

SAGINAW VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY

BOARD OF CONTROL MINUTES REGULAR FORMAL SESSION

MAY 10, 2019

SAGINAW VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF CONTROL

Minutes of the Regular Formal Session May 10, 2019

A regular formal session of the Board of Control was held at Saginaw Valley State University on Friday, May 10, 2019 in Wickes Hall, Room 350 at 1:30 p.m.

Trustees present included:

Scott Carmona

JoAnn Crary

Dennis Durco, Secretary

Lindsay Eggers

Bhushan Kulkarni

John Kunitzer, Vice Chair

Vicki Rupp, Treasurer

Jenee Velasquez, Chair

Donald Bachand, Ex Officio

Trustees absent included:

President's Staff present included:

Andrew Bethune, Executive Director of the SVSU Foundation

Dr. Sidney Childs, Associate Provost for Student Affairs/Dean of Students

Ellen Crane, Director of Human Resources

Dr. Deborah Huntley, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

John Kaczynski, Director of Governmental Affairs

Mary Kowaleski, Executive Assistant to the President/Secretary to the Board of Control

James Muladore, Executive Vice President for Administration & Business Affairs

Linda Sims, Executive Director of Communications & External Affairs

Dr. Mamie Thorns, Special Assistant to the President for Diversity Programs

Others present included:

J.J. Boehm	Sarah Byam	David Callejo Perez
Caitlin Coulter	Brad Jarvis	Hunter Koch
David Lewis	Kathy Lopez	Chelsea Miller
Ron Portwine	Maria Vos	Joe Wojtkiewicz

SAGINAW VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF CONTROL MINUTES MAY 10, 2019 REGULAR FORMAL SESSION INDEX OF ACTIONS

RES-2308	RESOLUTION TO HONOR PRESIDENT CHUAN LEE OF MING CHUAN UNIVERSITY, TAIWAN APPROVED2
RES-2309	RESOLUTION TO THANK CAITLIN COULTER AND THE ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES FOR THEIR SERVICE AS STUDENT ASSOCIATION MEMBERS APPROVED
RES-2310	RESOLUTION TO ELECT OFFICERS TO THE SVSU BOARD OF CONTROL APPROVED
RES-2311	RESOLUTION TO GRANT UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE DEGREES APPROVED
RES-2312	RESOLUTION TO APPROVE A POSTHUMOUS DEGREE FOR JOSEPH DUCHARME APPROVED6
RES-2313	RESOLUTION TO GRANT EMERITUS STATUS TO THOMAS KULLGREN APPROVED6
RES-2314	RESOLUTION TO APPROVE APPOINTMENT TO THE MARSHALL M. FREDERICKS SCULPTURE MUSEUM BOARD - ERIC W. PUNNETT APPROVED
RES-2315	RESOLUTION TO REAPPOINT AUDITORS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018-2019 APPROVED
BM-1216	MOTION TO MOVE TO INFORMAL SESSION TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL AND OTHER RELATED MATTERS APPROVED9
BM-1217	MOTION TO ADJOURN APPROVED10

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Velasquez called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

II. PROCEDURAL ITEMS

A. Approval of Agenda and Additions to and Deletions from Agenda

There were no additions to or deletions to the agenda.

The agenda was unanimously APPROVED as distributed.

B. Approval of the February 18, 2019 Minutes for the Regular Formal Session of the Board of Control

It was moved and supported that the minutes of the February 18, 2019 Regular Formal Session be approved.

The minutes were unanimously APPROVED as written.

C. Recognition of the Official Representative of the Faculty Association

Dr. Brad Jarvis, Vice President of the Faculty Association, offered remarks on behalf of the Faculty Association President, Dr. Deborah Bishop, who was unable to attend the meeting. Professor Jarvis conveyed congratulations and best wishes to all the graduating students.

D. Recognition of the Official Representative of the Student Association

Caitlin Coulter, President of the Student Association, shared Student Association House Resolution 18-30, entitled the "Charter Review Efficiency Act", which acts to repeal restrictions on when the Student Association charter amendments may be voted on by the student body. (Appendix One: SA Charter)

Ms. Coulter explained that the amendment would permit summer review of the charter, allowing the association to focus its attention wholeheartedly on the mission and goals of the Student Association during the fall and winter semesters. She stated that the Student Association unanimously passed House Resolution 18-30 on February 25, 2019; and the student body approved the amendment during the Student Association's Regular General Election on April 1-4, 2019.

