

The University Senate of Michigan Technological University

Proposal 39-22

(Voting Units: ~~Academic~~ Full Senate)

“Amending the Scheduling of Spring Break in Senate Procedure 101.1.1”

Introduced by: The Academic and Instructional Policy Committee and the University Registrar

I. Introduction

The scheduling of dates in the academic calendar is regulated by [Senate Procedure 101.1.1: Guidelines for an Academic Calendar of 14 Weeks](#). According to the Spring semester guidelines, “Spring break will be for one week following the eighth week of the semester.” There appears to be no compelling reason for continuing to schedule Spring break after week eight, while there are arguments for the utility of moving the break to the week following the seventh week of the semester.

II. Rationale

The basis for scheduling the break after week eight, rather than after the week seven midpoint of the semester, appears to be an artifact of when our semester system was 15 weeks plus a week of finals (Fall 2000 through Spring 2004). However, the current scheduling creates an awkward break immediately following the first week of the second seven-week half-semester session. The growth of certificate programs and the global campus program has meant an increasing number of half-semester offerings. Moving the timing of Spring break will better position us to continue developing those programs. Furthermore, moving the break would also serve as a more natural respite for students and instructors following the customary scheduling of midterms in week seven.

III. Proposal

It is proposed that the wording in Senate Procedure 101.1.1 related to Spring break be changed from “the eighth week of the semester” to read in full, “Spring break will be for one week following the seventh week of the semester.” This change would go into effect starting with the 2023-24 academic calendar.