University Senate Report

Presented to the Board of Trustees
April 29, 2016

Marty Thompson, President
University Senate
University Senate
Accomplishments
2015-16

1. Advancing the academic goals of Michigan Tech.
2. Express the concerns of our constituents
3. Responding to new trends in assessment and graduate education
Curricular Policy Committee

1. Proposals: 19
2. Shelved programs: 8
   a. Most were following a trend to end certain certifications in favor of (existing/new) minors.
3. New programs: 9
   a. PhD in Applied Physics
   b. MS in Cybersecurity
   c. 7 Minors, including a Minor in leadership
General Education and Assessment Committee

1. Proposals: 1
   a. Liaisons from each department or school

2. Reports: 2
   a. One each from past and present Assoc. Provost

3. Assessment
   a. Developing proper infrastructures to enhance communication between departments, schools, graduate school, etc.
Academic and Instructional Policy Committee

1. Proposals: 5
   a. Scheduling exams during career day
   b. Exam policies (2)
   c. Academic calendar
   d. Early term survey*
      i. Additional questions focused on the classroom climate with the goal of responsiveness

2. Report: 1
   a. Inclusion*
Research Policy Committee

1. Proposals: 0
2. Reports: 1
   a. Library: Journal subscriptions & trends in pricing
Finance & Institutional Planning Committee

1. Proposals: 2 (co-developed with FBC)
   a. Proposal 2-16: tuition waivers for employees taking Tech courses for professional development.

2. Reports: 2
   a. Salary comparison studies for both faculty and professional staff
Fringe Benefits Committee

1. Proposals: 4

2. Reports: 2
   a. Retirement plan analysis
   b. Dependent tuition plan (TRIP) analysis

3. Goals:
   a. Communicate concerns of employees
   b. Ensure an educated and informed dialogue exists
   c. Offer insights and recommendations to the president of the university that is independent of the BLG
Administrative Policy Committee

1. Proposals: 6
2. President’s evaluation
   a. Survey designed by students and faculty.
   b. Significant improvement in validity.
Additional discussions

1. Recycling
2. Cyber-security
3. IT Update
Looking ahead to 2016-17

1. General Education & Assessment: Developing proper infrastructures to enhance communication and advance core academic issues
   a. Assessment
   b. graduate education & assessment
   c. general education
2. Research Policy: Addressing the growing concern about journal pricing
3. Fringe Benefits: ongoing dialogue, recommendations, expand benefits to compete for top talent