# 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 and 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.

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# 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.