GOVERNANCE ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION
FACULTY SENATE MEETING
SEPTEMBER 16, 2014

FACULTY

- Grade inflation
- Building a collaborative community
- Accreditation pressure to demonstrate outcomes with respect to student learning, etc.
- Equality (or lack of) between Tenure, HP and Fixed Term Faculty
- Faculty retention - why are MSU faculty leaving?
- Since 11-12 we've been dead last among our Big Ten peers in salary ranking for assistant professors. Be this an artifact of terminology or an actual reflection of the market, it should be addressed.
- Catching up of academic salaries with the rest of the Big Ten
- Lack of parking space on campus (cancel plan 20/20).
- MSU motor traffic and parking.
- The huge increase in administrative staff and expense.
- Health Care, Health Insurance, developments with faculty benefits, include future of health benefits

UNDERGRADUATE ACADEMIC ENVIRONMENT

- Semester length inequity
- Student-class ratios.
- Cap on admission of China students.
- Research and evaluation with a view to giving evidence that our students benefit from their undergraduate education. A response to criticisms of higher education's unsubstantiated claims of improved writing, critical thinking, career benefits, etc.
- Evolving role of online teaching and learning in higher education.
- Plagiarism procedures
- Better integration of international students into learning environment on campus to benefit them and U.S. students.
- Lowering the cost of tuition
- Strategies for improving the support for undergraduate education. In statements about the institutions finances, the president has acknowledge the we are relying more and more on tuition (and hopefully alumni donations) to finance the institution. Given this trend she has correctly identified that providing a positive undergraduate experience that is seen as a good value is essential to our future. This conclusion however seems at odds with incentive structure in the institution, which incentives external funding and does not incentives good undergraduate teaching. Related to this issue, it might be time to reconsider the role of graduate students within the university. Currently it seems that the upper administration views graduate students as (almost exclusively) part of the research mission of the university. However, they provide an excellent and underutilized resource to improve the undergraduate experience. If there were more dedicated TA lines, there would be more opportunities for small format sections associated with larger courses. Finally, in the current job climate allowing our graduate students to acquire more teaching experience would strengthen their CVs. In short, the incentive structure, both in how we evaluate and promote faculty and in terms of how we view graduate students, is at odds with the fact that undergraduates are increasingly becoming the economic engine of the institution. It is time to reevaluate.
- Curriculum changes to accommodate online learning methods
- De-emphasis on quality undergraduate education (at least from my perspective)
- Upcoming accreditation and increased expectations of faculty conducting/providing assessments of student outcomes (at the programmatic level - not the course level)
- Academic standards in the era of grade inflation.
- Student retention
- The rising cost of undergraduate education.
POLICIES
- MOOCs
- Ownership of online courses
- Sexual assault on campus and MSU's role
- Sexual Assault Policy
- Sexual assault awareness and prevention on campus;
- Campus safety
- Campus harassment
- Budget
- Budget
- Change back to the quarter system
- Second rate information technology infrastructure and systems
- Technology, Academic Governance, Curriculum

GENERAL
- Do we have any role in the upcoming GEU negotiations?
- Establish a "real" faculty club;
- Relationship of University to Athletic Dept: e.g., if they are so good at raising money (i.e., new locker rooms at stadium), shouldn't they be required to share some of that money with the actual University to fund the library or whatever in exchange for using the University's name, etc.

PRESENTATIONS FOR FACULTY SENATE/UNIVERSITY COUNCIL
- Information Technology - Where is it going?
- Student demographics (undergrad and professional)
- Admissions
- University research foci - Steve Shu -
- Now that the Provost is no longer acting / interim a presentation on her vision would be welcome.
- A presentation on the Academic Competitiveness faculty hiring initiative would be welcome.
- Per the general fund budget there appears to have been a reorganization of the University's executive management. An information session on these changes would be welcome.
- 10 year budget projections
- Doug Estry on designing new learning spaces for undergraduates
- Siddharth Chandra discussing Asian students at MSU and how we might increase interaction between U.S. students and Asian students, and other international students.
- President Simon addressing important issues with respect to tuition and sexual assault and what is currently being done.
- Presentation regarding plagiarism and the faculty's role in oversight/investigation.
- Presentation about collaborating between colleges and interdisciplinary work.
- University Budget
- A report on the finances of the institution
- A report on the capital campaign
- A report on the new health care model that was briefly presented last year
- A complete, open discussion of health care costs and plans.
- The lack of transparency in the decision making process.
- How MSU can return to its roots as the college for the working people of Michigan.
- Re-presentation of campus safety (gun violence) Address sexual harassment on campus
- Fostering an inclusive environment for faculty, staff, and students.
- Discussion of grade inflation issues
- Health Care
- Safety
- Sexual misconduct policy changes
- Provost vision
- Accreditation
- Plans for improving information technology on campus
- Drills to manage a crisis/shooting during classes.
- How ISP is socializing students from China to live in the U.S., Michigan, and East Lansing.
- Benefits and health care costs
- President Simon on projected future related to enrollment, budget, pressures to make certain changes in the University
- How are we doing with respect to recruitment and influx of students from China and other countries—problems, effectiveness, needs, etc?
- Long-range planning on new construction, renovations, parking, campus changes