

Existing University Bylaws and Proposed Revisions

(Note: numbering may not exactly match the existing bylaws, which are numbered beginning with “5.2 Athletic Council”)

5.2 ATHLETIC COUNCIL

5.2.1. There shall be an Athletic Council (AC) with composition and bylaws subject to approval by the University Council. The Athletic Council shall function as a faculty/student/alumni voice in the intercollegiate athletic program.

5.2.2. Composition of the Athletic Council

5.2.2.1. The voting members of the Athletic Council shall include eight members of the voting faculty (See MSU Bylaws 1.1.2.1), three alumni, and three students as selected by the President (see 5.2.3). In addition, the faculty member serving as a representative from UCUE to the council shall be a voting member of the council (See 5.2.3.4).

5.2.2.1.1. Ex-officio members without vote shall include: the Director of Intercollegiate Athletics (Athletic Director), the Faculty Athletic Representative(s) (FAR), the Executive Director of the Alumni Association, **and the Vice President for Auxiliary Enterprises, or their designee.**

5.2.2.1.2. The University Committee on Undergraduate Education (UCUE) shall appoint one of its faculty members to serve as **a voting member** of the Athletic Council. **(moved from previous section 5.2.3.1.1)**

5.2.3. Appointment of Members

5.2.3.1. **Voting** faculty members of the Athletic Council shall be selected by the President from a slate of nominees (two for each vacancy) prepared by the faculty of the University Committee on Academic Governance and approved by the Faculty Senate.

5.2.3.2. Alumni representatives shall be chosen from members of the Michigan State University Alumni Association, which shall prepare a slate of two nominees for each vacancy, from which the President shall appoint one. One of the alumni representatives shall be a former student varsity athlete. Alumni members shall not be employees of the University.

5.2.3.3. The President shall select student members of the Athletic Council.

5.2.3.3.1. One undergraduate student shall be appointed from a slate of three nominees submitted by ASMSU. One graduate student shall be appointed from a slate of three nominees submitted by COGS. The chair of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee or designee shall also serve as a student member of the Athletic Council.

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- 5.2.3.4. The University Committee on Undergraduate Education (UCUE) shall appoint one of its faculty members to serve as a voting member of the Athletic Council. The term of appointment on AC is two years.
- 5.2.3.5. The President shall appoint **at least one (1), and no more than two (2), Faculty Athletic Representative(s) [FAR]** to the athletic agencies or conferences to which the University chooses to belong. The FAR(s) shall be selected from the regular faculty. The appointment shall be made with input from the Athletic Director and advice from the voting members of Athletic Council.
- 5.2.3.5.1. **The FAR(s) serve(s) as chair of the Athletic Council. If there is more than one FAR, then the FARs serve as co-chairs.**
- 5.2.4. Terms of Appointment
- 5.2.4.1. The terms of appointment of faculty and alumni representatives on the Athletic Council shall be two years and shall begin on August 16. Terms of members shall be staggered so that not less than one-third of the membership will return the following year.
- 5.2.4.2. The term of appointment for student representatives shall be one year and shall begin on the first day of summer semester.
- 5.2.4.3. Vacancies for a period of one or more academic semester that occur during the term of appointment of any voting member shall be filled for the remainder of the unfinished term in the same manner as the regular selection of the member unable to serve. Voting members of the Athletic Council can serve no more than two consecutive terms. An appointment of more than eight months to fill an unfinished term shall be equivalent to a full term in considering eligibility for reappointment.
- 5.2.4.4. The Faculty Athletic Representative(s) shall serve at the discretion of the President. The President shall review the Faculty Athletic Representative(s) at least once every three years with input and advice from the Athletic Director and, when requested by the President, advice from Athletic Council.
- 5.2.5. Responsibilities of the Athletic Council. The Athletic Council serves as the deliberative body for the discussion of academic policy related to student athletes and intercollegiate athletics.
- 5.2.5.1. The Athletic Council advises the Director of Intercollegiate Athletics on matters of policy, procedures, and organization related to intercollegiate athletics.
- 5.2.5.1.1. Regarding the regular season and post-season tickets and trips, voting members of the Athletic Council shall strive to minimize the award of special privileges to themselves that are uncharacteristic of those generally available to faculty. Nonetheless, it is expected that the

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Athletic Council will fulfill responsibilities related to institutional representation as appropriate throughout the year.

5.2.5.1.2. Complimentary tickets given to Athletic Council members are considered non-transferable.

5.2.6. The Athletic Council reports to the University Council. Form and frequency of reporting will be determined by The Steering Committee, but in no case will the frequency of reporting be less than once each academic year. The Athletic Council will also respond to questions asked by the University Council through its seated representative in the University Council, the Chairperson(s) of the Athletic Council.

5.2.7. A report of policies regarding regular season and post-season trips, as well as a record of the disbursement of complimentary tickets and trips, shall be included in the annual report of Athletic Council to University Council.

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Procedures of the Athletic Council [Proposed]

The Athletic Council functions as a faculty/student/alumni voice regarding the intercollegiate athletic program. The composition and general responsibilities of the Athletic Council are defined by the Board of Trustees Policy (02-18-01) and the Michigan State University Bylaws for Academic Governance. The following policies further describe those roles and responsibilities.

