



MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Executive Action Summary

Academic Affairs-Attachment 3

Committee Name Academic Affairs

Date June 13, 2025

Agenda Item: Amendments to the Bylaws for Academic Governance

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Information

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Discussion

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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, June 16, 2023, and December 13, 2024 (current version).

Responsible Officers:

Heidi Pineda, Interim Secretary for Academic Governance

Summary:

The University Council has approved amendments to the Bylaws for Academic Governance (Bylaws). The proposed amendments span multiple sections of the Bylaws, addressing a range of revisions across the document.

1. Functions and Procedures of the Steering Committee (3.4.2.)

These amendments remove the terms "moratorium" and "discontinuation" from the Steering Committee's charge in Section 3.4.2.4. These terms are specific to curriculum matters and do not apply to academic units, which are the focus of this section of the Bylaws. The University Council approved these changes on January 28, 2025.

2. Unit Academic Administrators (2.1.)

These amendments clarify the roles in the selection of academic unit chairpersons and directors and aligns the Bylaws with longstanding institutional practices. The University Committee on Academic Governance approved the revisions on April 10, 2025, and the University Council approved them on April 22, 2025.

3. University Council, Faculty Senate, Establishment of Standing Committees, University Committee on Student Life and Engagement, Administrative Support of Academic Governance (3.2, 3.3., 4.1., 4.9., 7.1.)

These amendments update administrator titles, division names, and standing committee names to reflect the restructuring of the Division of Student Life and Engagement into the Division of Student Affairs. The University Council approved these changes on April 22, 2025.

4. Faculty Senate, Composition of Standing Committees (3.3., 4.2.)

These amendments address a discrepancy in university-level voting rights for faculty in non-college units. They ensure uniform representation in university-level governance and align the Bylaws with voting rights outlined in Section 1.1.2.1. The University Committee on Academic Governance approved the revisions on March 27, 2025, and the University Council approved them on April 22, 2025.

Background Information:

The Bylaws for Academic Governance provide the framework for shared governance at the university and establish a system for faculty and student participation in the development of academic policy.

Source of Funds:

Not applicable.

Resource Impact:

Not applicable.

Attachment A: Proposed Amendments to the Bylaws for Academic Governance

Functions and Procedures of the Steering Committee (3.4.2.)

3.4.2.4. The Steering Committee shall advise the Provost regarding the appropriate faculty, academic, and student governance bodies, if any, to consult on proposals for establishment, ~~disbandment, moratorium, discontinuance,~~ or merger of basic academic units, including departments, schools, institutes, colleges, and the Graduate School.

Unit Academic Administrators (2.1.)

2.1.3.1. The voting faculty of each department or school shall have shared responsibility with the relevant dean to determine procedures for the nomination of chairpersons and directors to be selected by the ~~dean and approved by the~~ Provost.

University Council, Faculty Senate, Establishment of Standing Committees, University Committee on Student Life and Engagement, Administrative Support of Academic Governance (3.2, 3.3., 4.1., 4.9., 7.1.)

3.2.4.8.1. These administrative positions are the Provost, the Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies, the ~~Senior~~ Vice President for Student ~~Affairs~~~~Life and Engagement~~, the Dean of Undergraduate Studies, the Dean of the Graduate School, the Dean of International Studies and Programs, the Dean of the Libraries, and the Dean of the Honors College.

3.2.5.1. University-level Standing Committees that deal predominantly with issues other than the curriculum and faculty life (e.g., tenure and promotion, salary, benefits) report to University Council. Such committees include the University Committee on Student ~~Affairs~~~~Life and Engagement~~, the University Committee on Undergraduate Education, the University Committee on Graduate Studies, the University Committee on the Libraries, and the University Committee on Academic Governance.

3.2.7.1. 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 Student Rights and Responsibilities at Michigan State University prior to its consideration by University Council; upon all matters brought before it by

the President, the Provost, or the ~~Senior~~ Vice President for Student ~~Affairs~~~~Life and Engagement~~; and upon all matters on which its constitution requires such action.

