MINUTES OF THE FORMAL SESSION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF MICHIGAN TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY held pursuant to due call Ballroom B of the Memorial Union Building on the campus of Michigan Technological University in the City of Houghton, Michigan at nine o'clock on the morning of December 13, 2019.

The Board of Trustees of Michigan Technological University met in formal session at the University's campus at Michigan Technological University in the City of Houghton, State of Michigan, at 9:00 a.m., on the 13th day of December, in Ballroom B of the Memorial Union Building. The place, hour, and date duly established and duly published for the holding of such a meeting.

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, B. Ryan, and a quorum was declared present. The following members of the Board of Trustees were present:

B. R. Ryan, Chair  
R. J. Jacquart  
L. D. Kennedy  
J. C. Littmann  
S. M. Tomaszewski  
S. Schulte, Secretary  
S. Kerry, Treasurer  
R. J. Koubek, ex officio

Also present during part or all of the session were: Jackie Huntoon, John Lehman, William Kordenbrock, Kellie Raffaelli, David D. Reed, William Roberts, Suzanne Sanregret; and various members of the faculty, administrative staff, student body, press and public. Where item numbers are used, they refer to corresponding item numbers in the agenda, in the hands of the Board members.
I. CALL TO ORDER  
Brenda Ryan, Chair

II. ROLL CALL  
Sarah Schulte, Secretary

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved by D. Sanders, supported by B. Jacquart, and passed by voice vote without dissent, that the agenda of the formal session of December 13, 2019, as distributed to the Board, be approved.

IV. OPENING REMARKS

IV-A. CHAIR OPENING REMARKS  
Brenda Ryan, Chair

Good morning and welcome to the December Formal Session of the Board of Trustees of Michigan Technological University. We appreciate all of you taking the time to join us on this beautiful winter day.

In November, members of University leadership authored a multi-part series in Tech Today discussing national trends and their personal perspectives regarding the future of higher education and Michigan Tech. Those articles provided some important highlights and deep insights about Michigan Tech as have my discussions with University leadership. Today, I wanted to share with you a list of a few of the achievements, goals, and work being done that resonated with me most:

- The Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce released rankings in November that placed Michigan Tech as first in Michigan and 13th in the nation for our 10-year Return on Investment among members of our peer group (bachelor’s granting public institutions).
- Michigan Tech researchers achieved all-time highs in new sponsored awards ($63.5 million) and in research expenditures ($80.4 million) last fiscal year, despite a challenging federal research environment.
- Michigan Tech removed the 3.5% annual administrative fee from all IRAD accounts, reduced the administrative workload associated with sponsored research below the national average and is continuing to work to lower it further, and is continuing to make its Shared Facilities available for important collaborative work across disciplines.
- Michigan Tech’s IDEA Hub is working to re-imagine and revolutionize university education in bold, innovative, and creative ways.
- Development of three new institutes is well underway - the Institute for Computing and Cybersystems (ICC, Tim Havens, director), the Health Research Institute (HRI, Caryn Heldt, director), and the Institute for Policy, Ethics, and Culture (IPEC, Jennifer Daryl Slack, director).
- Michigan Tech’s important work as part of the JED Campus program to address student mental health, substance use and prevention continues, and two new mental health counselors were hired – one funded in part by an NCAA grant.
Michigan Tech’s incoming student enrollment is up despite declining enrollment statewide. When our students, staff and faculty come together to talk to prospective students about our unique mix of world-class academics and life-changing community, Michigan Tech becomes incredibly hard to ignore.

In addition, Michigan Tech is constantly seeking to improve student success, including working to increase first-to-second year retention to 88% and six-year graduation rates to 70% over the next five years.

Michigan Tech also recognizes the importance of the intangible elements associated with the successful financial operations of a university, such as employee quality of life and work satisfaction, and the importance of competitive benefits as an important tool for attracting and retaining talented faculty and staff. Michigan Tech remains committed to being a “best place to work.”

