May 2, 2014

Memorandum

From:
University Council Members, College of Engineering

To:
Dean Leo Kempel

The following is a report of the major topics of discussion during the University Council meetings for the academic year 2013-2014.

1. Prof. Michael Kasavana, Athletic Council Chairperson presented the annual report of the Athletic Council. A number of operational and academic matters related to intercollegiate athletics were discussed.

2. Acting Provost Youatt noted that the Fairchild Auditorium is renovated and will be used primarily by the College of Music. Prof. Robert Caldwell, MSU Ombudsperson gave a presentation on the functions of the Office of the Ombudsperson and the nature of the problems brought to his office and provided recommendations to prevent academic misconduct. An Annual Report was also made available.

3. Professor Manuel Chavez, UCAG Chairperson presented a motion to amend the university bylaws for academic governance to establish a faculty health care council. Discussion ensued. A motion was passed to approve the amended motion.

4. President Simon commented on the many positive outcomes of the collective work of MSU and noted that the planning process is providing information for work on Bolder by Design.

5. Acting Provost Youatt announced that the search for a permanent Dean for the College of Engineering has begun. Prof. Youatt also announced the opening of a Veterans center on campus in the Student Services Building.

6. There was discussion about the types of support available on campus for faculty, staff and students as the number of international students continues to increase. Prof. William Donahue is convening an ongoing conversation on this topic.

7. Professor William Davidson reported that members of the Steering Committee are continuing to meet with College Advisory Committees.

8. Dave Byelich, Assistant Vice President and Director of Planning and Budgets, provided a budget update for 2013-2014

9. Prof. Donahue, Chairperson of the Ad Hoc Committee on Social Media and Pedagogy presented a report of the committee. The Committee was charged with collecting information and identifying best practices related to social media, teaching, and speech rights and responsibilities in the classroom. The committee made several recommendations.
10. President Simon commented on a campus alert that was triggered when an individual carrying an ROTC rifle was seen entering a building. President Simon noted that the Steering Committee has been working on several policy changes related to sexual violence on campus.

11. Mark Haas, Vice President for Finance and Treasurer, presented details on MSU’s retirement plan improvements.

12. Steering Committee Chairperson Prof. Sue Carter indicated that a new Healthcare Spending vendor would be in place by January 2015.

13. Cliff Haka, Director of Libraries, presented an overview of the major trends in libraries.

14. Prof. Elizabeth Gardner, Chairperson, University Committee on Graduate Studies (UCGS) presented the final drafts of the newly-drafted Law Students Rights and Responsibilities document, Graduate Student Rights and Responsibilities document and Approval of Changes to 21st Century Theses document.

15. Jessica Leacher, Chairperson, University Committee on Student Affairs (UCSA) presented a Summary of changes proposed for the Academic Freedom for Students at Michigan State University (AFR).


Respectfully Submitted by Phani Mantha
on behalf of University Council Members