3.2.8.1. COGS shall consider and act upon all recommendations to University Council regarding student academic rights and responsibilities and judicial procedures; upon any amendment to or revision of the SRR, and Graduate Student Rights and Responsibilities prior to its consideration by University Council; upon all matters brought before it by the President, the Provost, or the ~~Senior~~ Vice President for Student ~~Affairs~~~~Life and Engagement~~; and upon all matters on which its constitution requires such action.

3.3.6.1. The University Committee on Student ~~Affairs~~~~Life and Engagement~~ will report to the University Council, provided that recommendations by UCS~~ALE~~ that affect professional rights and responsibilities of faculty must have been approved by the Faculty Senate before consideration by the University Council.

4.1. Establishment of Standing Committees

There shall be the following University-level Standing Committees within academic governance:

University Committee on Academic Governance (UCAG)

University Committee on Undergraduate Education (UCUE)

University Committee on Curriculum (UCC)

University Committee on Faculty Affairs (UCFA)

University Committee on Faculty Tenure (UCFT)

University Committee on Graduate Studies (UCGS)

University Committee on Student ~~Affairs~~ ~~Life and Engagement~~ (UCS~~ALE~~)

University Committee on the Libraries (UCL)

4.9. University Committee on Student ~~Affairs~~~~Life and Engagement~~

4.9.1. The University Committee on Student ~~Affairs~~~~Life and Engagement~~ (UCS~~ALE~~) shall have four faculty members selected by the Faculty Senate. UCS~~ALE~~ shall have twelve student members appointed as follows: six appointees from ASMSU, including the President of ASMSU; two appointees from COGS; and one appointee from the Residence Halls Association; one appointee from Fraternity and Sorority Life; one appointee from the University Apartments Council of Residents, and the At-large Student Liaison to the Board of Trustees, as appointed by the ~~Senior~~ Vice President for Student ~~Affairs~~~~Life and Engagement~~. UCS~~ALE~~ appointees are expected to reflect the diversity of their constituencies. The ~~Senior~~ Vice President for Student

~~Affairs~~~~Life and Engagement~~, Assistant Vice President for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging, the Assistant Vice President for Student Development and External Relations and Dean of Students, the Assistant Vice President of Residence Education and Housing Services, the Assistant Vice President for Student Involvement and Leadership, and the University Ombudsperson shall be members with voice, but no vote.

4.9.3. The UCS~~ALE~~ shall advise the ~~Senior~~-Vice President for Student ~~Affairs~~~~Life and Engagement~~ on all policies of the Division of Student ~~Affairs~~~~Life and Engagement~~ and on other University policies as they affect the academic achievement of students.

7.1. The administrator of an academic unit shall render necessary support, clerical and otherwise, to academic governance at the unit level. At the university level, this is the responsibility of the Provost and the ~~Senior~~-Vice President for Student ~~Affairs~~~~Life and Engagement~~.

Faculty Senate, Composition of Standing Committees (3.3., 4.2.)

3.3.1.2.4. All ~~regular~~-faculty members of the university who are not represented through colleges (non-college faculty) or who are not otherwise named in the membership of the Faculty Senate shall have representation as specified for colleges in 3.3.1.2.1 and 3.3.1.2.3. The Secretary for Academic Governance shall supervise nomination procedures.

4.2.1.2. Unless otherwise provided, no ~~college-constituency~~ shall have more than one faculty representative on a Standing Committee.

4.2.1.10. Where faculty members of a Standing Committee are elected in college elections, nominating procedures shall be specified in college bylaws. ~~Colleges may, in their bylaws, authorize the election to any Standing Committee, except the University Committee on Faculty Tenure, of full-time fixed-term faculty who have served at least three consecutive years, or of specialists in the continuing appointment system.~~