

Michigan State University Faculty Emeriti Association

Steering Committee Meeting

22 January 2025, 1:00 pm

Room 125, Human Resource Building, MSU

MINUTES

Present: John Baker, Tom Carr, John Forsyth, Steve Harsh, Fred Honhart, Ric Hula (Zoom), Cindi Leverich, PhD (Zoom), and Jane Vieth (Zoom). Not present: Berg, Gliozzo, and Stone.

1. Opening Comments – Steve Harsh noted that David Long resigned from committee.
 - a. New committee members
 - Tom Carr
 - Fred Honhart
2. Changes or additions to the agenda. None.
3. Approval of prior meetings minutes – John Forsyth
 - Annual Meeting, October 23, 2024 -- approved
 - Prior meeting, October 23, 2024 -- approved
4. Projects and committee reports.
 - a. Lecture Series – Steve Harsh
 - Recent Lectures : Dr. Terri Taylor, Malaria Research and Dr. Neil Romanoski, Libraries in the Digital Age
 - Lectures for coming months will be Wednesday February 19, Wednesday March 19 and Thursday April 17. Next one is on February 19, Emily Tabuteau, Magna Carta: The Original Liberty Document?
 - b. Healthcare – Gary Stone indicated by email no activity
 - c. Faculty Senate – Peter Berg reported by email, included at the end of this document
 - d. University Council – No representative. Vieth offered to attend. The calendar is at <https://acadgov.msu.edu/schedule>. Remaining meetings for 2025 are January 28, February 25, March 25, and April 22, all 3:15-5:00 pm with attendance by Zoom. Harsh will advise the Secretary of Academic Governance that Vieth is the representative.
 - e. Faculty Awards – John Baker: Request for nominations and nomination materials are out and available at <https://facultyemeriti.msu.edu/fea-awards/index.html>.
 - f. Technology Projects – John Forsyth: Noted updates to the FEA website, <https://facultyemeriti.msu.edu/index.html>
 - g. Oral History Project – Discussed finding a person to renew and guide this effort.
 - h. Comments regarding ever-changing adjustments, new developments and trends in central administration – Cindy Liverish: Provost search has begun. Realignment of student affairs and areas combined with student affairs is underway. See Berg report below.
5. Old Business

- a. Update on the forthcoming health care provider. Humana contract runs to December 31, 2026. Request for proposals being developed this year.
 - What should be our role in providing information to our membership?
 - Harsh and Forsyth will meet with a representative of MSURA and Human Resources to have them advise the Steering Committee on how to inform retirees on dealing with healthcare providers who do not participate with Humana or drop their participation.
- b. **Each of you should have a suggestion for a possible person to present a lecture.** Several suggestions provided.
- c. What do we do?
 - See attached “Talking Points” draft
6. New Business
 - a. Possible new Steering Committee Members
7. Adjournment 2:45 pm

Next Meeting: February 26 would be the normal date (4th Wednesday of the month)

ADDENDA

MSU Faculty Senate Meeting
November 15, 2024

President’s Report

Searches in progress for Provost and for Deans of CAL, Agriculture, and Student Affairs.
Review and revision of General Education is also underway.

Outgoing Trustee Diane Byrum spoke in a Q&A to announce that Kelly Tebay is the new Chair, and that training for Trustees to work collaboratively is ongoing.

Lisa Frace, CFO, provided an update/overview of the budget process. She said her office is working on a hybrid model combining increments with some incentive components.

A request for an Ad Hoc committee to evaluate funding practices and support for non-STEM faculty to align with 2030 Strategic Plan. The Ad Hoc committee was approved.

MSU Faculty Senate Meeting
December 17, 2024

The President and Provost sent holiday greetings via video.

Angela Wilson, Chair of the Senate, spoke of her meeting with MSU Trustees at which she emphasized the need for Trustees to listen to faculty concerns.

Ed Phillips, University Travel Manager, provided an overview on University travel reimbursement and then took questions from the Senate.

A motion was approved to provide close captioning on all Kaltura Media Space.

Presentation and information on updates on Faculty Unions.

MSU Faculty Senate Meeting
January 21, 2025

President's Report

Multicultural building ribbon cutting, February 7, 2025.

Committees in place to study and respond to potential new Federal policy guidelines.

Committee in place to study/revise General Education requirements.

Provost's Report

Planning for February 13th commemoration. No classes.

Planning underway for Ethics Week as MSU prepares to open new Ethics Institute

Faculty Senate Chair Report

Rebecca Behar-Cook is the new Trustee liaison to Faculty Senate.

Applications already received for Provost position.

Honorifics

Ad Hoc committee study reveals that most University honorifics go to STEM fields and College of Business. Plans underway to make these more widely distributed across the University. "Who we honor reflects the values of the University." MSU can do better.

Report provided by the MSU Innovation Center

FACULTY EMERITI ASSOCIATION TALKING POINTS

December 2024

As directed during the October 23, 2024, meeting of the Steering Committee of the MSU Faculty Emeriti Association (FEA), what follows is a first attempt to develop talking points to interest

emeriti in participating in the FEA. This writing leans heavily on the mission statement published on the home page of the FEA website.

Enabling faculty emeriti to be actively engaged with the University and the community

- The FEA conducts a well-received lecture series covering a wide range of topics
- The FEA awards recognition to individuals and units for their productive work relating to retired faculty
- The FEA maintains a website to communicate its activities
- The FEA recorded oral histories from individuals who gave long service to the University
- The FEA conducted surveys of emeriti to learn their interests and seek their advice

Advocating for faculty emeriti

- The FEA has seats on the Faculty Senate, University Council, Healthcare Committee and the MSU Retirees Association
- The FEA asked for better description of retirees in the on-line directory, achieving a “retired faculty” designation rather than just “retiree”, but failing to get one’s full retiree status indicated
- The FEA made recommendations relative to the revision of emeritus designation and status issues, with partial success
- The FEA attempted to establish an emeriti journal but did not get University backing for liability nor editorial investment from emeriti
- The FEA had members observe and comment on the extension of the Medicare Advantage contract

John Forsyth

I have been thinking about the statement to attract great interest in the association. Let me throw out a different perspective. One might argue that the list is simply too broad. Everything in the statement represents positive contributions, but there is nothing unique to the association. The one thing we can do is be an advocate for a group of people who pretty much have no voice. Suppose we were to focus on the role. We could try to transform ourselves into a dues paying membership organization. Perhaps funds could be raised to actually get some legal advice as to what the university is committed to provide us.

I don't know if this makes any sense, but I thought I would throw it out.

Ric Hula