

Michigan State University Faculty Emeriti Association

Steering Committee Meeting

3 December 2025, 1:00 pm

MSU Human Resources Building, Room 125

MINUTES

Present: J. Baker, A. Ferguson, J. Forsyth, S. Harsh (Chair), C. Leverich, F. Honhart. By Zoom: T. Carr and J. Vieth.

1. Opening Comments – Steve Harsh – Noted intent to not chair as of April 2026
2. Changes or additions to the agenda. Add item 5.d. statement on removal of equal opportunity statement from university documents; Item 6.b. 2027 Conference of Big Ten retirement organizations.
3. Approval of prior meetings minutes – John Forsyth -- Prior meeting, September 24, 2025
Moved Vieth, Second Honhart, approved.
4. Projects and committee reports.
 - a. Lecture Series – Steve Harsh
 - Lectures for coming year will be on the 3rd Wednesday of the month
 - The fall lectures are completed and the January 21, 2026, lecture will be Robert Smith on the US Mental Health System. February and March are not set. It was suggested to have a historian who specializes in food history.
 - b. Healthcare – Gary Stone -- not present
 - c. Faculty Senate – Peter Berg -- not present
 - d. University Council – Jane Vieth -- Council has had lengthy discussions about use of Artificial Intelligence.
 - e. Faculty Awards – John Baker -- Work is progressing.
 - f. Technology Projects – John Forsyth -- No report.
 - g. Oral History Project – Looking for a leader
 - h. Comments regarding ever-changing adjustments, new developments and trends in central administration – Cindy Leverich -- Most upper administration posts are filled. Processes are starting to work with the new unionization of tenure system faculty.
5. Old Business
 - a. Update on the health care provider for the next three years. Current contract with Humana runs through December 31, 2027, with the University having the option to renew. Harsh to contact MSURA president to discuss how to influence the university to pursue rebidding of the retiree health care contract.
 - b. Possible new Steering Committee Members – Individuals from several colleges are being approached.

- c. New chair in April, 2026. Harsh wishes to not continue as chair.
- d. A statement will be sent to the university administration objecting to the elimination of the statement “MSU is an affirmative-action, equal-opportunity employer” from MSU web sites and other documents.

6. New Business

- a. Update on “Continuous Learning Collaborative” – Anne Ferguson & Tom Carr – The East Lansing Prime Time office will be the lead and administrator. It is expected to start in fall 2026, with sessions in between 9am and 4pm, the hours the Prime Time office is open.
- b. The MSU Retirees Association has invited the FEA to be involved in planning the August 2027 conference of Big Ten retiree Associations to be held at MSU. It was agreed to participate.

7. Adjournment 2:07 pm.

Next Meeting: January 28, 2026 (4th Wednesday of the month) 1:00pm. Place to be determined.

Submitted by: John Forsyth