



EAST LANSING UNIVERSITY STUDENT COMMISSION AGENDA

University Student Commission Meeting

5:15 PM - Tuesday, April 7, 2026

City Hall - Conference Room A - 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI
48823

Public Comment - Email: ahodges@cityofeastlansing.com

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1. CALL TO ORDER

- 1.1. Roll Call
 - Zach Olson (Chair)
 - Harrison Cornell (Vice Chair)
 - Eleanor Carr
 - Ben Lowen
 - Ryan McClendon
 - Helena Merritt
 - Gavin Prelesnik
 - Lauren Pelon

- 1.2. Approval of the agenda

- 1.3. Approval of the minutes

[USC- DRAFT MINUTES- MARCH 17 2026](#)

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2. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

3. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE

4. NEW BUSINESS

5. OLD BUSINESS

- 5.1. Review University Student Commission Ordinance

[Agenda Item Report - Pdf](#)

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6. COMMISSIONER REPORTS

7. LIAISON REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 7.1. Council Liaison(s)

- 7.2. University Liaison

- 7.3. Staff Liaison(s)

8. ADJOURNMENT



MINUTES

University Student Commission Meeting

5:15 PM - Tuesday, March 17, 2026

City Hall - Conference Room A - 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing,
MI 48823

The University Student Commission of the City of East Lansing was called to order on Tuesday, March 17, 2026, at 5:15 PM, in the City Hall - Conference Room A - 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI 48823, with the following members present:

PRESENT:

EXCUSED:

1. CALL TO ORDER

Olson called the meeting to order at 5:23pm

Roll Call

Present: Olson, Cornell, Carr, McClendon, Lowen (late)

Absent: Merritt, Prelesnik, Pelon

Approval of the agenda

Motion to approve the agenda made by McClendon, second by Cornell. All present voted in favor

Approval of the minutes

Motion to approve the minutes made by Cornell, second by Carr. All present voted in favor

2. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

3. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE

4. NEW BUSINESS

Review University Student Commission Ordinance

Commissioners reviewed the language that outlines the USC membership and brainstormed ideas for potential changes. Chair Olson was selected to reach out to OISS and OMEA to see if they would like to be included in the USC membership. Olson would work with MSU Staff to identify persons to contact.

Commissioners also discussed the timing of their term. Commissioners shared that the term ending on August 31st makes more sense so that a new group can start in September.

5. OLD BUSINESS

6. COMMISSIONER REPORTS

ASMSU is working on planning their 2nd civic engagement series

7. LIAISON REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Council Liaison(s)

no updates

University Liaison

Staff Liaison(s)

8. ADJOURNMENT

motion to adjourn made by Olson, second by McClendon. All present voted in favor

Mayor

Administrative Secretary



University Student Commission **AGENDA ITEM REPORT**

To: University Student Commission
Subject: Review University Student Commission Ordinance
Meeting: University Student Commission - 07 Apr 2026
Department: University Student Commission
Staff Contact: Aleece Hodges, Housing Administrator

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The USC ordinance outlines the membership and appointment of commissioners. There are several MSU organizations mentioned in the Ordinance that no longer exist so we need to update the list and have it approved by City Council. We have also received a request from FSL to change their membership. See attachments for email from FSL and a copy of the current ordinance.

ATTACHMENTS:

[USC Code of Ordinances](#)
[FSL- USC](#)

DIVISION 9. - UNIVERSITY STUDENT COMMISSION

Sec. 2-421. - Membership; designation of members.

(a) The university student commission shall consist of 11 members appointed each October for one-year terms from each of the following student organizations:

- (1) The Inter-Fraternity Council of MSU (one).
- (2) The Panhellenic Council of MSU (one).
- (3) The Residence Halls Association of MSU (one).
- (4) The Inter-Cooperative Council of MSU (one).
- (5) Olin Health Center (one).
- (6) The MSU Council of Graduate Students (one).
- (7) The Student Assembly of the Associated Students of MSU (one).
- (8) Four members appointed at-large from the general MSU student population by the East Lansing City Council.

(b) The city manager or his or her designee shall advise each of the aforementioned student organizations in writing on or before September 1 of each year of the opportunity to designate one of their members for appointment to the commission; provided, however, should any of the student organizations fail to propose a member for appointment by September 30 of each year, the city council may appoint an additional member-at-large from the general MSU student population to fill the designated seat.

(Ord. No. 977, ch. 4, § 1.73H(1), (2), 3-19-2002; Ord. No. 1365, 1-19-2016, eff. 9-1-2016; Ord. No. 1466, 8-13-2019)

Sec. 2-422. - Duties.

It shall be the duty of the university student commission to propose programs and policies to improve student and community relationships, and to establish formal channels of communication between the university student population and the East Lansing city government. The commission shall also endeavor to represent the viewpoint of the university student population of East Lansing with respect to city policies and legislation and review issues in the city governance process that have a potential to affect the interests of the university student population and/or the regular activities usually associated with being a university student.

(Ord. No. 977, ch. 4, § 1.73H(3), 3-19-2002)

Sec. 2-423. - Inclusion of additional representatives.

The university student commission may make a recommendation to the city council to amend this division in order to include another student organization to be represented on the university student commission. No recommendation shall be made to the city council, unless approved by a two-thirds vote of the members of the university student commission and unless the organization is approved and recognized by Michigan State University. If the student organization is approved by the city council, the organization shall have one seat on the university student commission.

(Ord. No. 977, ch. 4, § 1.73H(4), 3-19-2002)

Secs. 2-424—2-440. - Reserved.

Aleece Hodges

From: Manning, Tyler <manni203@msu.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, February 11, 2026 9:00 AM
To: Aleece Hodges
Cc: Johns, Xavien
Subject: University Student Commission - Opportunity for More Representation

Hi Aleece,

I hope you've been doing well! It was good to connect with you a couple of weeks ago. I've been reflecting on part of that conversation related to the University Student Commission and the important role the commission plays in strengthening relationships between the City and students, and I wanted to explore the possibility of expanding representation to include one member each from the National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC) and the Multicultural Greek Council (MGC), in addition to the current Interfraternity Council (IFC) and Panhellenic Council (PC) representatives.

Given the commission's purpose is to elevate student perspectives, review issues impacting students, and help shape policies that support the broader university community, I believe including representatives from all four governing councils would strengthen the diversity of viewpoints at the table. NPHC and MGC organizations engage students whose leadership experiences, community partnerships, and campus engagement often differ from our historically White fraternities and sororities, and their inclusion could further enhance conversations around student success, civic engagement, and community relationships.

From a student leadership development perspective, participation on the commission would also provide additional opportunities for NPHC and MGC leaders to engage in civic processes, build relationships with City partners, and contribute to shared goals around student wellbeing and community impact. Expanding representation feels aligned with the commission's mission to reflect the breadth of the university student population while creating more inclusive pathways for student voices in local governance.

I'd love to hear your thoughts and what the appropriate next steps or conversations might look like. I'm happy to connect further or provide additional context about how our councils are structured and how representatives could be identified. I've also include Xavien Johns, our Coordinator for Fraternity and Sorority Life, who directly advises and supports the NPHC and MGC communities.

Thanks for your continued partnership; I always appreciate the collaboration between the City, our office, and our students.

Tyler S. Manning, M.A., CSAEd ([he/him](#))

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Student Affairs
Fraternity and Sorority Life
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Michigan State University occupies the ancestral, traditional, and contemporary Lands of the Anishinaabeg–Three Fires Confederacy of Ojibwe, Odawa, and Potawatomi peoples. The University resides on Land ceded in the 1819 Treaty of Saginaw.

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