RESOLUTION
Academic Governance Participation on Long-Standing University Committees and Administrative Units
by:
University Committee on Faculty Affairs

Need: There are several long-standing MSU committees and administrative units whose activities directly impact MSU faculty, including the On-Campus Clinic Committee, Human Resources, and the Campus Master Plan. While these committees may have faculty representatives, they do not necessarily represent academic governance. This lack of academic governance representation restricts the timely flow of information to academic governance committees and delays feedback to the long-standing committees and administrative units about the impact of their activities on faculty. Moreover, it limits academic governance’s ability to provide early constructive input and to advocate for faculty.

Issues: The major issue with having faculty representation on long-standing committees and administrative units is that the academic governance structure does not suit long-term representation. For example, academic governance committee members are elected to represent their respective colleges and units for short periods of time (2 yrs), whereas human resource and campus planning issues are perpetual. Assuming long-term academic governance representation is needed on long-standing committees and administrative units, there is currently no mechanism to appoint a faculty representative or determine the length of their term particularly if it exceeds their appointment on academic governance committees.

Resolution: The University Committee on Faculty Affairs recommends longitudinal representation in three long-standing committees and administrative units including the Faculty On-Campus Clinic Committee, Human Resources, and Campus Master Planning Committee. It is also recommended that 1) the Steering Committee develop the mechanism for long-term faculty representation on long-standing committees and administrative units, 2) faculty representatives be appointed from academic standing committees by the Faculty Senate and approved by the UCFA, 3) these faculty representatives have a voice and voting privileges were appropriate, and 3) faculty representatives report back periodically to the UCFA.