

Bylaws of the Michigan Technological University Alumni Board

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Terminology

1. The Michigan Technological University Alumni Board is hereinafter referred to as the Board.
2. Members of the Board, whether elected or appointed, are hereinafter referred to as Directors.
3. Michigan Technological University is hereinafter referred to as the University, MTU, or Michigan Tech.
4. The Officers of the Board shall consist of the President, Vice President – Recognition & Recruitment, Vice President - Traditions, Vice President – Community & Board Secretary, and President Emerit.
5. The Officers of the Board constitute the Executive Committee.
6. Life Directors are past Board members who have completed a full term or are recognized as such by the Executive Committee who wish to remain engaged in the activities of the Board.

Purpose

These Bylaws are a supplement to the Board Constitution that provides guidance for the operation of the Board.

Election of Directors

1. Candidates for nomination to the Board shall be solicited from the Alumni by December 1st of odd numbered years. Solicitation should use means such as social media, Alumni Newsletter, personal contacts, etc. to ensure a spectrum of candidates that represent the entire alumni.
2. The process for reviewing candidates shall be determined by the Recognition & Recruitment Committee.
3. Nominees for Directorship, after approval by the Recognition and Recruitment Committee, shall then be presented to the Board in the first quarter Board Meeting (typically at Winter Carnival) in even numbered years. The Board will review then approve or disapprove the nominees individually by majority vote. Said vote can be conducted by appropriate means as determined by the Recognition and Recruitment Committee.
4. New Directors shall take office on July 1st of even numbered years and thereby replace Directors who took office six years earlier.
5. The names of new Directors shall then be published to the alumni before Alumni Reunion in that same year.
6. Director vacancies can be filled by the Board through special elections. The process to be followed for special elections will be determined by the Executive Committee.

Election of Officers

1. The outgoing President is automatically the President Emerit. The outgoing President will serve as election chair, presiding over the officer election process. If the outgoing President is unable to fulfill this responsibility, the Executive Committee will appoint a Director to serve as election chair.
2. The President, Vice President – Recognition & Recruitment, Vice President - Traditions, Vice President – Community & Board Secretary shall be elected by a simple majority of the Board.
3. Appointed and student Directors are not eligible to be Officers.
4. Nominations for Officers shall be opened at the first quarter Board Meeting (typically at Winter Carnival) in even numbered years. Nominations will be held open for 30 days.
5. Directors shall be a candidate on only one ballot. If a Director is nominated for multiple offices, the outgoing President will ask the Director in question to choose a single ballot on which to run.
6. Elections of Officers will be held as determined by the outgoing President within 90 days of nominations being closed and in sufficient time to allow newly elected officers to assume their duties on July 1st of even numbered years.
7. The candidate for an office receiving the most votes will be declared the winner. In the case of a tie vote, the vote will be taken again with the two candidates receiving the most votes being on the ballot. If still tied, the two candidates will each serve a term of one year, with the candidates drawing lots to determine who serves the first term.
8. Officers will take office on July 1st of even numbered years.
9. Officer vacancies can be filled by the Board through special elections. The process to be followed for special elections will be determined by the Executive Committee.

Director Duties and Responsibilities

1. All Directors shall make an annual financial contribution to the University.
2. Directors shall support Alumni Engagement initiatives to the best of their ability including appropriate local and regional event activity.
3. All Directors shall actively and continuously participate in at least one Board Committee.
4. All Directors shall attend in-person Board meetings unless excused by the Executive Committee for substantial reasons. Acceptance of a Director's excuse is solely up to the discretion of the Executive Committee.
5. All Directors must discharge their duties in good faith and avoid participating in any activity of the Board where there exists an actual or perceived conflict of interest. Such conflicts should be brought to the attention of the Board by the individual Director involved but may be noted by other Directors or Alumni.
6. Directors shall not use their position on the Board or information obtained as a result of their service on the Board to obtain financial gain or advantage for themselves or members of their family, academic, or business associates.
7. With respect to Board decisions, Directors who become aware of circumstances that pose an actual or potential conflict of interest must recuse themselves from the decision-making process and take no part in the discussion or the vote. If said Director(s) have specialized knowledge of the topic that would be useful to the Board discussion, they can choose to communicate that information privately to the President.
8. Directors may resign their position by submitting a letter of resignation to the President.
9. Directors shall serve as ambassadors of the Alumni as well as of the University.

