# Michigan Tech

## Office Memo

Office of the Provost and
Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

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**TO:**        Richard Koubek, President

**FROM:**    Jacqueline E. Huntoon, Provost & Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs          *Jacqueline E Huntoon*

**DATE:**     April 12, 2019

**SUBJECT:**  Senate Proposal 42-19

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Attached is Senate proposal 42-19, "Proposal to Change Degree Title from 'MS in Medical Informatics' to 'MS in Health Informatics'," and a memo stating the Senate passed this proposal at their April 10, 2019 meeting. I have reviewed this memo and recommend approving the proposal.

I ____X____ concur            _____ do not concur

_____          4/12/19
Richard Koubek, President                         Date

| **DATE:** | April 11, 2019 |
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| **TO:** | Richard Koubek, President |
| **FROM:** | Michael Mullins<br>University Senate President |
| **SUBJECT:** | Proposal 42-19 |
| **COPIES:** | Jacqueline E. Huntoon, Provost & Senior VP for Academic Affairs |

At its meeting on April 10, 2019, the University Senate approved Proposal 42-19, "Proposal to Change Degree Title from 'MS in Medical Informatics' to 'MS in Health Informatics'". The Senate looks forward to approval of this proposal by the administration. Please keep me informed about the decision of the administration on this proposal and feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

# The University Senate of Michigan Technological University

## Proposal 42-19
(Voting Units: Academic)

## Proposal to Change Degree Title from "MS in Medical Informatics" to "MS in Health Informatics".
### School of Technology

**Contact: Guy C. Hembroff, Director - Medical Informatics Graduate program hembroff@mtu.edu**
**Adrienne Minerick, Dean minerick@mtu.edu**

1. General description and characteristics: This proposal serves as a modification of the title to reflect the program's alignment with emerging trends of the discipline.

2. Related programs to public universities in Michigan: The University of Michigan has a MS in Health Informatics and Grand Valley State University has a MS program in Health Informatics and Bioinformatics.

3. Rationale: The MS in Medical Informatics has been in place since 2012. It was developed as the first medical informatics graduate program in Michigan. The primary focus was its dedicated focus to the patient-physician relationship, with courses reflective of this focus, such as clinical decision making, population health management and monitoring, and systems analysis and design. As the program evolved, educational content and research were conducted successfully beyond the traditional medical informatics specialty, and into the larger health informatics domain, in which medical informatics is a sub-specialty. New courses, such as the Introduction to AI in Health, Mobile Health, and Information Governance and Risk Assessment, have been recently developed to meet the needs of the Health industry. A change in the program's name to Health Informatics accomplishes the following: 1) provides more flexibility to the curriculum and research aims of the program as the health informatics industry continues to expand and evolve; 2) becomes more appealing to a broader range of students interested in health, science, and computing; 3) provides more opportunity for the program to offer subspecialties and certificates to students in areas such as security and privacy in health, medical informatics, nursing informatics, and imaging informatics; 4) places the program in a strategic position to qualify and attain accreditation from the Commission of Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management (CAHIIM); and 5) provides a natural progression to potentially start a health informatics undergraduate degree at Michigan Tech (an undergraduate degree in medical informatics does not seem to exist in the United States).

   Internally, 100% of the program's faculty have agreed that a name change to Health Informatics would be a positive change and more reflective of the evolving curriculum/research, while reaching a broader student base. Externally, informal conversations with organizations who hire our graduates also agree with the proposed name change, stating a combination of reasons 1-5 listed in

the above paragraph. This proposal is therefore a response to both internal and external recommendations.

4. Accreditation requirements. No additional accreditation requirements at this time, however we do anticipate this change to help our program better align with CAHIIM accreditation.

5. Planned implementation date: The proposed change will be implemented in the 2019-2020 academic year.

Approved by vote of faculty in SoT: March 1, 2019

Approved by dean of SoT: March 2, 2019

Approved by Dean's Council: March 2019

Approved by the University Senate: TBD

Approved by Provost: TBD