1. General Responsibilities. Acting under the university's *advisory* mode of participation, Athletic Council will advise the Athletic Director on matters generally related to the academic success, health and safety, and personal development of student-athletes. In this advisory role, Athletic Council will represent a faculty/student/alumni voice providing input and advise to the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics (Athletics Department) and the Athletic Director regarding policies impacting student-athlete wellbeing and academic success. Athletic Council also advises the Athletic Director on matters pertaining to the Athletics Department budget, facilities plan, strategic plan, compliance efforts, student-athlete academic success, and student-athlete wellbeing, in addition to other matters as may arise. Additionally, the Athletic Council may recommend and direct matters to The Steering Committee of Academic Governance for further consideration by the appropriate committee(s) of Academic Governance.

2. Meetings. The Athletic Council shall meet not less than seven times during the academic year. The Faculty Athletic Representative(s) (co)chair(s) the council meetings.

3. Meeting Topics. During the course of each academic year, the Athletic Council will schedule meetings and meeting agenda in order to receive a presentation/report from Athletics Department personnel on the following topics:

3.1 Budget

3.2 Strategic plan

3.3 Facilities

3.4 Compliance

3.5 Student-Athlete academic success

3.6 Student-Athlete wellbeing

4. Quorum. To guarantee faculty/student/alumni representation in their advisory role concerning athletics, Athletic Council action may not be taken unless a majority of voting committee members are present. As per section 5.2.2.1 of the Bylaws for Academic Governance, the voting members of the Athletic Council are nine voting faculty, three alumni, and three students. Therefore, eight (8) of fifteen (15) AC voting members must be present to have a quorum.

5. Reporting. The Faculty Athletic Representative(s) shall submit regular reports on the work of Athletic Council to University Council. The form and frequency of such reports will be

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established by The Steering Committee, as provided by the MSU Bylaws for Academic Governance.

6. Subcommittees. Athletic Council [may](#) maintain several subcommittees for the purpose of discharging its advisory and reporting duties. Athletic Council may also establish ad hoc committees as needs arise that are outside the scope of standing committees. Subcommittee members shall be chosen from the members of the Athletic Council. Each subcommittee must include at least three (3) members of Athletic Council, at least two (2) of which are voting members. Subcommittees must meet at least two times during the academic year, once in Fall Semester and once in Spring Semester. The chairperson of each subcommittee must be a voting member of Athletic Council, and will be elected by majority vote of the committee at its first meeting of the academic year. Subcommittees are:

6.1 Governance and Ethics. This [sub](#)committee shall monitor the activities of the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics as they relate to University Governance and to regulations of the athletic agencies or conferences to which the University chooses to belong. The subcommittee will advise Athletic Council, the Athletic Director and the Faculty Athletic Representative(s) on matters related to policies, regulations, rule changes, as well as ethical concerns.

6.2 Academic Success. This [sub](#)committee shall advise Athletic Council on matters related to the academic performance of student-athletes. Such advice shall help ensure that appropriate academic standards are established and maintained for all student-athletes, and that all participants recognize the priority of successful academic performance by all student-athletes. In fulfilling this function, the subcommittee shall make appropriate recommendations to Athletic Council. In particular, the Committee shall:

- Review and, where appropriate, recommend policies and procedures regarding standards and criteria for admission of student-athletes.
- Review and, where appropriate, recommend academic policies and procedures regarding standards and criteria for continuing eligibility of student-athletes to participate in intercollegiate sports.
- Consider and decide academic appeals of student-athletes concerned with eligibility.
- Review every semester the academic program and progress of student-athletes.
- Recommend policies for, and monitor the activities of, the academic support services provided to the student-athletes.
- Review and, where appropriate, recommend policies regarding the academic impact of post-season and tournament participation by athletic teams.
- Review and, where appropriate, recommend policies regarding scheduling and practice time.

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6.3 Student-Athlete Well Being. This subcommittee shall monitor policies and practices, and advise the Athletic Director and Faculty Athletic Representative(s), on the non-academic activities of the student-athlete's involvement with the University. Such activities may include safety and equipment, non-academic support programs, mental health, housing issues (both off-campus and on-campus), personal and social development of student-athletes, and the integration of student-athletes into the general student body.

6.4 Reporting. Each subcommittee shall compile an annual report of activities under its purview. This report shall consider activities, programs, incidents and events that occur during an academic year, and shall be presented to Athletic Council at its first meeting of the following academic year.

7. Drug Education and Testing Committee. The Drug Education and Testing Committee, which resides within the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics, will be chaired by a voting faculty member of the Athletic Council. The chair of the committee will regularly report to the Athletic Council about the activities of the committee, including presenting to the Athletic Council at its first meeting of the academic year.

8. Orientation. The Athletic Council shall work to maintain minutes and records of its meetings and work to provide a compilation of the previous year's work to council members on or before the first meeting of the council in the fall of each academic year. The council will develop and implement an orientation process for new members.

9. Communication. Individual members of the Athletic Council including the Faculty Athletics Representative(s) may not communicate on behalf of the Athletic Council or any of its members without the prior approval for doing so by the Athletic Council. Any member may speak on his/her own behalf and will endeavor to avoid even the appearance of speaking on behalf of Athletic Council when approval from Athletic Council has not been received.