

SCHOOL OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE
College of Social Science
Michigan State University

CONSTITUTION

Preamble

This Constitution is revised by the School Advisory Council of the School of Criminal Justice (SCJ) in order to provide necessary procedures for the orderly, generally understood bases for making decisions and transacting business. As an academic unit of Michigan State University, the SCJ is a community of scholars which consists of faculty and support staff. The mission of the School is as follows:

The Morrill Act of 1862 sought "to promote the liberal and practical education of the industrial classes in the several pursuits in life." More than a century after its founding under provisions of the Morrill Act, Michigan State University continues to closely adhere to these goals. Indeed, the history of this University has been described as, "a blend of technical and liberal arts education...for each new occupational group which sought the benefits of a college education."

Since its inception in 1935, the SCJ has embraced the University's founding spirit. Today, as then, the School fulfills its mission within the context of a professional education. A professional School will, by its very nature and mission, maintain close liaison with its constituency, will sponsor the kinds of research necessary to cope with current and long-term problems, and will offer a curriculum that reflects the changing needs of the student, practitioner, and academic communities. This commitment has, and will continue to be reflected in the School's curriculum, research and public service.

There are two major bases for the excellence of the SCJ. First is its holistic consideration for and integration of knowledge about the many components of the justice system. Second is its true multidisciplinary study of and research on crime and justice. Within these broadly stated dimensions, the School promotes its mission through teaching, research and publication and its strong emphasis on outreach and public service activities.

The School offers academic programs at the undergraduate, and, through the College of Social Science, doctoral levels. At the undergraduate level the curriculum emphasizes a liberal arts education to prepare students for public service in the justice system. An integral component of this preparation is the School's advocacy of applied as well as academic understanding, and both career and academic mentoring. At the masters and doctoral levels, the school prepares students for professional development in the field of criminal justice and for academic careers involving teaching and research in, and dissemination of knowledge about, criminal justice.

In support of its mission in teaching and knowledge dissemination, the School's faculty maintains an ongoing research agenda. Generally, this research is multidimensional, consisting of both basic and applied contributions, in order to meet the needs of the School's professional

constituency and the academic community in which it resides.

Another component of the School's mission is outreach and public service. These involve the sharing of expertise possessed by faculty with the School's professional constituency, various agencies involved in the administration of justice, and with the public at large. This may include such diverse activities as working with criminal justice agencies in problem-solving and basic and advanced training of justice practitioners, holding office or otherwise participating in professional and scientific organizations, and service on advisory boards. In general, faculty involvement in these areas is viewed as such an integral component of the School's mission that such outreach sets it apart from traditional disciplines and reinforces the professional model the School advocates as the cutting-edge approach to criminal justice education.

It is intended that, in all matters, a spirit of collegiality shall prevail and the members of the School shall strive to achieve consensus on all decisions that affect the School.

Article I. Name

The name of this organization is the School of Criminal Justice, here-in-after referred to as the "School."

Article II. School Advisory Council

The basic unit of governance within the School is the School Advisory Council, hereinafter referred to as "SAC."

Article III. Membership of the School Advisory Council

The following persons shall be deemed members of the SAC:

1. All regular faculty whose tenure home is the School and tenure system faculty who have at least a 25 percent appointment in the School. This category includes part-time faculty appointed under the rules of tenure and assigned to the SCJ. "Regular faculty" are defined as "all persons appointed under the rules of tenure and holding the rank of professor, associate professor, assistant professor, or instructor."
2. All fixed term faculty members who have at least a 25 percent appointment in the School. "Fixed term faculty" are defined as "all persons holding rank of professor, associate professor, assistant professor, or instructor but not appointed under the rules of tenure."
3. Academic specialists appointed under the current Michigan State University Academic Specialist Appointment System in the School.
4. One undergraduate student representing the undergraduate Criminal Justice majors, one student representing all students in the School's masters program and one Ph.D. student

representing all students enrolled in the Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Program. Per MSU Bylaws of Academic Governance, students must select their own representatives for the SAC.

Article IV. Composition of the Voting Membership of School Advisory Council

1. Regular faculty constitute the voting membership of the SAC.
2. A member of the fixed term faculty or academic specialists may petition to become a voting member of the SAC for a one-year term. The regular faculty shall approve petitions based on a majority of the voting membership present at a meeting at which there is a quorum, defined as one-half of qualified voting members of SAC plus one.
3. All non-voting members of SAC shall have a voice, but no vote, at meetings.

Article V. Voting

1. The membership of SAC may grant other academic personnel voting rights upon a majority vote of members present and eligible to vote.

A quorum, defined as one-half of qualified voting members plus one, must be present to hold any votes. On any vote, a voting member of SAC has the right to abstain or call for a vote by secret ballot. Voting will be conducted in-person, with approval based on a majority vote. However, a faculty member who is present has the right to request voting be conducted electronically after the meeting. If such a request is made, a vote will immediately be held on the issue of electronic voting, with approval based on a majority vote. If the request fails to pass, voting will proceed at the meeting.

Each member of SAC shall have one vote on all matters within the jurisdiction of SAC. There are specific matters reserved for regular faculty and not within the jurisdiction of SAC including:

- a) Policy concerning salary, leaves, insurance, retirement, and fringe benefits of faculty;
- b) Decisions concerning the appointment, salary, reappointment, promotion, tenure or dismissal of individual faculty members; including evidence from students regarding the teaching performance of faculty;
- c) Matters affecting the professional responsibility of the faculty to establish and maintain the intellectual integrity of the School.
- d) Matters regarding the curricula of the School.

Article VI. Officers

The chief executive officer of the School is the Director. The Director may from time to time designate a member of the faculty as an Acting Director to serve in the Director's place.

The procedure for the appointment of the Director shall be as provided in the current *Bylaws for Academic Governance* and current *"Hiring Procedures for Academic Administrators."*

Article VII. SAC Meetings

Meetings of the SAC shall be held at the call of the Director. A meeting shall be called at the request of one-fifth of the members of SAC when such request is made in writing to the Director.

Article VIII. Adoption and Amendments

This revision of the Constitution and/or any amendments shall be adopted when it is approved at a regularly scheduled SAC meeting, with a previously distributed agenda, by a vote of at least two-thirds of the voting members present and voting.

Article VII: Amendment

Amendments to the Constitution shall be adopted by a two-thirds vote of the regular faculty at a regularly scheduled meeting with a previously distributed agenda.

Article IX. Document History

Approved by Faculty January 13, 1969, reaffirmed June 6, 1969, "subject to ultimate approval of the Dean of the College of Social Science of those provisions in Article III of the Constitution that deal with the Directorship of the School (Faculty Meeting Minutes, June 6, 1969.) Revised at regular faculty meetings of October 9, 1970 and November 13, 1970. Revised at regular faculty meetings of September 13, 1972 and May 7, 1973, March 11, 1974. Amended at regular School Advisory Council meeting May 31, 1974. Amended at a regularly scheduled School Advisory Council meeting on March 1, 1976, Article IV, Para.3. Revisions to Constitution at a meeting of the regular faculty on October 16, 2017. Revised Constitution was approved at regularly scheduled School Advisory Council meeting on November 20, 2017.