Vision for the University Senate*

The University Senate will be seen by the Michigan Tech community as a respected, relevant and independent representative body that leads by promoting faculty and staff interests in the shared governance of the University. Its actions will support the University mission and the day-to-day professional activities of faculty and staff. The University Senate is an active partner in University decisions affecting academic and administrative affairs.

Strategies to support our University Senate Vision

• Provide oversight of academic quality by promoting a rigorous and relevant curriculum with attractive and innovative degree programs that best serve students and society.
• Serve as the legislative authority for academic policies and educational guidelines that encourage and ensure student learning.
• Promote ethical behavior, professional discourse, and mutual respect among all members of the University community.
• Ensure that academic freedom and tenure is encouraged and protected in all forms.
• Provide a source of advice and support for the University administration and Board of Trustees by making recommendations regarding faculty and professional staff issues, University finances, compensation, and the workplace environment.

*Draft 9/18
Upcoming academic issues for the University Senate?

There are many things we should begin to address, including:

• New program proposals, program eliminations/”shelving” in-line with state guidance.
• Faculty handbook edits/harmonization with senate and university policies.
• Lecturer/research track sabbaticals.
• Constituent survey on campus priorities (this year).
• Administrative evaluations (next year).
• Tenure-track-like librarian appointments
• Ownership/copyright of on-line materials.
• On-line course, summer, and overload compensation.
• Increasing faculty numbers to enhance research grants and SCH.
• Role and rights of adjunct/research faculty
• Examine the pressures of “platform” tuition on students to take too many credits.
• Evaluate the teaching evaluation system for bias, “trolling”, weighting, etc.
• Extension of course evaluations to on-line education.
• Educational technology use/allocation across campus.
The “B” list: Other matters of Policy and Procedures

There are *many important* other items including:

• Enhanced visibility and influence for the senate.
• Role in administrative searches. (CFO, etc.)
• Participation in upcoming taskforces.
• A new campus-wide code of conduct and appropriate behavior on campus.
• Faculty handbook edits/harmonization with senate and university policies.
• Examine the state of university finances.
• Compensation – salary equity.
• Benefits - retirement contributions, healthcare, parental leave, etc.
• Educational technology use/allocation across campus.
• Parking and larger transportation issues.
• Homelessness and hunger across the campus.