



IPEC

Institute for Policy, Ethics, and Culture

**Michigan
Technological
University**

FY22 Annual Report

Jennifer Daryl Slack, Director

Mission Statement, Vision, and Core Values

The mission of the Institute for Policy, Ethics, and Culture is to promote research, policy engagement, and teaching that address the ethical and cultural challenges, implications, and strategies unique to the emerging technocultural environment. By bringing policy, ethics, and culture into the center of inquiry, IPEC creates collaborations on topics key to understanding technocultural change: issues such as algorithmic culture, medicine, biotechnology, and ethics; technology and autonomy; surveillance and privacy; and reconfiguring human relationships in and with a changing environment. The institute brings together faculty and staff from diverse departments to collaborate on and support research, policy, and teaching that respond to the changing technological environment. IPEC is where digital media and communication experts, public policy analysts, ethicists, philosophers, computer scientists, environmental chemists, artists, musicians, and engineers explore the policy implications, ethical considerations, and cultural significance of life in an interconnected world.

Summary of FY Activities and Highlights

a. Primary Activities & Accomplishments

Sponsored Events

IPEC hosted the Lives in Transition Speaker Series, February 22-March 17, 2022, which included six virtual speakers, class visits, and related events. The estimated participation was 700+ and collaborators included the Rozsa Center for the Performing Arts, Office of Vice President of Diversity and Inclusion, the Portage Lake District Library, and MIHumanities. IPEC members chose speakers, interviewed speakers in the live broadcast, and hosted speakers in classroom settings. New members were welcomed to IPEC through this event.

IPEC co-sponsored with the Rozsa Center for the Performing Arts 6 performances of “The Thanksgiving Play,” March 31-April 2, 2021. IPEC members participated in post-performance panels to engage the audience in discussion of the cultural and ethical issues raised by the play. IPEC participated in planning the Great Lakes Research Center World Water Day for FY22.

External Funding

“Coastal Community Resilience Research and Training Experience (CO-CREATE)”, a \$2 million NSF-National Research Trainee (NRT) grant submitted with PI Judith Perlinger (CEGE), was denied. The team remains committed to on-going project collaboration and a grant resubmission in 2023 with PI Dave Watkins. Institute Manager Erin Syth provided primary submission support on “Center

for Achieving Net Zero (CANZ) in Northern Regions,” a \$30 million submission with PI Chelsea Schelly which was denied. Erin Syth was awarded a \$1,500 grant from MI Humanities in support of the IPEC speaker series. Two NEA grants submitted by PI Libby Meyer, both titled “New Music at Michigan Tech,” one valued at \$100,000 and one valued at \$48,615, are currently pending. “Collaborative Research: GP-GO: Climate Leaders Academy: A Professional Development Opportunity in the Geosciences,” a \$206,943 NSF grant submitted by PI Sarah Green is currently pending. Manager Syth provided project support on PI Sarah Green’s grant “Collaborative Conference: Road from Glasgow,” including conference organization, website consultation, and the facilitation of participation support payments.

Curricular Development

Director Slack guided the IPEC proposal for the Policy, Ethics, and Culture PhD program (PEC PhD) through the university process beginning in September 2021. The proposal was submitted by the Provost and Dean of the Graduate School to the University Senate in March 2022.

Staffing

In support of both the PEC PhD and IPEC research, and in collaboration with the Vice President for Research and Associate Vice President for Research Development, Director Slack and the IPEC Executive Committee developed and posted a position for an IPEC research scholar in applied ethics.

Building University and Community Collaboration, Diversity, and Inclusion

As part of IPEC’s mission to build collaborations, diversity, and inclusion across campus and with the larger community, collaborations in 2022 include working with Civil and Environmental Engineering, The Great Lakes Research Center, the Rosza Center for the Performing Arts, the Office of the Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion, the College of Forest Resources and Environmental Science, and the Portage Lake District Library. The IPEC Director and Institute Manager held a consultation with Health Research Institute (HRI) Director Caryn Heldt and Manager Grace Schmidt on DEI recruitment, retention, and mentoring.

International and Corporate Collaboration

Manager Syth established and continues to maintain three working groups within the IKEA, Linnaeus University, and Michigan Tech partnership. The 17-member group is working toward mutually beneficial collaborative research projects and educational opportunities. Currently, an international Enterprise Team is being organized for the 2022-2023 academic year. Exploration of an Innovations Master’s program at Tech, similar to that of Linnaeus University, is in process. Associate Professor Reza Hosseinpourpia of Linnaeus is now adjunct faculty with CFRES. Syth traveled to Växjö and Älmhult, Sweden with CFRES faculty where her presentation on the PEC PhD program was well-received by Linnaeus faculty as a potential next step for graduates of their

Innovation Master's program. Syth met with faculty and the Swedish American Chamber of Commerce regarding the new SIREUS program which is designed to facilitate U.S./Swedish exchanges with researchers and students. It is a new program with potential for future funding opportunities.

