



MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Executive Action Summary

Academic Affairs-Attachment 2

Committee Name Academic Affairs

Date December 13, 2024

Agenda Item: Amendments to Bylaws for Academic Governance

Information

Review

Action

Resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Michigan State University hereby approves the amendments to the Bylaws for Academic Governance “Bylaws” included as Attachment A.

Recommendation:

The Trustee Committee on Academic Affairs recommends that the Board of Trustees approve amendments to the Bylaws for Academic Governance.

Prior Action by BOT: This edition of the Bylaws for Academic Governance was approved by the Michigan State University Board of Trustees on June 18, 2010 (effective August 16, 2011) and amended on: April 15, 2011, January 31, 2012, June 22, 2012, September 7, 2012, June 21, 2013, December 13, 2013, April 15, 2016, June 21, 2017, June 21, 2018, June 21, 2019, September 11, 2020, April 16, 2021, April 22, 2022, and June 16, 2023 (this edition).

Responsible Officers:

Victoria Nelson, Secretary for Academic Governance

Summary:

The University Council has approved amendments to the Bylaws, upon recommendations from the University Committee on Academic Governance. The proposed amendments affect four specific sections within the Bylaws:

1. General Rules Governing Standing Committees (4.2)

The proposed amendments to Section 4.2.1.13 defines a partial term. The proposed amendment defines the length of time a faculty member can serve as a replacement for another on a University-Level Standing Committee before it is considered a full-length term. The purpose of this amendment is to provide clarity on service duration. The University Council approved these amendments on October 29, 2024.

2. University Committee on Undergraduate Education (4.4)

The proposed amendments to Section 4.4.1 expands and clarifies membership for the University Committee on Undergraduate Education. The expansion includes the addition of a faculty representative from International Studies and Programs. The University Council approved these amendments on September 24, 2024.

3. Athletic Council (5.2)

The proposed amendments to Section 5:

- Clarify the Faculty Athletic Representative's (FAR) role, term length, term limits, and reporting structure.
- Shift the election of students to the committee from the President's authority to that of the student governments.
- Recommend that both student representatives and the Faculty Athletic Representative be student-athletes to allow for more intentional representation from student-athletes.
- Mandate that the Athletic Council and FAR to publish meeting materials and reports online.

The University Council approved these amendments on October 29, 2024.

4. University Academic Integrity Hearing Board (6.3)

The proposed amendment renames Section 6.3. of the Bylaws for Academic Governance from "University Academic Integrity Hearing Board" to "Academic Hearing Pool". This revision was proposed for clarity, as the current title refers only to one of the three academic hearing boards (University Academic Grievance Hearing Board, University Academic Integrity Board, and University Academic Appeals Board) mentioned in the section.

The University Committee on Academic Governance reviewed the revisions on September 12, 2024, and the University Council approved them on October 29, 2024.

Background Information:

N/A

Source of Funds:

N/A.

Resource Impact:

N/A.

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

November 20, 2024

MEMORANDUM

TO: Kevin M. Guskievicz, Ph.D.
President

FROM: Victoria Nelson, J.D.
Secretary for Academic Governance

SUBJECT: Amendments to the *Bylaws for Academic Governance*

On behalf of the Steering Committee, and pursuant to [Section 8.3. et seq.](#) of the *Bylaws for Academic Governance*, I am writing to request that you review the attached proposal to amend the *Bylaws* and forward it to the Board of Trustees for final action if you concur. Also attached is a draft resolution. The descriptions of the amendments listed below appear in the order they were approved by the University Council this semester.



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University Committee on Undergraduate Education Membership Composition

The proposed amendments would add a faculty representative from International Studies and Programs. This member would have the same rights and privileges as other faculty members on the committee. The addition provides for input and perspective from that unit in committee decisions and matters.

The University Committee on Academic Governance reviewed the revisions proposed by the University Committee on Undergraduate Education on September 12, 2024, and the University Council approved them on September 24, 2024.