President Bachand stated that amendments to the Student Association Constitution are considered a reserved authority in the Board of Control Bylaws which requires approval by the SVSU governing board. He noted that this action item will be placed on the June Board of Control Agenda for formal approval.

Ms. Coulter, also announced that the May Board meeting would be her last official meeting as Student Association President. She thanked the board and the university administration for all their support over the past year.

Ms. Coulter introduced Mr. Hunter Koch as the newly elected President of the Student Association. She commented that Hunter will be a great leader for the incoming Student Association.

Trustee Kulkarni mentioned that it was a pleasure to sit alongside Ms. Coulter at the SVSU Board of Control meetings throughout the past year. He stated that Caitlin always came prepared and that she did an excellent job representing the students at SVSU.

- E. Communications and Requests to Appear Before the Board
 - Kathy Lopez, Certification Officer, was introduced to the Board as Staff Member of the Month for March. (Appendix Two: Lopez)
 - Sarah Byam, Coordinator of Legal and Compliance Programs, was introduced to the Board as Staff Member of the Month for April. (Appendix Three: Byam)
 - Greetings from President Chuan Lee from Ming Chuan University

Chair Velasquez noted that President Lee was running a bit late to the meeting and would bring greetings later in the agenda.

III. ACTION ITEMS

1. Resolution to Honor President Chuan Lee of Ming Chuan University, Taiwan

RES-2308 It was moved and supported that the following resolution be adopted:

WHEREAS, Saginaw Valley State University wishes to extend its heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to President Chuan Lee for his outstanding contributions to the educational development of students and faculty through the establishment of the Ming Chuan University Educational Center in 2012 at Saginaw Valley State University; and

WHEREAS, President Lee has served with dedication and distinction as Professor and President of Ming Chuan University since 1999, has been awarded numerous honorary degrees from notable major universities and has been honored for his involvement in educational, cultural and humanitarian causes around the world. He has also been the impetus for establishing the Ming Chuan University Education and Cultural Center in Thailand and the Taiwan Education Center in Mongolia.

WHEREAS, In his position as President, he oversaw, in 2001, the establishment of Ming Chuan as the first International College with English-taught Programs in Taiwan. In 2010, he was instrumental in Ming Chuan University being accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE), making it the first U.S. accredited university in Asia; and

WHEREAS, During his years of service, he has held numerous positions as trustee, dean, vice president, professor, visiting lecturer, consultant and advisor; and

WHEREAS, President Lee has been an innovator and leader in promoting and enhancing the quality of student education and development in Asia and around the world.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Control of Saginaw Valley State University gratefully acknowledges President Lee's exemplary commitment and dedication to the University and bestow upon him (the University's most prestigious honor) with all the rights and privileges appertaining to this distinction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be framed and presented to President Lee as a permanent expression of the University's admiration and appreciation.

President Bachand extended his appreciation to President Chuan Lee for his leadership and steadfast support over the years. He commented that the relationship between Ming Chuan University and Saginaw Valley State University dates back more than two decades and is one of our strongest sister-university relationships. He explained that many tangible and significant educational benefits have resulted from this collaborative relationship; including the academic exchange of the faculty and students, the hosting each year of select leadership cohorts on both the undergraduate and school administrative levels, and the establishment of an MCU branch campus on the grounds of SVSU.

The motion was APPROVED unanimously.

2. Resolution to Thank Caitlin Coulter and the Elected Representatives for their Service as Student Association Members

RES-2309 It was moved and supported that the following resolution be adopted:

WHEREAS, Student Association President Caitlin Coulter has been actively involved in affairs of Saginaw Valley State University throughout her student years, demonstrating exceptional leadership qualities and abilities; and

WHEREAS, Caitlin Coulter and the elected representatives listed below served students and the University with dedication during the 2018-2019 academic year;

Representatives:

