

MINUTES OF THE FORMAL SESSION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF MICHIGAN TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY held pursuant to due call in 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 April 24, 2026.

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 24th day of April, in Ballroom B of the Memorial Union Building. The place, hour, and date are duly established and duly published for the holding of such a meeting.

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair, J.E. Jipping, and a quorum was declared present.

II. ROLL CALL

The following members of the Board of Trustees were present:

J. U. Bacon
A.R. Dickson
J.E. Jipping, Chair
J. C. Littmann
S. M. Tomaszewski
S.D. Wayne
M.Q. Wells, Vice Chair
R. J. Koubek, ex officio

Not present was M. D. Johnson, Board member

The following officers were present:

S.H. Schulte, Secretary
C.R. Rodriguez, Treasurer

Also present during part or all the session were: Andrew Barnard, Laura Bulleit, Wayne Gersie, John Lehman, William Kordenbrock, William Roberts, Carlos Rodriguez, Andrew Storer, 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.

III. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

It was moved by S. Tomaszewski, supported by S. Wayne, and passed by voice vote without dissent, that the agenda of the formal session of April 24, 2026, as distributed to the Board of Trustees, be approved.

IV. OPENING REMARKS

A. Chair's Comments

Good morning, everyone. It is a pleasure to see you all here. As I traveled to campus, it occurred to me that we're all breathing a collective sigh of relief, with only traces of snow left in the Copper Country. I haven't encountered anyone who is particularly sad to see it go. The sight of bare pavement and those first hints of green are perhaps the most anticipated signs of the spring semester. It is a season of renewal, which is fitting given the ambitious agenda we have before us today.

Before we dive into our formal business, I want to take a moment to celebrate the driving force behind our institution: our faculty. Later in today's session, we will formally recognize those individuals receiving tenure and promotion.

To those faculty members: This milestone is the culmination of years of rigorous research, dedicated teaching, and tireless service. You are the architects of the 'Huskies' of tomorrow, and your commitment to academic excellence ensures that a Michigan Tech degree remains a gold standard. On behalf of the Board, congratulations on this significant achievement. We are proud to have you as the foundation of our academic community.

We are also looking forward to the festivities of Commencement weekend. Our heartfelt congratulations go out to the 849 undergraduate and 443 graduate students receiving their degrees. To the 7 students being commissioned—we thank you for your commitment and your service to our country.

I am especially pleased to highlight that our commencement address will be delivered by my esteemed colleague, Jeff Littmann. We are all looking forward to Jeff's powerful blend of wisdom and humor; he has a unique way of finding words that resonate with the Husky community that I know our graduates and their families will truly appreciate.

Even as we celebrate the end of the academic journey for our graduating seniors, we continue striding forward for our future alumni. Later this morning, we will be voting on a milestone for this university: the establishment of the School of Health, Human, and Biological Systems. We are incredibly excited about this cross-disciplinary collaboration. It is a move that will position Michigan Tech students at the forefront of innovative research with real-world applications, further cementing our role as a leader in health and technology.

It is an exciting day for Michigan Tech.

I now invite President Koubek to make his opening remarks.

B. President's Comments

Good morning and welcome. We are delighted you could join us on this fine morning.

I'd like to first recognize our graduating students.

Today marks the start of a two day celebration honoring their hard work starting with the graduate ceremony starting at 3 pm today.

Congratulations, class of 2026. We wish you well on life's next big adventure and hope your degree from Michigan Tech serves you well!

I'd also like to thank the Board of Trustees for their continued confidence in our work. Today, we will submit a balanced budget for FY 27 for approval. This year's budget prioritizes, above anything else, continued investment in our faculty and staff, while respecting the financial uncertainty facing all of higher education. We are not immune to these external factors.

In planning for the upcoming fiscal year, it became clear that we needed to reimagine how we allocate resources across the university in a transparent and mission driven manner. I want to thank the budget model committee and Carlos Rodriguez for volunteering their efforts in this regard. When we get to the other side of this process, the university will be better positioned to respond to future budget fluctuations.

We also owe a great deal of thanks to the faculty and staff who volunteered their time to introduce the new essential education curriculum to campus this year. Your work will have tremendous impact for years to come and it should serve as a point of pride as you reflect on your accomplishments during your time here.

This goes hand and hand with those who served on the Tech Forward 2.0 planning committee. You've helped chart the course for Michigan Tech's continued success.

Our Campaign Executive Committee, composed of alumni volunteers, have made tremendous progress toward our campaign goal of \$350 million. I am particularly grateful to Mr. Chang Park and his vision for the Chang K. Park Center for Student Wellness, which is scheduled to break ground this summer.

Our University Senate under the leadership of Robert Hutchinson and our student leadership from Blue Key, Undergraduate Student Government and Graduate Student Government all volunteer their time to make Michigan Tech better. Their efforts have certainly proved fruitful this year.

As evidenced above, everything we do is driven with passion and a volunteer spirit. The French call it "esprit de corp." It is also known as True to Tech. We see the potential in our community. We see the opportunity for impact and we act.

