful work of the students and faculty who worked through these changes.



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THE PRESIDENT**

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**BACKGROUND**

On **January 24, 2012**, University Council approved the recommended revisions to the Bylaws for Academic Governance (Attachment A). The revisions are in response to the reorganization of the Associated Students of Michigan State University (ASMSU), from a bicameral to a unicameral body.

For several decades, the ASMSU functioned with two bodies: the Academic Assembly and General Assembly. Each assembly had college-based representation, as well as representation from Major Governing Groups and CORES (racial/ethnic) and COPS (progressive) groups. The purpose of the General Assembly was generally to address student life issues, the purpose of Academic Assembly to address academic issues. In 2010 ASMSU voted to support a merger of the two assemblies based on the rationale that one body would decrease the institutional complexity of ASMSU, continue to allow students to directly elect their peers to the body with decision making authority, while increasing the accountability for officers/staff.

The proposed changes modify all references within the Bylaws for Academic Governance to reflect the single assembly of ASMSU.

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**c: Board of Trustees Finance Committee**  
**Kim Wilcox, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs**  
**Robert A. Noto, Vice President for Legal Affairs and General Counsel**  
**William Beekman, Secretary to the Board**

By-Law Amendments (showing proposed changes)

Possible language for the proposed amendments to the By-Laws which, would allow ASMSU to transition to this new structure, are provided below:

3.2.3.2. The voting members of ~~the Academic Assembly and the Student Assembly of the~~ ASMSU as determined by the constitution of ASMSU, shall serve on the University Council.

3.2.4.1. ~~The Academic Assembly of~~ ASMSU shall select a number of undergraduate student representatives to the University Council equal to one-third (1/3) of the total voting membership of the body University Council. The number of representatives shall be rounded to the nearest integer. The overall selection shall ensure balanced collegiate representation. ~~The Student Assembly of ASMSU shall select no more than three representatives to serve on the University Council.~~

3.2.7.5. The Faculty Senate, the Appointed Council, ~~(3.2.1.1.2.) the Academic Assembly of~~ ASMSU, or COGS may, by a majority vote of those present and voting, refer matters to the University Council. Such recommendations shall be placed on the agenda of the University Council by The Steering Committee.

3.2.8. Functions ~~of the Academic Assembly~~ of ASMSU

3.2.8.1. ~~The Academic Assembly of~~ ASMSU shall consider and act upon all recommendations to University Council regarding student academic rights and responsibilities and judicial procedures; upon any proposed amendment to or revision of Academic Freedom for Students at Michigan State University prior to its consideration by University Council; upon all matters brought before it by the President, the Provost, or the Vice President for Student Affairs and Services; and upon all matters on which its constitution requires such action.

3.2.8.2. On any matter brought before ~~the Academic Assembly of~~ ASMSU the mode of participation shall be that which is specified on the matter in the ascription of functions to University-level Standing Committees (4.3.-4.9.).

3.3.1.5. The President, the Provost, one elected member from ~~the Academic Assembly of~~ ASMSU, one elected member from COGS, and the Chairperson of the Athletic Council (or the Chairperson's designee) will serve as ex officio members of the Faculty Senate, with voice, but no vote.

3.4.1.1. The Steering Committee shall be composed of (a) five members of the faculty, elected at-large; (b) the Chairpersons of the University-level Standing Committees; (c) the Chairperson Vice Chairperson of Academic Affairs of ASMSU ~~Academic Assembly~~ and the President of the Council of Graduate Students, who will have voting rights on all matters not reserved for the faculty (1.2.3.); (d) one undergraduate student chosen from the voting members of ~~the ASMSU Academic Assembly~~ and one graduate student selected from the student members of COGS who will have voting rights on all matters not reserved for the faculty.

3.4.1.2.4. The term of office for student members of The Steering Committee shall be one year. No student may serve more than two consecutive terms on The Steering Committee unless that student holds the office of President of COGS or ASMSU ~~Academic Assembly Chairperson~~ Vice Chairperson of Academic Affairs, in which event the student may serve on The Steering Committee while holding that office. Student members of The Steering Committee will be identified by the end of each Spring Semester.

3.4.1.2.4.1. Student members of The Steering Committee shall be chosen from the voting membership of ASMSU ~~Academic Assembly~~ and COGS.

3.4.1.2.4.2. Should a student member leave The Steering Committee, a replacement shall be chosen by ASMSU ~~Academic Assembly~~ in the case of an undergraduate student, or COGS in the case of a graduate student.

3.5.3. The Secretary for Academic Governance shall be the parliamentarian with regard to the Bylaws for Academic Governance, and shall serve as a non-voting, ex officio member of the University Council, the Faculty Senate, The Steering Committee, the Academic Congress and ~~the Academic General Assembly of~~ ASMSU.

3.5.4. The Secretary for Academic Governance will serve as the liaison between ~~the Academic Assembly of~~ ASMSU and academic governance and between COGS and academic governance.

3.5.4.1. The Secretary for Academic Governance will be responsible for sharing information with academic governance regarding actions being taken by ~~the Academic Assembly of~~ ASMSU and COGS.