Promoting IPEC's Mission

To promote IPEC's mission, an interview with President Koubek by Director Slack was professionally produced and posted on the IPEC website: mtu.edu/ipec.

i. Governance Structure

Having emerged from the Policy, Ethics, and Culture Tech Forward Initiative, IPEC was approved on September 12, 2019. The institute differs somewhat from the culture of institutes at Michigan Tech in that, as can be seen from the mission statement, it equally emphasizes support for research and researchers, curriculum development, and programming for the university and broader community.

The PEC Tech Forward initiative leader, Distinguished Professor of Communication and Cultural Studies Jennifer Daryl Slack, was appointed by the Provost and Vice President for Research to be director of the institute. The PEC Tech Forward committee became the executive committee of IPEC and several new members were added to increase representation. The executive board must consist of over 50% faculty, but includes professional staff. It currently consists of 10 members representing Humanities, Social Science, Business, Visual and Performing Arts, Biological Sciences, Chemistry, Advancement, and University Marketing and Communications. IPEC membership includes research and teaching faculty, professional staff, graduate students, and an honorary community member from the Portage Lake District Library.

ii. Qualifications for Affiliation

To become a member, individuals fill out a form available on the IPEC website in which they are asked to 1) request affiliation, 2) explain how their research interests connect with IPEC, 3) agree to link their profiles to the IPEC website, and 4) agree to consider IRAD designation to the institute when proposals warrant it.

iii. New Members

Eight new members joined IPEC in FY22.

iv. Member Involvement

In-person gatherings remained limited during FY22 due to the pandemic. In addition to executive committee meetings and a general membership meeting each term, current and new IPEC members participated in planning and delivering the IPEC virtual speaker series, "Lives in

Transition.” Members interviewed speakers during live broadcasts, hosted visits to classes, and participated in follow-up discussion. Executive members are consulted on major decisions, such as on the establishment of a small grants program. All members were invited to contribute suggestions and feedback during the process of designing and proposing the PEC PhD. A minimum of two executive committee meetings are held each year and two general membership meetings are held each fall and spring term.

v. Member Capacity to Pursue External Sponsored Funding

IPEC continues to build member capacity to pursue external sponsored funding through increasing membership, networking to create more campus awareness of IPEC as a grant-writing partner for other units, and increasing the capacity of the institute manager to facilitate grant submissions. A fund was developed to support IPEC members with a competitive small grants program that supports seed grants, matching grants, and research publication costs.

Institute Manager Syth has developed her capacity to provide support for sponsored research. She is a member of the National Organization of Research Development Professionals and the Society of Research Administrators International, holds regular meetings with other R&D professionals on campus, and attended the following conferences and webinars in FY21: INSciTS 13th Annual International Science of Team Science Conference, August 1-3, 2022; Shaping Interdisciplinary practices in Europe “Professionalising Inter- and Transdisciplinary Expertise” webinar, November 4, 2021; Society of Research Administrators International “Administrative Challenges to Translational Science” webinar, February 9, 2022.

b. Member List Appendix

See page 8.

Budget Overview

a. FY21 Budget Summary

FY21 Major Expenditures

Guest Lecturers	\$25,831
Director Salary	\$15,003
Institute Manager Salary	\$33,363
Project Manager Salary	\$4,691
Fringes	\$21,086
MIHumanities Matching Grant	\$1,500
Supplies	\$652
Qualtrics Software	\$500
Total	\$102,626

b. PEC IRAD

IPEC will use its \$4,327.18 FY22 IRAD funds to support the institute manager’s efforts to assist faculty efforts to develop proposals for external funding by applying them to the manager's salary.

c. List of IPEC Proposals Submitted

FY22 IPEC-Involved External Funding Submissions			
<u>Principal Investigator/Members</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Grant Amount</u>	<u>Status</u>
Chelsea Schelly	Center for Achieving Net Zero (CANZ) in Northern Regions	\$30 million	Denied
Jennifer Daryl Slack Alex Morrison Andrew Fiss Val Gagnon Wayne Gersie	Coastal Community Resilience Research and Training Experience (CO-CREATE) NRT	\$2 million	Denied
Sarah Green	Collaborative Research: GP-GO: Climate Leaders Academy: a professional development opportunity in the geosciences	\$206,943	Pending
Erin Syth	MIHumanities Bridging Michigan FY21: Lives in Transition	\$1,500	Awarded

d. Budget Projection

ASPIRE 5-year Forecast					
Proposals in Progress (2)	\$212,980	\$10,025	\$0	\$0	\$0
Anticipated Awards (3)	\$28,130	\$46,548	\$15,176	\$7,841	\$0
IRAD Returns	\$3,937	\$1,814	\$331	\$171	\$0

Future Plans and Goals

a-e.

