

**The University Senate  
of Michigan Technological University**

Minutes of Meeting 554  
05 November 2014

**Synopsis:**

The Senate

- Presentation by Michigan Tech Ombuds Susanna Peters
- Presentation by Steven Steinhoff, "A user's perspective on regulating e-cigarettes"
- Presentation by Jennifer Riehl, "A summary of research on health effects of e-cigarettes"
- Proposal 9-15 "Revising Senate Policy 108.1: General Policy for Academic Program Planning" passed.
- Proposal 10-15 "Revising Senate Procedure 414.1.1: Procedures for Eliminating and Shelving Degrees and Certificates" passed.
- Proposal 11-15 "Amending the Senate's Bylaws"

Senate minutes are time-indexed [in square brackets] to the relevant segments of the [streaming video](#) of the meeting.

**1. Call to order and roll call. [00:00 – 01:48]**

President Craig Waddell called the University Senate Meeting 554 to order at 5:30 pm on Wednesday, November 5, 2014. The Senate Secretary Marty Thompson called roll. Absent were Senator Caneba and representatives of Army/Air Force ROTC, Materials Science and Engineering, Academic Services A, Academic Services B, Academic Services C, Advancement, Enrollment and Finance.

**2. Recognition of visitors.**

Guests included Max Seel (Provost's Office), Theresa Coleman-Kaiser (Aux/Admin) Bonnie Gorman (Dean of Students), Susanna Peters (Ombuds), Steven Steinhoff (Guest Speaker and USG Treasurer), Jennifer Riehl (Guest Speaker and Graduate Student).

**3. Approval of agenda. [01:49 – 02:14]**

Waddell asked for approval of the agenda. Riehl **moved**; Scarlett **seconded**. No discussion. The agenda was approved unanimously by voice vote.

**4. Approval of minutes from Meetings 553. [02:15 – 02:49]**

Waddell asked for approval of the minutes. Scarlett **moved**; Wood **seconded**. No discussion. The minutes were approved unanimously by voice vote.

**5. President's Report [02:50 – 05:05]**

The Administration has responded to the following Senate proposals:

- a. Proposal 3-15 "Creating a Visiting Professor of Practice Position" approved.
- b. Proposal 6-15 "Compensation for Senate Vice President"  
Approval is subject to a proposed administrative change. Waddell noted the administrative change which defined the period in which the bonus payment will be made. This will be introduced as a new proposal. (See *New Business, Section 9.a. below*)
- c. Proposal 7-15 "Shelving the Master of Engineering Degree in Civil Engineering (EGR3)" approved.
- d. Proposal 8-15 "Shelving the Master of Engineering Degree in Environmental Engineering (ERG4)" approved.

Waddell gave an update on the effort to remove instructors from the RateMyProfessor website who no longer work at Tech. Provost Seel and Michael Meyer, Center for Teaching and Learning have worked to ensure the list of instructors on the website reflect those who actually work here.

Dave Reed, VP Research will speak at a Senate sponsored forum on the University finances in January 2015.

## 6. Committee Reports [05:06 – 10:43]

**Academic Policy Committee.** None.

**Administrative Policy Committee.** Vable said the presidential survey would be moved from the Administrative Policy Committee to a university committee. The new proposal will be introduced at the next senate meeting.

**IT Committee.** None

**Curricular Policy Committee.** Barkdoll said the committee will introduce proposals for several new programs at the next senate meeting.

**General Education & Assessment Committee.** None

**Elections Committee.** Riehl is looking for members and/or nominees for the Committee for Academic Tenure, Promotion and Reappointment.

**Finance and Institutional Planning Committee.** Mullins asked if the Senate should have an official position on the strategic plan. The committee is defining the role of the Senate in developing a response to the University Strategic Plan.

**Fringe Benefits Committee.** Beck commented on meeting with Karen Hext. A key topic was identifying a method to buy hearing aids. No program exists to assist with the purchase of hearing aids. Mike Patterson will provide information to be made available on the Senate website.