\*\*3.5.4.2. The Secretary for Academic Governance will serve as informational parliamentarian for ~~Academic Assembly of~~ ASMSU and COGS.

\*\*3.5.4.3. The Secretary of Academic Governance will receive and file the minutes of meetings ~~of the Academic Assembly of~~ ASMSU and COGS in the Office of Academic Governance.

3.5.4.4. The Office of Student Life will consult regularly with the Secretary of Academic Governance regarding ASMSU and COGS elections and will provide assistance to ~~the Academic Assembly of~~ ASMSU and COGS.

3.5.5. The Office of the Secretary for Academic Governance, along with other administrative offices, provides staff support to The Steering Committee, the University Council, the Faculty Senate, ~~the Academic Assembly of~~ ASMSU, the Council of Graduate Students, and the University-level Standing Committees in the execution of responsibilities directly and indirectly expressed in these Bylaws. The Secretary of Academic Governance shall supervise elections to the University Council, ~~the Academic Assembly of~~ ASMSU, the Council of Graduate Students, and of the at-large faculty of The Steering Committee, with review by the University Committee on Academic Governance.

4.2.1.11. Unless otherwise provided, undergraduate student members of University-level Standing Committees shall be elected by ~~the Academic Assembly of~~ ASMSU, and graduate student members of University-level Standing Committees shall be elected by COGS. Elections shall be held prior to the end of spring semester.

4.3.1. The University Committee on Academic Governance (UCAG) shall have seven faculty members selected from the elected faculty currently serving on the University Council or having served within the past three years. UCAG shall have five undergraduate student members, ~~off from whom at least one must be a member of the Academic Assembly of~~ ASMSU, and two graduate student members from COGS. The Provost or designee and the Secretary for Academic Governance shall be ex officio members of UCAG.

4.3.2.2. ~~The Academic Assembly of~~ ASMSU shall solicit nominations from the entire undergraduate student population for the undergraduate vacancies on the committees listed in 4.3.2. COGS shall appoint graduate and professional students to graduate vacancies on the committees listed in 4.3.2.

4.4.1. The membership of the University Committee on Undergraduate Studies (UCUS) shall include a faculty member from each college, and a faculty member from the non-college faculty. UCUS shall also have four undergraduate student members, of whom one must be the Vice Chairperson of Academic Affairs ~~a member of the Academic Assembly of~~ ASMSU, and two graduate student members from COGS. The Provost or the Provost's designee shall be a member with voice, but no vote.

4.5.1. The members of the University Committee on Curriculum (UCC) shall include a faculty member from each college. UCC shall also have five undergraduate student members, of whom one must be a member ~~of the Academic Assembly of~~ ASMSU, and two graduate student members. The Provost or the Provost's designee shall be a member with voice, but no vote. The Provost shall also name an executive secretary to serve ex officio without vote.

4.7.1. The faculty of each college, and the non-college faculty, shall select one regular faculty member (1.1.1.1.) to represent it on the University Committee on Faculty Tenure (UCFT). UCFT shall have as members at least three non-tenured faculty. Each year the Committee on Academic Governance shall designate which colleges, or college groupings, shall select non-tenured faculty as members of the University Committee on Faculty Tenure. UCFT shall have two undergraduate student members, ~~of whom one must be a member of the Academic Assembly of~~ from ASMSU, and one graduate student member from COGS. The Provost or the Provost's designee shall be a member with voice, but no vote.

4.9.1. The University Committee on Student Affairs (UCSA) shall have four faculty members selected by the Faculty Senate. UCSA shall have eight student members appointed as follows: ~~three ASMSU Student Assembly appointees~~ ~~six appointees from ASMSU~~, including the Chairperson of ASMSU ~~Student Assembly~~ or the Chairperson's designee; and two appointees from ~~the Council of Graduate Students~~ COGS; ~~and three ASMSU Academic Assembly appointees~~. UCSA appointees are expected to reflect the diversity of their constituencies. The

| Vice President for Student Affairs and Services, or the Vice President's designee, and the University Ombudsman shall be members with voice, but no vote.

## By-Law Amendments (Final Revised)

Possible language for the proposed amendments to the By-Laws which would allow ASMSU to transition to this new structure is provided below:

3.2.3.2. The voting members of ASMSU, as determined by the constitution of ASMSU, shall serve on the University Council.

3.2.4.1. ASMSU shall select a number of undergraduate student representatives to the University Council equal to one-third (1/3) of the total voting membership of the University Council. The number of representatives shall be rounded to the nearest integer. The overall selection shall ensure balanced collegiate representation.

3.2.7.5. The Faculty Senate, the Appointed Council (3.2.1.1.2.), ASMSU, or COGS may, by a majority vote of those present and voting, refer matters to the University Council. Such recommendations shall be placed on the agenda of the University Council by The Steering Committee.

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3.4.1.2.4. The term of office for student members of The Steering Committee shall be one year. No student may serve more than two consecutive terms on The Steering Committee unless that

student holds the office of President of COGS or ASMSU Vice Chairperson of Academic Affairs, in which event the student may serve on The Steering Committee while holding that office. Student members of The Steering Committee will be identified by the end of each Spring Semester.

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