

Faculty Senate Interim Guidelines for Approval of Center ["Entity"] Proposals and Periodic Review of Activities

These Interim Guidelines are intended to guide Faculty Senate in approving a proposed Center. They are not criteria, but instead are guidelines to help inform and frame Senate's consideration of center proposals pending the adoption of a formal process by MSU.

In this document, "entity" means a center, institute, bureau, station or similar entity requiring approval by the Board of Regents pursuant to Policy 218, 220 and/or other applicable Regents policy.

- i. Designation
 - A. The entity should be appropriately designated (i.e. as a center, institute, etc.) in accordance with MSU policy.
- ii. Contribution to the Mission of the University
 - A. The entity should have the potential to make significant contributions to the teaching, research/creative activity, and/or engagement missions of the University
 - B. The entity should have the potential to enhance the reputation of the University by providing state-wide, regional, national, or international leadership in teaching, research/creative activity, and/or engagement.
 - C. The entity demonstrates a commitment to a culture of diversity, equity, and inclusion.
 - D. The entity has a systematic plan for regular assessment of its contributions to the mission of the University.
- iii. Governance
 - A. The entity has policies that ensure research, academic, and curricular independence, including an explicit commitment to compliance with all MSU policies.
 - B. The entity has systematic and credible mechanisms for regular independent review of its activities, that include an external advisory council and/or an external review board.
 - C. If the entity hires faculty and/or staff, the entity has hiring processes that ensure independence from the entity's external funding source(s).
 - D. The entity will issue a public annual report of funding sources, expenditures, and measurable outcomes.
- iv. Financial Stability
 - A. The entity should have a plan for becoming self-supporting through external funding and other revenue sources after a reasonable initial period (approximately 3-5 years).
 - B. The entity should have a contingency plan for how it will manage potential major funding shortfalls that could threaten the entity's continuity (e.g. unexpected withdrawal of funds by the primary funding source).