Trenton Basner Kayleigh Bitterman **Justine Brabaw Madison Bryce** Erik Byron **Codey Cook Caitlin Coulter** McKenna Daniel **Maxwell Gervais** Mitchell Guza **Brian Harris Darious Henry** Tanisha Hicks Karah Hoch Morgan Jensen Abigail Lawson Rachael Johnson **Hunter Koch** Kayla Lee Nora Lipetzky **Madeline Lowry** Jennifer Mason Clarence Massey Waliul Matin **Denver Milam Thomas Metiva Abdul Munaf Mohammed** Olivia Nelson Sarah Rozboril Larisa Salisbury Alison Shaina Joseph Shepherd Ryan Silvestri **Connar Suing** Sierra Szagesh **Abigail Smith Austin Teeple** Vince Trombley **Nolan Twardy Justin Weller Eric Tyson** Phoebe Vitu **Cheyenne Wilton**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Control of Saginaw Valley State University formally expresses its appreciation to Caitlin Coulter and the representatives for their dedicated service on behalf of the University and its student body.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board conveys its best wishes to Caitlin Coulter and the representatives for continued academic and future professional success.

President Bachand commented that it has been a pleasure working with Caitlin over the past year. He stated that Ms. Coulter and the entire Student Association did an outstanding job representing the University throughout the past year.

Chair Velasquez offered her appreciation and thanks on behalf of the board.

The motion was APPROVED unanimously.

3. Resolution to Elect Officers to the SVSU Board of Control

RES-2310 It was moved and supported that the following resolution be adopted:

WHEREAS, The Saginaw Valley State University Board of Control Bylaws (Article II -2.101) stipulate that a nominating committee shall be appointed by the Board to recommend candidates for each office.

WHEREAS, That effective July 1, 2019 the nominating committee recommends the following 2019-2020 slate of officers.

Chair: John Kunitzer Vice Chair: Vicki Rupp

Secretary: Bhushan Kulkarni Treasurer: Dennis Durco

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the nominating committee elects the officers to the Saginaw Valley State University Board of Control for a one-year term ending June 30, 2020.

The motion was APPROVED unanimously.

4. Resolution to Grant Undergraduate and Graduate Degrees

RES-2311 It was moved and supported that the following resolution be adopted:

WHEREAS, Saginaw Valley State University is granted the authority to confer undergraduate and graduate degrees as outlined in Section 5 of Public and Local Acts of Michigan 1965; and

WHEREAS, Operating Policy 3.101 Article III of the Board reserves to the Board the authority to grant degrees.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Control of Saginaw Valley State University approves the awarding of undergraduate and graduate degrees at the May 10 and May 11, 2019 Commencement ceremonies as certified by the faculty and Registrar.

President Bachand commented that nearly 1,000 students are expected to participate in the May 2019 Commencement ceremonies.

The motion was APPROVED unanimously.

5. Resolution to Approve a Posthumous Degree for Joseph DuCharme

RES-2312 It was moved and supported that the following resolution be adopted:

WHEREAS, Saginaw Valley State University grieves the loss of Mr. Joseph DuCharme and is committed to expressing sympathy and compassion to his family and friends; and

WHEREAS, Mr. DuCharme was near completion of his degree and was in excellent academic standing having obtained a GPA of 3.55; and,

WHEREAS, it is the recommendation of the department of Mechanical Engineering, the Dean of the College of Science, Engineering and Technology and the Provost and approved by the President that Mr. DuCharme be granted an honorary posthumous Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Posthumous Degree for Joseph DuCharme be approved.

President Bachand stated that Joseph DuCharme will receive an honorary posthumous degree at this evening's ceremony. He noted that Mr. DuCharme was a student in the College of Science, Engineering and Technology nearing completion of his Mechanical Engineering degree and he was in excellent academic standing, having obtained a GPA of 3.55.

The campus community grieves the loss of Mr. Joseph DuCharme, stated President Bachand, and the university expresses sympathy and compassion to his family and friends.

The motion was APPROVED unanimously.