University leadership and the Board of Trustees know that achieving the University’s vision and goals will require, as President Koubek stated in his Tech Today article, “focus, collaboration, creativity and a commitment to stay the course.” To the students, faculty, and staff – we want you to know that you have that commitment from the Board, and we are looking forward to working with all of you as Michigan Tech continues its remarkable achievements and the hard, day-to-day work it takes to reach our shared goals.

### IV-B. PRESIDENT’S OPENING REMARKS

Rick Koubek, President

Chair Ryan, members of the board and guests, thank you for your time this morning.

Tomorrow we will celebrate the hard work of our faculty, staff and graduates at Michigan Tech’s 2019 Winter commencement exercises.

At the heart of every great academic institution lies the faculty. At Michigan Tech we are indeed fortunate to not only have excellent faculty, but an academic governing body that valiantly champions academic freedom, academic integrity and faculty quality of life. As a faculty member and administrator, it is refreshing to work alongside such talented individuals committed to the advancement not only of our students but their peers and colleagues. In particular, I would like to recognize University Senate, our deans, department chairs, the Tech Forward leaders, our Board of Trustees and the many others who champion learning, scholarship and discovery through their work at the university every day.

Tomorrow’s commencement ceremony is the visible reflection of our collective work, therefore it seems fitting to also recognize the successes of our graduation speakers Victoria Quinde Serrano will graduate with her degree in mechanical engineering, with minors in economics and aerospace engineering. Soon afterward, she will begin her career at TGW, a logistics company in Grand Rapids. Originally from Ecuador, Victoria was recruited to Michigan Tech to play tennis. During her time at Tech, she was team captain for three seasons and earned All-Conference and GLIAC academic honors. In addition, she has served as a German and Spanish consultant in the Humanities Digital Media Zone (HDMZ), competed in the Pavlis Honors College Idea Pitch Competition, and participated in the International Senior Design Program in Panama.
Following Victoria, is alumnae Jennifer Julien (Julean). Four years ago, Jennifer graduated from Michigan Tech with her master's degree. As a student, Jennifer was active with both the Undergraduate Student Government and Graduate Student Government.

When she wasn’t studying, Jennifer traveled the country as a professional snowmobile racer for Polaris. She competed in two world championships and helped pave the way for women to be recognized as competing athletes in action sports.

But, this was just the beginning of a very promising future for Jennifer. Educated as an engineer, she has transitioned into a successful entrepreneur, investing more than $25 million into the Houghton community and creating more than 100 local jobs. That’s what I call impact.

The success stories of our alumni and students are the remarkable evidence of your impact and give all of us cause to celebrate at tomorrow’s commencement exercises.

Thank you all for your continued commitment to student success.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There were no public comments.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

VI-A. Academic Affairs Committee
Linda Kennedy, Chair

Due to travel issues, Chair Linda Kennedy was unable to attend the Academic Affairs Committee Meeting. Bob Jacquart provided a report on the Academic Affairs Committee Meeting.

There was one action item for discussion during the meeting. The Academic Affairs committee recommends the Professor Emeritus appointment request for Dr. Alex Mayer, Professor in Civil and Environmental Engineering and current University Professor. The Academic Affairs Committee reviewed the request and recommend the full Board approve the appointment of Dr. Alex Mayer, to Professor Emeritus upon his retirement, on December 27, 2019.

VI-B. Audit and Finance Committee
Steve Tomaszewski, Chair

The Audit and Finance Committee met once since the last Board meeting. The committee reviewed the 2019 Audited Financial Statements. There is a $1.5 million positive change to the net position, from the October version, due to an accounting entry for an insurance rebate related to the flood. This will be accompanied with a resolution to approve at the Board of Trustees going forward. The composite financial index and debt ratios were reviewed with the discussion regarding the metrics and near-term focus for the University on the income statement to ensure the University maintains a stable rating.
The committee reviewed the financial position and outlook for FY20 which included the first quarter financial results and the year end projections for both the general fund and the current fund as well as the cash position for the University. Year-end projections are trending at close to breakeven at this time.

In preparations for the next fiscal year, the committee discussed the fiscal year 2021 preliminary budget planning parameters, including enrollment projections, room and board and apartment rate structures, proposed tuitions rates and long-term planning targets.