Meetings

1. The Board shall meet in person no less than twice a year.
2. Other Board meetings, including teleconferences, video conferences, and online meetings, may be called by the President.
3. A quorum for conducting the business of the Board shall be a majority of the Directors holding office.
4. Directors must be given least 30 days advance notice of any in-person Board meetings.
5. Directors must be given least 7 days advance notice of any teleconferences, video conferences, or online Board meetings.
6. In the President's absence, a Vice President can conduct and preside over Board and Executive Committee meetings.
7. Matters considered by the Board for a vote shall be passed by a simple majority of the Directors present, except as otherwise defined in these Bylaws.
8. Committee meetings, including teleconferences, video conferences, and online meetings, may be called by Committee chairs as necessary.
9. All open session meetings of the Board are open to any Alumni who wish to attend. At the President's discretion, others may be allowed to attend Board meetings.
10. MTU Alumni may present issues of concern at Board meetings. At least two weeks in advance of the Board meeting, Alumni wishing to do this must notify the Secretary and communicate to the Board the details of their issue.
11. Closed session meetings of the Board shall only be held when a serious private matter is to be considered (e.g., person's reputation or good name is to be discussed). A closed session meeting can be called by a majority vote of the Executive Committee.
12. Life Directors may participate in Board meetings as ex-officio non-voting members.

Committees

1. The permanent Committees of the Board shall be Executive, Recognition and Recruitment, Community, and Traditions and Engagement.
2. The President shall serve as Chair of the Executive Committee.
3. The Vice President – Recognition & Recruitment shall serve as Chair of the Recognition and Recruitment Committee. The Recognition and Recruitment Committee shall:
 - a. Include at least three other Directors.
 - b. Preside over the “Annual Alumni Awards” research and vetting process. The Committee will present its recommendations to the Board for approval in sufficient time such that the awards can be presented at the annual Alumni Reunion.
 - c. Solicit nominations and conduct elections for Directors as described in Election of Directors.
 - d. Be responsible for the on-boarding of newly elected Directors including the assignment of mentors for new Directors
 - e. Be responsible for the off-boarding of Directors whose terms are ending.
 - f. Enhance the ABOD experience by measuring our internal opportunities and strengths.
4. The Vice President – Community & Board Secretary shall serve as the Chair of the Community Committee. The Community Committee shall:
 - a. Include at least three other Directors.
 - b. Maintain communication with Directors regarding meetings and other activities of the Board.
 - c. Manage communication platforms and tools used by the Board to fulfil their duties.
 - d. Facilitate Alumni & Friends Community by maintaining constructive ways to discuss Michigan Tech.
 - e. Bring University news and events to our community to engage a broader audience.
 - f. Disseminate Alumni Board initiatives to the Michigan Tech community.
5. The Vice President – Traditions shall serve as the chair of the Traditions and Engagement Committee. The Traditions and Engagement Committee shall:
 - a. Include at least three other Directors.
 - b. Amplify message around Tech Traditions and demonstrate how Alumni can engage.
 - c. Advocate for the culture of philanthropy, projects and partnerships in support of the University and students.
 - d. Liaison between Alumni and Students while supporting the evolution of the Life Director role.
6. The President may create Committees, as necessary, to conduct the Board's business and appoint Directors and Life Directors to serve on these Committees and name the chairs of these Committees.
7. Each created Committee shall exist for a designated period of time as determined by the President at the time the Committee is established.
8. Committees shall report to the Board at least annually on their progress, issues faced, plans, etc. Life Directors may participate as ex-officio non-voting members of Committees at the discretion of the Committee chair.
9. Life Directors appointed to Committees by the President shall be voting members of said Committees but not voting members of the Board.
10. Ex-officio non-voting members of the Board may participate as members of Committees as required.

Officer Duties and Roles

1. The President:
 - a. Shall determine the place and time of meetings of the Board and the Executive Committee.
 - b. Shall conduct and preside over Board and Executive Committee meetings.