6. Resolution to Grant Emeritus Status to Thomas Kullgren

RES-2313 It was moved and supported that the following resolution be adopted:

WHEREAS, Saginaw Valley State University grants emeritus/emerita status to retiring faculty/administrators who have served the University with distinction; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Thomas Kullgren gave 34 years of service to SVSU, having arrived at Saginaw Valley College in 1984, to serve as Dean of the College of Science, Engineering and Technology for almost two decades until leaving that position in 2003 to return to teaching as a full-time Professor of Mechanical Engineering until his retirement in December 2018, and as he was dedicated to serving the university in numerous capacities, including serving as Chairperson of both the Curriculum and Academic Policy Committee and Professional Practices Committee, and faculty representative on the Energy Minor Committee, and many faculty evaluation teams; and

WHEREAS, in his career at SVSU, Dr. Kullgren played a crucial role as the original leader, mentor and advocate of the Engineering programs, leading to the initial and continuous accreditations of both the Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering and Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering programs and has continued to ensure the success of engineering at SVSU; and

WHEREAS, his exceptional leadership began long before his tenure at SVSU, as evidenced by his American Wind Energy Association Leadership Award (1984) and recognition as a nation-wide Top Retired Recruiter for the Air Force Academy (1994); and

WHEREAS, in addition to being a respected leader, Dr. Kullgren was an outstanding educator who was a role model to his fellow educators in the Department of Mechanical Engineering, where he regularly mentored students and directed senior design projects, even teaching regularly throughout his role as Dean, this exemplary dedication to teaching and his students was recognized in 2003 by the naming of the Kullgren Student Lounge and Library in Pioneer Hall; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Kullgren has remained dedicated to his field of study by authoring 15 technical publications, co-authoring SVSU assessment manuals for the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology, and serving as the Principal Investigator for the Department of Energy-Small Business Innovation Research and Education Chair for the nation's largest region of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers where, in addition to his duties as Chair, he organized the regional student conference and acted as principal speaker; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Kullgren's service to the community is admirable, serving as a consultant to many local businesses, including the Dow Corning Corporation, Gougeon Brothers and General Motors – Saginaw Division; and

WHEREAS, over the course of his career, he has positively affected thousands of individuals, including students, industry, faculty and administration and his leadership and numerous contributions will be missed at SVSU.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT Dr. Thomas Kullgren be recognized as Professor Emeritus.

The motion was APPROVED unanimously.

7. Resolution to Approve Appointment to the Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum Board - Eric W. Punnett

WHEREAS, The Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum Board is comprised of qualified individuals who have the responsibility of advising the President and the University Board of Control regarding major decisions of the Museum; and

WHEREAS, The Museum Board recommends that Eric W. Punnett be appointed to fill a three-year term from July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2022.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the appointed member serves on the Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum Board as stipulated in the museum bylaws.

RES-2314 It was moved and supported that the following resolution be adopted:

The motion was APPROVED unanimously.

8. Resolution to Reappoint Auditors for Fiscal Year 2018-2019

RES-2315 It was moved and supported that the following resolution be adopted:

WHEREAS, It is a good management practice to have conducted an annual independent financial audit; and,

WHEREAS, Andrews Hooper Pavlik PLC (AHP) submitted a proposal to the University to provide financial audit services for a five-year period beginning with fiscal year 2016 through fiscal year 2020; and,

WHEREAS, The Business, Finance and Audit & Facilities Committee has reviewed and finds satisfactory the past performance of AHP and as a result recommends this firm's reappointment for fiscal year 2018-2019;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That AHP be reappointed to conduct the fiscal year 2018-2019 financial audit.

The motion was APPROVED unanimously.

IV. INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

V. REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT

President Bachand commented that it was a great honor to welcome President Chuan Lee and his delegation from our sister-institution in Taiwan. President Bachand stated that President Lee and his delegation will take part in the May Commencement ceremony.

President Bachand stated that five years ago, SVSU and MCU reached an agreement to offer a joint master's degree, and he noted that the fourth group of students are graduating this semester. President Bachand thanked President Lee and his delegation for traveling from Taiwan to celebrate with our students.

Chair Velasquez welcomed President Lee and his delegation. She commented that it was a great honor to visit MCU a few years ago. She thanked President Lee for his commitment to promoting and enhancing the quality of student education in Asia and around the world.

Trustee Carmona stated that he had the privilege to attend MCU's anniversary celebration in Taiwan this past spring. He thanked President Lee and MCU for their kind hospitality during his recent visit.