Renaming Section 6.3. of the *Bylaws for Academic Governance*

The proposed amendment would rename Section 6.3. of the *Bylaws for Academic Governance* from "University Academic Integrity Hearing Board" to "Academic Hearing Pool". This revision was proposed for clarity, as the current title refers only to one of the three academic hearing boards (University Academic Grievance Hearing Board, University Academic

Integrity Board, and University Academic Appeals Board) mentioned in the section.

The University Committee on Academic Governance reviewed the revisions on September 12, 2024, and the University Council approved them on October 29, 2024.

Athletic Council Bylaws

These revisions are the result of a subcommittee, comprised of Jack Lipton, Ph.D., Rebecca Malouin, Ph.D., and Dean Rehberger, Ph.D., appointed to review the committee's bylaws earlier this year. Their recommendations were forwarded to the University Committee on Academic Governance, which reviewed the revisions on October 24, 2024, and the University Council approved them on October 29, 2024.

The purpose of the proposed amendments would be to enhance student representation and clarify roles within the committee. Specifically, the amendments would shift the election of students to the committee from the President's authority to that of the student governments. The amendments also recommend that both student representatives and the Faculty Athletic Representative be student-athletes to allow for more intentional representation from student-athletes. Finally, these amendments outline the responsibilities of the Faculty Athletic Representative regarding the committee, shorten review periods for this position, and establish term limits.

Defining a Partial Term

The proposed amendment defines the length of time a faculty member can serve as a replacement for another on a University-Level Standing Committee before it is considered a full-length term. The purpose of this amendment is to provide clarity on service duration.

The University Committee on Academic Governance reviewed the revisions on October 24, 2024, and the University Council approved them on October 29, 2024.

Attachments

cc: Thomas Jeitschko, Mike Zeig, Stefan Fletcher, Kara Yermak

Attachment A: Proposed Amendments to the Bylaws for Academic Governance

General Rules Governing Standing Committees (4.2)

4.2.1.13. A member of a standing committee is considered to have participated in a full term should the member act as a substitute for more than 50 percent of another's term as a replacement. Thus, this member may only run for one more term before a one-term break is initiated.

University Committee on Undergraduate Education (4.4)

4.4.1. The membership of the University Committee on Undergraduate Education (UCUE) shall include a faculty member from ~~the following units: each college, including a faculty member from the Honors College who is not currently serving as a committee member on another University Standing Committee and a faculty member from the non-college faculty.~~ College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, College of Arts and Letters, Eli Broad College of Business, College of Communication Arts and Sciences, College of Education, College of Engineering, Honors College, College of Human Medicine, International Studies and Programs, James Madison College, College of Law, Libraries, Lyman Briggs College, College of Music, College of Natural Science, College of Nursing, College of Osteopathic Medicine, Residential College in the Arts and Humanities, College of Social Science, and College of Veterinary Medicine. ~~Colleges~~ **Units listed** that do not offer undergraduate degree programs may opt out of electing a representative to UCUE by informing the Secretary for Academic Governance; should a ~~college~~ **unit** choose to forgo representation on UCUE, the college's seat will remain vacant for the duration of the regularly scheduled term. UCUE shall also have four undergraduate student members, of whom one must be the Vice President of Academic Affairs of ASMSU, and two graduate student members from COGS. The Provost shall be a member with voice, but no vote.

Athletic Council (5.2)

5.2.2.2. Ex-officio members without vote shall include: the Director of Intercollegiate Athletics, the Faculty Athletic Representative (**FAR**), the Executive Director of the Alumni Association, and the Vice President for Financial Planning and Analysis. **Members without vote cannot serve as chair of the Athletic Council.**

5.2.3. Appointment of Members

5.2.3.1. Faculty members of the Athletic Council shall be selected by the President from a slate of nominees (two for each vacancy) prepared by the faculty of the University Committee on Academic Governance and approved by the Faculty Senate.

5.2.3.1.1. The University Committee on Undergraduate Education shall appoint one of its faculty members to serve as an ex-officio member of the Athletic Council.

