

Ad Hoc Committee on Free Speech and Hate Speech

On November 28, 2023, the University Council held a meeting where the council voted to “authorize an ad hoc committee to consider issues of free speech and hate speech on MSU’s campus” and referred the issue back to The Steering Committee.

At the January 9, 2024, Steering Committee meeting, recommendations were drafted in accordance with Section 5.4.2. of the *Bylaws for Academic Governance* that charge the Steering Committee with creating recommendations to the University Council concerning “the composition, method of selecting members, functions, and procedures of ad hoc committees.”

At the January 30, 2024, University Council meeting, the recommendations from The Steering Committee were approved and constituencies were tasked with identifying their representatives for this committee by the upcoming University Council meeting on February 20, 2024.

1. Composition/Method of Selecting Members

- The committee shall be comprised of 16 total members
 - 4 faculty/academic staff selected by Faculty Senate; not limited to faculty senators
 - 2 undergraduate students selected by ASMSU
 - 2 graduate students selected by COGS
 - 4 administrators selected by the Provost
 - 4 staff from unions selected by the Executive Vice President for Administration
- Each constituency should identify its representatives by the next University Council meeting on February 20, 2024. Each should do so by procedures of their choosing

2. Functions

- “Consider issues of free speech and hate speech on MSU’s campus.”
 - University Council
- Emphasis on campus climate – Steering Committee

3. Procedures

- Chairperson and Vice Chairperson to be elected by the Ad Hoc Committee members

MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

- The committee should prepare an interim report to University Council by the end of the spring 2024 semester with a final report with recommendations by the end of the fall 2024 semester
 - A minority/dissenting report is welcome
- The Ad Hoc Committee is welcome to invite guests or experts
 - It is suggested that the Ad Hoc Committee consult with the forthcoming MSU Ethics Institute group that will be reviewing topics of academic freedom and freedom of speech