The Committee reviewed the Bond refunding analysis provided by the University advisors which included a recommendation to proceed with a direct placement for the 2008 bonds along with the option of a future refunding of the 2010 A bonds, if there are rate advantages of doing so.

The other topics discussed were differed maintenance, capital projects, updated on the H-Stem Building, the pension impact and enrollment projections. Jeff Littmann will be transitioning into position as Chair of the Audit and Finance Committee. Steve Tomaszewski reflected on his time as Chair of the committee and has learned a great deal about fiscal responsibility of the University, the dedication of the staff and the faculty in trying to make this the best value educational institution in the State of Michigan and in the globe. We are in great hands with Sue and Jeff leading the charge as they lead the fiscal planning moving forward.

VI-C. Leadership Committee
Bill Johnson, Chair

The Leadership Committee met on Thursday, December 12, 2020. The one major item they discussed was the progress of President Koubek’s sixteen initiatives and everything is on track. The President is collaborating with the President’s Council to accomplish these initiatives. The Board is provided an update on a quarterly basis and the initiatives include completion dates. The Leadership Committee is pleased with the progress of the sixteen initiatives, which is a heavy lift. President Koubek, the President’s Council, staff, and faculty are doing a great job in working toward completing the initiatives.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

It was moved by B. Jacquart, supported by S. Tomaszewski, and passed by voice vote without dissent, that the Board of Trustees approve and adopt the items contained in the Consent Agenda.

V-A. Approval of Minutes

It was moved by B. Jacquart, supported by S. Tomaszewski, and passed by voice vote without dissent, that the Board of Trustees approve and adopt the items contained in the Consent Agenda.

V-B. Resignations, Retirements, and Off Payroll

It was moved by B. Jacquart, supported by S. Tomaszewski, and passed by voice vote without dissent, that the Board of Trustees approve and adopt the items contained in the Consent Agenda.
V-C. Gifts

It was moved by B. Jacquart, supported by S. Tomaszewski, and passed by voice vote without dissent, that the Board of Trustees approve and adopt the items contained in the Consent Agenda.
VIII. ACTION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

VIII-A. Employee Recognition

Brenda Ryan, Chair

It was moved by D. Sanders, supported by S. Tomaszewski, and passed by voice vote without dissent that the Board of Trustees adopts the Resolution of Appreciation for the following individual:

- Arlene Collins – 35 years of service

VIII-B. Emeritus Rank

It was moved by S. Tomaszewski, supported by B. Jacquart, and passed by voice vote without dissent that the Board of Trustees approves the following emeritus appointment:

- Dr. Alex Meyer, Professor Emeritus, Civil and Environmental Engineering
VIII-C. Approval of Financial Statements
Sue Kerry, Treasurer

It was moved by B. Jacquart, supported by J. Littmann, and passed by voice vote without dissent that the Board of Trustees approves the Financial Statements.

VIII-D. Bond Refinancing
Sue Kerry, Treasurer

It was moved by J. Littmann, supported by Tomaszewski, and passed by voice vote without dissent that the Board of Trustees approve the Bond Financing.

IX. REPORTS

IX-A. Mind Trekkers - Andrew Wells, President
IX-B. University Research and Sponsored Programs Report - David Reed, Vice President for Research
IX-C. Undergraduate Student Government - Melanie Thomas, President
IX-D. Graduate Student Government - Apurva Baruah, President
IX-E. University Senate - Mike Mullins, President

Copies of these reports were included in the agenda book.

X. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

X-A. Analysis of Investments
X-B. University Issued Bond Balances
X-C. Research & Sponsored Programs
X-D. Advancement & Alumni Relations
X-E. Media Coverage
X-F. Employee Safety Statistics

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business at this time.

XII. DATE FOR NEXT FORMAL MEETING: FEBRUARY 28, 2020

XIII. ADJOURN

It was moved by J. Littmann, supported by S. Tomaszewski, and passed by voice vote without dissent that the Board of Trustees meeting be adjourned.