Trustee Carmona commented that SVSU and MCU have experienced a solid and progressive relationship for nearly two decades and the exchange programs between the two fine universities are enhanced with the branch campus of MCU located on the campus of SVSU. Trustee Carmona offered special thanks to Dr. Robert Yien for his steadfast efforts in building a special relationship between the two institutions. Trustee Carmona stated that he looks forward to the possibilities that lay ahead for both institutions in the years to come.

President Lee offered remarks stating that it was a great honor to visit Saginaw Valley State University once again to celebrate Commencement. He noted that over the past several years, Ming Chuan University has built a close relationship with Saginaw Valley State University and the two institutions have developed several successful exchange programs.

Over the years, President Lee stated, SVSU has sent many of their Roberts Fellows and several groups of Michigan educators, through the Gerstacker Fellowship Program, for educational visits at MCU in Taiwan. He added that MCU has sent more than 200 students to study on the Cardinals' campus in Saginaw.

President Lee expressed his appreciated, "Without SVSU's significant cooperation, MCU could not have made educational history in Taiwan as the first Taiwan university to have a U.S. campus." He explained that with support from SVSU, MCU officially established operations on the SVSU campus in 2013, which is known as Ming Chuan University-Michigan Location and is recognized by both Michigan State Government and the Taiwan Ministry of Education.

President Lee commented that he is looking forward to developing further collaborative efforts in the future.

VI. OTHER ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

9. Motion to Move to Informal Session to Discuss Personnel and Other Related Matters

BM-1216 It was moved and supported that the Board move to Informal Session To Discuss Personnel and Other Related Matters

The motion was APPROVED unanimously.

The Board moved to Informal Session at 2:25 p.m. and reconvened in Regular Formal Session at 4:15 p.m. with Board members Carmona, Crary, Durco, Eggers, Kulkarni, Kunitzer, Rupp and Velasquez. Also, in attendance: President Bachand, Provost Huntley and Mary Kowaleski.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

10. Motion to Adjourn

BM-1217 It was moved and supported that the meeting be adjourned.

The motion was APPROVED unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Jenge Velasquez, Chair

Dennis Durco, Secretary

Mary Kowaleski Recording Secretary

Page 1 of 2



Saginaw Valley State University Student Association

HOUSE RESOLUTION 18-30

FEBRUARY 23, 2019; introduced by Representatives KOCH, LIPETZKY, and HERNANDEZ.

A resolution entitled "CHARTER REVIEW EFFICIENCY ACT" to amend the Student Association Charter to repeal restrictions on when during the year that charter amendments may be voted on by the student body.

THE STUDENTS OF SAGINAW VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY ENACT:

- WHEREAS, over the Spring and Summer semester of the 2018-19 Student Association, comprehensive bylaw review was efficient because of the designated time outside of the Fall and Winter semesters which could be designated toward it, and
- WHEREAS, the Fall and Winter semesters have important events which need full attention from the entire association without the distraction of Charter Review, and
- WHEREAS, the 2019-2020 Student Association is mandated to perform Charter Review per the Student Association Charter, now therefore be it,
- RESOLVED, that the 2018-2019 Student Association approve the amendment to the charter amendment proposed by HR045-05, and be it
- RESOLVED, that the amendment be placed on the ballot for student body ratification during the Regular General Election for the Student Association in the Winter 2019 semester.

Placed on the floor on FEBRUA	RY 25, 2019	and is ADOPTED) FAILED
With a vote of 3/ in the Affirmati	ve. ()	Against, and Abstentions.
MMID		en (outen, president
HOUSE RESOLUTION 18-30 / Speaker	PAGE 1	SVSU STUDENT ASSOCIATION

Appendix One: SA Charter

Page 2 of 2

APPENDIX A.

Resolution #: HR045-05

Resolution Title: Resolution to amend Article VI and VII of the SA Charter

Date Approved by House: September 26, 2005

Date Approved by Students: Approved

Date Approved by Board of Control: Approved

Changes Made: This lowered the petition requirement for referendum from 10% to 5%. This added the provision that allocations are not subject to referendum. This added definition for threshold of proposing amendments to the Charter; previously 3/4s of the Representatives and 10% of the students were not stipulated. Finally, charter amendment proposals occur at the next regular election, and not within twenty business days. Charter amendment proposals must be approved at least twenty-one days before any student body vote on such amendment.

