Governance Council Working Group Report
June 15, 2010

The consensus of the Working Group was that the name “Governance Council” was not the right name for the Council. It is recommended that the name be changed to: “University Council.”

1. What should be the stated mission or purpose of this Council?

The Working Group recommends the following Mission Statement:

The mission of the University Council shall be to ensure that the institutional policies and procedures support the university’s strategic plan and land grant mission.

2. What should be the composition of this Council and how should the various representative members be selected?

The Working Group recommends the following composition of the University Council:

President, Chair
Provost
Vice Presidents
Vice Provost and Director of Extension
Deans
Director, Alumni
President, MSU Foundation

President, ASMSU
Chair, Faculty Senate
Chair, Staff Senate
Chair, Professional Council
Community Member

The Working Group could not reach consensus on whether the other Vice Provosts (International Programs, Graduate Education and Undergraduate Education) should be included. The Group agreed to defer to the President’s decision on this matter.

Legal Counsel, Director of Internal Audit. Director of Human Resources, Director of Human Resources/Affirmative Action, Vice President for University Services and Director of Athletics should be invited to attend all meetings but will not be members of the Council.

3. What should be the areas of responsibility of this Council?

The Working Group recommends the following:

1. To establish and maintain reciprocal communication with representatives from the constituent groups on the Council regarding programs, policies and procedures that have campus wide impact.

2. To study, advise and recommend to the President and, through the President, to the Board of Regents on matters of policy and procedure that have campus wide impact.

3. To assume such other responsibilities as assigned by the President.
4. What existing committees or groups have similar or correlated responsibilities to this Council and what should be relationship between this Council and these other committees or groups?

The Working Group recommends elimination of the President’s Executive Committee (PEC) and University Planning, Budget and Analysis Committee (UPBAC). Two other informal groups called President’s Cabinet and Senior Leadership may also be discontinued. The Group felt that the other Councils-Research, Planning, Budget and Academic- would make reports to the University Council from time to time but would not have any other formal relationship. All other committees which provide recommendations to the President (like UFPUB) will continue to do so and the President may bring any of the recommendations to the University Council for discussion and guidance.