IPEC intends to increase external funding projects by 100% in FY23. We will promote the small grant program for members, organize research-related member events, increase general membership, and invest in professional development for the institute manager. The Institute Director will continue the process of obtaining Senate, MTU administration, Board of Trustees, and State Of Michigan approvals for the PEC PhD and begin recruiting for a fall 2023 launch of the degree program.

As IPEC develops, we will require a conference room and offices for additional personnel: support staff, graduate students, and postdocs. Our expectation is that these would be funded through a combination of support from the Graduate School, departments, foundations, endowments, donations, and IRAD.

Challenges and Barriers

Most of our active grant seeking members have primary affiliations with other institutes and are directing their grants through those institutes (most commonly GLRC, ICC, and ESC). While we plan to alleviate this stress-point by making members more aware of our ability to generate MOUs with other institutes, it may be that members are considering the “Only one Institute or Center is allowed per project” wording on the transmittal document as a directive.

In an effort to promote transdisciplinary work, we would like to see digital measures that value and better reflect faculty transdisciplinary collaboration, and for the work to be rewarded in promotion and merit evaluations; also, for co-teaching to be promoted campus-wide.

Given the nature of collaborations in transdisciplinary grant work, a reporting structure in ASPIRE and the Annual Report that truly reflects the work of all participants on a multiple institute/center project could be better formalized.

Member List Appendix

People

Institute Director—Dr. Jennifer Daryl Slack, Distinguished Professor of Communications and Cultural Studies, Humanities

Institute Manager—Erin Syth

Executive Committee Members

Jennifer Daryl Slack

Distinguished Professor of Communications and Cultural Studies, Humanities

Amy Marcarelli

Professor, Biological Sciences; Director, Ecosystem Science Center; Director, Aquatics Analysis Shared Facility

William Roberts

Vice President for Advancement and Alumni Engagement; Vice President, Michigan Tech Fund

Sarah Green

Interim Department Chair, Chemistry; Professor, Chemistry

Libby Meyer

Teaching Professor, Visual and Performing Arts; Director, Music Composition Program

Roman Sidortsov

Associate Professor, Energy Policy

Soonkwan Hong

Associate Professor of Marketing, College of Business

Alexandra Morrison

Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Humanities

Stefanie Sidortsova

Executive Director for Communications, University Marketing and Communications

Mary Jennings

Director, Rozsa Center for the Performing Arts

General Membership

<u>College</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>First Name</u>	<u>Last Name</u>
College of Sciences and Arts	Humanities	Jason	Archer
College of Sciences and Arts	PhD Student, Humanities	Kendall	Belopavlovich
College of Computing	Computer Science	Laura	Brown
College of Sciences and Arts	PhD Student, Environmental and Energy Policy	Josephine	Amponsem
College of Sciences and Arts	PhD Student, Environmental and Energy Policy	Aritra	Chakrabarty
College of Sciences and Arts	Humanities	Jennifer	Daryl Slack
	Director for the Center for Diversity and Inclusion	Gabriel	Escobedo
College of Sciences and Arts	Humanities	Andrew	Fiss
College of Forest Resources and Environmental Science, GLRC		Valoree	Gagnon
	Office of the Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion	Wayne	Gersie
College of Sciences and Arts	Chemistry	Sarah	Green
College of Sciences and Arts	MS Student, Environmental and Energy Policy	Zachary	Hough Solomon
College of Engineering	Chemical Engineering	Caryn	Heldt
College of Business		Soonkwan	Hong
College of Sciences and Arts	Humanities	Dany	Jacob
College of Sciences and Arts	Visual and Performing Arts	Mary	Jennings
	Biological Sciences	Amy	Marcarelli
College of Sciences and Arts	Visual and Performing Arts	Libby	Meyer
College of Sciences and Arts	Humanities	Alexandra	Morrison
College of Sciences and Arts	Visual and Performing Arts	Lara	Neves
College of Sciences and Arts	PhD Student, Humanities	Favour	Normeshie
College of Sciences and Arts	Social Sciences	Susanna	Peters
College of Sciences and Arts	Adjunct Instructor	Jennifer	Rachels
College of Sciences and Arts	Social Sciences	Mark	Rhodes
	Advancement	William	Roberts
College of Forest Resources and		Mark	Rudnicki

Environmental Science			
College of Sciences and Arts	Social Sciences	Roman	Sidortsov
	University Marketing and Communications	Stefanie	Sidortsova
	Portage Lake District Library	Michael	Stanitis
College of Sciences and Arts	Cognitive and Learning Sciences	Kelly	Steelman
College of Sciences and Arts	Humanities	Kette	Thomas
College of Computing	Computer Science	Leo	Ureel
College of Forest Resources and Environmental Science	MS Student, Applied Ecology	Cassandra	Van Dam
College of Forest Resources and Environmental Science	Distinguished Professor	John	Vucetich
	Great Lakes Research Center	Erika	Vye
College of Computing	Computer Science	Charles	Wallace
College of Sciences and Arts	Social Sciences	Adam	Wellstead
College of Sciences and Arts	Social Sciences	Richelle	Winkler