Kathy López

Certification Officer • March Staff Member of the Month

Kathy López has worked and studied all across SVSU's campus all her adult life. The College of Education certification officer graduated from SVSU in 1978 with a bachelor's degree in Spanish, but that was only the beginning of her experience at the university.

She worked in the Office of Admissions for 12 years — from 1984 to 1996 — before spending time in Transfer Student Programs, Graduate Admissions and the Academic Achievement Center. She joined the staff in the College of Education in 1999 and took on her current role eight years later.

As the certification officer, she acts as a liaison between the university and the Michigan Department of Education staff in Lansing.

"It's my job to make sure that our teaching programs meet current state standards and that our students and faculty are aware of changing certification requirements," she said.

López also works with the College of Education faculty to develop new programs to send to the MDE for consideration and approval.

"The best part of my job, though, is recommending our candidates to the MDE for their teaching certificates once everything has been completed," she said.

As part of her job, she and her College of Education colleagues are facing numerous challenges in today's K-12 education environment. The MDE is currently recommending restructuring teacher certification qualifications, which would require SVSU and

other Michigan-based institutions with colleges of education to redesign aspects of current academic programs.

That challenge is arriving at a time when SVSU's College of Education is playing a vital role in helping fill the teacher shortage occurring throughout the state.

"We're working with the MDE and local districts to identify ways to get our candidates into classrooms sooner without compromising their preparation," she said. "Our popular one-year post-baccalaureate Accelerated Certification Program with Residency is just one example of this collaboration."

This program is a non-degree preparation program that includes a required residency in a school setting while taking professional courses throughout the fall and winter semesters at SVSU. This is available to individuals who already possess a bachelor's degree.

Helping SVSU answer these challenges exposes López to one of the favorite aspects of her job: working with students, the campus community and her peers in higher education.

"Most days, I have appointments with undergraduate and graduate students regarding their programs," she said. "The rest of the time is spent in meetings with College of Education faculty and faculty from our other colleges. I also enjoy getting off campus to meet with community college partners and colleagues from other colleges and universities."



Sarah Byam

Coordinator of Legal & Compliance Programs • April Staff Member of the Month

Sarah Byam appreciates attention to detail. Her own mindfulness regarding specifics is critical to her many responsibilities as SVSU's coordinator of legal and compliance programs.

But there's at least one detail related to work that continues to elude her: "I probably need to get a Fitbit, just to see how much I walk at work," she says. "I definitely get my steps in each day, though."

Byam splits her time between three offices, all at relatively distant points on campus. There's her third floor Wickes Hall space, located near the Office of General Counsel she regularly assists. There's the room in Ryder Center where she performs Athletics-related compliance work. And there's the space in the University Police office, where her work largely centers on ensuring the university's compliance with the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy — although she soon will hand over her responsibilities there to another staff member.

"There's never a dull moment at work, and I enjoy that," she says. "My position is unique in that I do lots of different things for different offices and I am constantly working with different people in different parts of campus."

Byam says it's difficult to describe her average day at work because no two days are the same.

"It's fast-paced, and I'm helping everybody that I can," she says. She began in the role more than two years ago, but the Grand Ledge native's beginnings at SVSU date back to the late 1990s, when she worked as a graduate assistant in what is now the Scott L. Carmona College of Business & Management. Byam received a master's degree in business administration from SVSU in 2000. Shortly thereafter, she was hired as a staff member with Housing, where she helped SVSU during a period of massive growth in its residential housing and accompanying population.

Byam, though, left SVSU for about a decade to focus on raising her three children, the oldest of which now is nearly ready to graduate high school. Her husband is Brooks Byam, professor of mechanical engineering.

Sarah Byam returned to the university in 2013 to serve as an administrative assistant for Administration and Business Affairs, where she worked prior to accepting her current role.

When she isn't working or spending time with family, Byam enjoys traveling, spending time at the family cottages and yard work. She is excited that soon the warming weather will allow her to tend to the yard at her Saginaw Township home. Her relatively extensive hikes at work don't deter her one of her favorite aspects of yard work.

"I find that it's very therapeutic to mow the lawn," she says.