5.2.3.2. Alumni representatives shall be chosen from members of the Michigan State University Alumni Association, which shall prepare a slate of two nominees for each vacancy, from which the President shall appoint one. One of the alumni representatives shall be a former student varsity athlete. Alumni members shall not be employees of the university.

~~5.2.3.3. The President shall select student members of the Athletic Council.~~

5.2.3.3.4. One undergraduate student shall be ~~appointed~~ **elected** by ASMSU from a slate of three nominees ~~submitted prepared~~ by ASMSU. One graduate student shall be ~~appointed~~ **elected by COGS** from a slate of three nominees ~~submitted prepared~~ by COGS. One member of the Student-Athlete Advisory Council shall be ~~selected~~ **elected by the Student-Athlete Advisory Council** from a slate of three nominees prepared by the Student-Athlete Advisory Council. **It is recommended that each of these student representatives all be student-athletes if possible.**

5.2.3.4. The Faculty Athletic Representative to the athletic agencies or conferences to which the University chooses to belong shall be a member of the regular faculty appointed by the President. **The FAR is recommended to have been a student-athlete at the collegiate level.** The appointment shall be made with the advice of the voting members of the Athletic Council.

5.2.4. Terms of Appointment

5.2.4.1. The terms of appointment of faculty and alumni representatives on the Athletic Council shall be two years and shall begin on August 16. Terms of members shall be staggered so that not less than one-third of the membership will return the following year.

5.2.4.2. The term of appointment for student representatives shall be one year and shall begin on the first day of summer semester.

5.2.4.3. Vacancies for a period of one or more academic terms that occur during the term of appointment of any voting member shall be filled for the remainder of the unfinished term in the same manner as the regular selection of the member unable to serve. Voting members of the Athletic Council can serve no more than two consecutive terms. An appointment of more than eight months to fill an unfinished term shall be equivalent to a full term in considering eligibility for reappointment.

5.2.4.4. The Faculty Athletic Representative shall serve a 3-year term at the discretion of the President. The President shall review the Faculty Athletic Representative at least once every 3 years with the advice of the voting members of the Athletic Council. The FAR shall not serve more than 2 consecutive terms.

5.2.5. Responsibilities of the Athletic Council

5.2.5.1. The Athletic Council serves as the deliberative body for the discussion of academic policy related to student athletes and intercollegiate athletics.

5.2.5.2. The Athletic Council advises the Director of Intercollegiate Athletics on matters of policy, procedures, and organization related to intercollegiate athletics.

5.2.5.2.1. Regarding the regular season and post-season tickets and trips, voting members of the Athletic Council shall strive to minimize the award of special privileges to themselves that are uncharacteristic of those generally available to faculty. Nonetheless, it is expected that the Athletic Council will fulfill responsibilities related to institutional representation as appropriate throughout the year.

5.2.5.2.2. Complimentary tickets given to Athletic Council members are considered non-transferable.

5.2.6. The Athletic Council reports to the University Council. The form and frequency of reporting will be determined by the Steering Committee, but in no case will the frequency of reporting be less than once each academic year. The Athletic Council will also respond to questions asked by the University Council through its seated representative in the University Council, the chairperson of the Athletic Council.

5.2.6.1. A report of policies regarding regular season and post-season trips, as well as a record of the disbursement of complimentary tickets and trips, shall be included in the annual report of Athletic Council to University Council.

5.2.6.2. The FAR reports to the President and the Athletic Council. Form and frequency will be determined by the President and the Athletic Council. The FAR in consultation with the Athletic Council will produce a semi-annual report to the Faculty Senate on the academic performance and well-being of student athletes. The FAR will also publish as part of their report a complete list of their duties.

5.2.6.3. The Athletic Council and the FAR are responsible for ensuring the online publication of all of their reports, agendas, and minutes.

University Academic Integrity Hearing Board (6.3)

6.3. ~~University Academic Integrity Hearing Board~~ Academic Hearing Pool