- c. Shall advise Alumni Engagement leadership regarding relevant University contracts or agreements.
2. The Vice President – Recognition & Recruitment:
 - a. Shall act as Sergeant at Arms during Board meetings.
 - b. In the event that the President is unable to fulfill his/her duties, with the consent of the rest of the Executive Committee the Vice President – Recognition & Recruitment may temporarily assume the duties of the President.
 - c. Shall chair the Recognition and Recruitment Committee.
3. The Vice President - Traditions:
 - a. Shall Advocate for the culture of philanthropy, projects and partnerships in support of the University and students.
 - b. Shall act as liaison with Alumni Engagement to support resource connection activities as needed.
 - c. In the event that the President is unable to fulfill his/her duties, with the consent of the rest of the Executive Committee the Vice President – Traditions may temporarily assume the duties of the President.
 - d. Shall chair the Traditions and Engagement Committee.
4. The Vice President – Community & Board Secretary:
 - a. Shall keep the minutes of the Board's meetings and record attendance. The minutes shall accurately record all official actions taken by the Board and be presented for approval by the Board.
 - b. Shall perform a yearly review of the Constitution and Bylaws and make suggestions to the Board for changes as needed.
 - c. In the event that the President is unable to fulfill his/her duties, with the consent of the rest of the Executive Committee the Vice President – Community & Board Secretary may temporarily assume the duties of the President.
 - d. Shall chair the Community Committee.
5. The President Emerit:
 - a. Shall serve as election chair, presiding over the officer election process. If they are unable to fulfill this responsibility, the Executive Committee will appoint a Director to serve as election chair.
 - b. Shall assist in the transition of the Executive committee to its newly elected members.
 - c. Shall serve as the liaison to the Traditions of Giving Scholarship & Fellowship, providing input to recipients as requested by the University.

Removal of Directors

1. Directors may be removed by the Board for the following reasons:
 - a. Director does not attend two consecutive in-person meetings of the Board during his or her term. Attendance at a Board meeting may be excused by the Executive Committee for substantial reasons. Acceptance of a Director's excuse is solely up to the discretion of the Executive Committee.
 - b. Director does not participate in other activities expected of Directors including nonparticipation in assigned Committees or teams, not providing an annual monetary gift to the University, or other malfeasance, misfeasance, or nonfeasance of duty.
 - c. Director is convicted of a felony or other acts of a public nature bringing the person, Board, or university into a poor light.
2. Removal of a Director shall require a three-fourths vote of the Board.

3. Any Director may begin the process of removal of any other Director by making a written complaint to the Executive Committee, citing the reasons for this action.
4. The Executive Committee must then inform the Director being considered for removal in writing within 30 days of receiving the written complaint.
5. The Executive Committee may suspend the Director pending the outcome of investigation or other action.
6. A Director can resign prior to an investigation and vote.
7. The Director may respond in writing to the Board or in person at the next meeting of the Board.
8. The Board shall vote on the complaint for removal at least 30 days after notifying the Director of the complaint.
9. Upon a Board vote for removal, the Director being removed shall vacate his or her office immediately and is no longer a Director.

Amendments to Bylaws

1. These Bylaws must be consistent with the Board Constitution.
2. These Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds approval vote of the Board.
3. Proposed Bylaw changes may be submitted by any Director for consideration.
4. Proposed Bylaw changes must be submitted in writing to the Secretary four weeks prior to the first Board meeting at which they will be considered.
5. Proposed Bylaw changes appropriately submitted to the Secretary shall be considered at the next meeting of the Board.
6. Changes to the Bylaws approved by Board vote will take effect immediately.

Archives

Alumni Engagement leadership shall maintain and preserve the archives of the Board, including minutes, reports, correspondence, financial records, photographs, memorabilia, and other items of interest pertaining to Michigan Tech Alumni. At the discretion of Alumni Engagement leadership, the above mentioned materials may be transferred to the care of the Michigan Tech Archives.

Change History

Alumni Board bylaws originally adopted December 20, 2014 by unanimous Board vote and revised by the Board as follows:

July 12, 2018 to reflect Constitution changes to Michigan Tech Alumni Board from Michigan Tech Alumni Association.

June 3, 2020 to reflect Constitution changes made simultaneously, create definition for Finance and Communication Committees, rename the Governance Committee to Recognition and Recruitment Committee, add the Ambassador role, revise the election process, and formalize the President Emerit role.

September 28, 2023 to remove references to Alumni Chapters, removed references to SIS.

February 7, 2025 to update general verbiage and terminology, update responsibility for the election of new Directors, remove reference to the now dormant Regional Ambassador and Regional Liaison programs, define responsibility for the offboarding process, redirect responsibility for the officer election process to the outgoing President and to update the duties and responsibilities of the Treasurer to be aligned with the current fund raising practices of the university.

February 5, 2026 update Officer names to be President, Vice President – Recognition & Recruitment, Vice President - Traditions, Vice President – Community & Board Secretary, and President Emerit; Simplify Director Duties and Responsibilities relative to local and regional Alumni Event participation and Committee participation; Expand Board coverage in the absence of the President to include any of the Executive Officers relative to conducting meetings and if necessary as a surrogate; Grammatical correction under Meetings; Modify the permanent Committees of the Board to be: Executive, Recognition and Recruitment, Community, and Traditions and Engagement; Update the responsibilities for each Committee.