

3R Teach-in/Learn-in: Building a Just MSU

Tuesday, February 27, 2018

9:00am-4:30pm

MSU Union Ballroom

Introduction

Over the past month, Michigan State University has been in the national spotlight for the horrific actions of someone who worked among us for decades. The courageous statements of survivors revealed not only a predator in our midst, but also the deeply problematic culture and flawed institutional structures that allowed him to operate. Nassar is gone, but the environment that allowed him to operate remains in place. Inspired by the survivors' bravery and determination, we know that we must rebuild MSU to make it a safer and more inclusive university.

In that spirit, the students, staff, and faculty of MSU's three residential colleges have planned a day-long Teach-In/Learn-In on Tuesday, February 27, from 9:00am-4:30pm in the MSU Union Ballroom. Students, staff, advisors, alumni, faculty, and friends are invited to come together to share stories, ask and answer questions, and take our first steps toward building a better MSU.

A Teach-In is an act of protest that empowers participants to be agents of change. It began in 1965 at the University of Michigan as a way for faculty and students to address vexing issues of their day. A Teach-In requires all participants to be both teachers and learners, working together in the knowledge that the bounds of normal academic learning are too narrow to successfully confront the challenges we face. As such, a Teach-In intentionally disrupts daily routines and endows participants with the knowledge needed to build the culture they want to see.

We believe that the different emphases, expertise, and cultures of the three residential universities provide a unique opportunity for us to learn from each other and to forge a path forward together. In doing so, we can set an example for the entire university.

We encourage faculty think flexibly about how best to encourage your students to attend in ways that fit with your educational agendas, be it by holding classes at the teach-in, cancelling classes, or excusing absent students who attend the event. Students, please watch for information from your professors about how they will adapt their class schedules during the week before spring break.

Event Description

Overview

The event will begin with short welcome, including a land recognition and introduction to the format and planned events. This will be followed by session on deep listening and dialogue, in preparation for a moderated community forum in which students, staff, advisors, and faculty can discuss concerns and develop shared priorities. This will be followed by box lunch and then a series of breakout sessions that focus on more specific ideas and issues related to our current challenges.

Community Mural

In the morning through the end of lunch, a mural will be available that allows all participants to contribute to a word and art cloud that sets the agenda of why we are disrupting our schedules for the day to teach and learn. This mural will allow participants visually to emphasize the topics they think are most important, and will also result in artwork that could be displayed after the event.

Breakout Sessions

Some of the breakout sessions have been planned in advance with invited experts leading them. Examples include student voice, university governance, intersectionality, bystander training, and consent. These planned breakout sessions were organized with input from students, faculty, and staff at the three colleges, under the coordination of a steering committee from the three colleges.

Using an “unconference” style, other breakout sessions will be open to students, staff, and faculty to sign up for spontaneously on site. The mural created during the morning session will act as a guiding document for the afternoon’s open sessions. In the spirit of a teach-in, we are giving participants the space to articulate their concerns and empower everyone to make this the learning and teaching experience participants want it to be. In order to protect participants and to ensure these opportunities are met with the seriousness and sensitivity required, we will require that at least two student leaders and one faculty or staff moderator sign up for the sessions. Faculty and staff who are comfortable helping to moderate a student-led session will wear a ribbon or badge as a notifier. The steering committee is open to other thoughtful criteria that balances the spirit of open, grassroots organizing with the need for care in reality of the current campus climate.

We anticipate the community forum in the morning will spur ideas for participants to guide the agenda throughout the day. We propose open sessions in addition to the pre-planned sessions so that there are opportunities for students, with the help of staff and faculty, to have a say in what they want out of the event. Our hope is that students will take the lead and shape the event so that it is most beneficial to them. Students have expertise of their own to share. We imagine a wide range of topics will come up, including practical topics like community organizing and activism and cultural topics, like intersectionality or power and discrimination on college campuses. We also anticipate practice based topics, such as artmaking and performance will be

among the kinds of sessions offered, contributing to the creative spirit of the event. Our hope is that students rise to the occasion and make the event their own.

Self Care and Safety

Safety and sensitivity are top priorities. We are inviting licensed counselors and trained professionals who will be onsite to assist and support participants.

Please see the schedule below.

Schedule

Morning Plenary	
9:00-9:30	Coffee, light breakfast, introductions
9:30 - 12:00	Welcome session: Welcome, statement of purpose, land recognition Training: How to listen and engage in meaningful dialogue Community Forum: Sharing our stories. This will be an open discussion among students, staff, and faculty to share experiences across the colleges. This will be a moderated session during which organizers will walk through the room with microphones so that participants can speak.
12:00 - 1:00	Provided box lunch and open session sign-up time
Afternoon Breakout Sessions (Between 4 and 6 simultaneous breakout sessions will be offered in each of the three time slots)	
1:00 - 1:50	To be finalized
2:00 - 2:50	To be finalized
3:00 - 3:50	To be finalized
Closing Session	
4:00 - 4:30	The three colleges will all come together again to reflect on what we have accomplished over the course of the day and to suggest next steps. Facilitated by TBD
4:30-6:00	Panel Discussion: Building Community, Resisting Hate