**Instructional Policy Committee.** None.

**Professional Staff Policy Committee.** None.

**Research Policy Committee.** None.

## 7. Guest Presentation [10:44 – 37:07]

- a. Michigan Tech Ombuds Susanna Peters, M.S, J.D. introduced herself as the newly appointed Ombuds. She discussed the role of the Michigan Tech Ombuds in facilitating communication between parties. Additional information can be found at: <http://www.mtu.edu/ombuds/> [10:44 – 13:35]
- b. Steven Steinhoff, Senior in Survey Engineering at Michigan Tech and USG Treasurer presented, "A user's perspective on regulating e-cigarettes"  
[\[LINK to Slides\]](#) [13:36 – 23:40]
- c. Jennifer Riehl, MS in Forensic Molecular Biology (SUNY Albany, 2007), PhD in Forest Genetics and Biotechnology (Michigan Tech, 2014), and MS candidate in Environmental Policy (Michigan Tech) presented, "A summary of research on health effects of e-cigarettes"  
[\[LINK to Slides\]](#) [23:41 – 36:56]

Riehl will send out a constituent-wide ballot to vote on the Senate's position on e-cigarettes.

## 8. Unfinished Business [37:08 – 1:04:18]

- a. Proposal 9-15 "Revising Senate Policy 108.1: General Policy for Academic Program Planning"  
The proposal comes from Curricular Policy Committee. The goal was to have a streamlined process for submitting proposals for new programs. The assessment council sought to add wording to clarify student learning goals.

Barkdoll **moved** to pass the proposal with the wording changes; Mullins **seconded**. Discussion. **Approved** unanimously by voice vote.

- b. Proposal 10-15 "Revising Senate Procedure 414.1.1: Procedures for Eliminating and Shelving Degrees and Certificates"

The proposal comes from Curricular Policy Committee. Barkdoll, chair, detailed the need for units seeking to shelve and eliminate programs to provide the Senate Curricular Policy Committee with uniform data similar to what was discussed in *Section 8.a. for Proposal 9-15*, above. Barkdoll **moved** to accept the proposal with the wording changes; Scarlett **seconded**. No Discussion. **Approved** unanimously by voice vote.

- c. Proposal 11-15 "Amending the Senate's Bylaws" [42:07 – 1:04:18]

The proposal originates with the Senate Executive Committee. Waddell reiterated the key content changes made in this proposal:

1. Enhance speaking rights for non-Senators. Robert's Rules of Order limits participation of non-Senators during Senate meetings. This permits non-members to speak freely prior to a motion.
2. Enhancing the efficiency of proposal introduction. The Senate President permits the committee chair or other entity introducing the proposal so questions can be fielded directly rather than through the action of the Senate President.
3. Selection process for university-wide committees. The rationale is to have a uniform method to select members.
4. Remove mention of an Emeritus Committee. The rationale for this is that there is no such committee.

Waddell **moved** to pass the proposal; Wood **seconded**. Discussion.

Scarlett **moved** to divide the question to remove item #3. Beck **seconded**. No Discussion. **Approved** unanimously by voice vote. Item #3, "Selection process for university-wide committees" will be removed from the proposal being voted on.

Mullins **calls the question**. Vable **seconded**. **Approved** by a majority vote. No abstentions.

The proposal will be voted on as written with the noted exception that item #3 is removed. **Approved** by a majority vote. No abstentions.

## 9. New Business [1:04:19 – 1:06:25]

- a. Proposal 6-15 "Compensation for Senate Vice President"

Waddell reiterated the administrative modification noted above (*See Section 5, President's Report*).

- b. Proposal 12-15 "Degree Name Change from Bachelor of Science Degree in Geology – Earth Science Education to Bachelor of Science Degree in Geology – Earth and Space Science and Integrated Science"

Barkdoll described the rationale for the name change to be consistent with current field.

## 10. Public Comments

None.

## 11. Adjournment.

Mullins **moved** to adjourn. Barkdoll **seconded**. President Waddell adjourned the meeting at 6:37 pm

Respectfully submitted  
by Marty Thompson  
Secretary of the University Senate