Fundamentally, this is what a university is supposed to do and is what forms the tripartite mission of higher education: academics, research and service.

As another academic year comes to a close, I want to thank you all for your incredible energy, enthusiasm and service. Your efforts account for the university's many accomplishments this past year.

And, again my congratulations to our graduating class.

Thank you.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

None

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Academic Affairs Committee

John Bacon, Committee Member

The Committee Chair thanks Provost Storer, USG and GSG Leadership. The Committee Chair commends faculty and students for their work on Essential Education. The Committee Chair stated the University will soon be offering a Bachelors of Science in Artificial Intelligence and opening the School of Health, Human and Biological systems.

B. Audit and Finance Committee

Steve Tomaszewski, Committee Chair

The Committee had a deep dive into the budget development to ensure fiscal responsibility and agility. The Committee Chair commends Carlos Rodriguez and the team for a fabulous job in budget development. The Committee Chair commends the Finance Team for the great work with the external auditors. The Committee also reviewed the Internal Audit Plan for the year to ensure we deliver what we say with integrity. The Committee also reviewed Insurance Coverage and Protection, our commitment to deferred maintenance on campus, and the Capital Planning outlay.

C. Leadership Committee

Monique Wells, Committee Chair

The Leadership committee met once since our last board meeting. We heard a very positive report on this year's Presidential Initiatives, which are all either complete or on track. We discussed a variety of strategic tracking items such as university operations, campus developments, and community engagement. And we also discussed succession planning, keeping our institutional needs in focus. Overall, it was a productive meeting and we are looking forward to continuing our conversations this summer.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

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

- A. Approval of Minutes
- B. Resignations, Retirements, and Off-Payroll
- C. Funding Productivity Report
- D. Honorary Posthumous Degree

BOARD OF TRUSTEES OFF-PAYROLL REPORT (November 16, 2025 – January 31, 2026)

Retirements						
Last	First	Class	Department	Job Title	Most Recent Hire Date	Term Date
Englund	Ramona	PF	Keweenaw Research Center	Senior Research Security Specialist	01/26/2015	01/30/2026
Zei	David	PF	Van Pelt and Opie Library	Senior Building Operations & Safety Coordinator	07/31/1997	01/30/2026
Booth	Gregory	PF	IT Operations	Senior System Administrator & Technical Team Lead	07/26/2004	01/31/2026
Halonen	Eric	PF	Office of Advancement	Assistant Vice President for Principal Gifts	02/12/2006	01/31/2026

Off Payroll						
Last	First	Class	Department	Job Title	Most Recent Hire Date	Term Date
Bardo	Zachary	AF	Wadsworth Hall Food Service	Food Service Helper	01/08/2024	10/15/2025
Corpuz	Chester Waterson	NP	Michigan Tech Research Institute (MTRI)	Assistant Research Engineer & Software Developer	05/13/2024	11/21/2025
Chaudhry	Sandeep Kumar	PP	Civil, Environmental & Geospatial Engineering	Postdoctoral Scholar	12/11/2023	11/29/2025
Short	Paige	PP	Dean of Students/VP Student Affairs	Associate Director of Communications	01/02/2017	12/05/2025
Humes	Emily	PP	Center for Student Mental Health & Wellbeing	Student Wellness & Engagement Coordinator	05/13/2024	12/06/2025
Tefft de Munoz	Cassy	PF	Center for Educational Outreach	Executive Director	06/17/2013	12/06/2025
Pushee	Paul	AF	Wadsworth Hall Food Service	Food Service Helper	12/08/2025	12/12/2025
Khanmohammadi Hazaveh	Paniz	FC	Applied Computing	Associate Teaching Professor	08/24/2017	12/19/2025
LaTendresse	Cassie	UF	Residence Housing	Senior Administrative Aide	06/30/2025	12/19/2025
Craven	Jordan	PF	Innovation & Commercialization	Business Consultant	04/29/2024	12/31/2025
Ahkin	Mary	PF	University Marketing & Communications	College Marketing & Communications Manager	08/04/2025	01/02/2026
Schelly	Chelsea	FF	Social Sciences	Professor	08/19/2013	01/02/2026
Martin	Alex	AF	Facilities Management	Custodian	07/24/2023	01/05/2026
Dowd	Sarah	PF	General Athletics	Assistant Athletic Director, Counseling & Sport Psychology	07/29/2019	01/09/2026
Rawhouser	Kaitlyn	PF	Center for Educational Outreach	Coordinator	10/03/2022	01/16/2026
Newman	Carley	UF	Athletic/Recreation Complex Operations	Office Assistant	10/28/2024	01/19/2026
Goke	Megan	PF	Human Resources	Manager of Staff Employment	09/26/2016	01/20/2026

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04/24/2026

Michigan Technological University
Michigan Tech Fund
Fundraising Productivity Report
Fiscal Year 2026 through 12/31/2025
Compared to Prior Fiscal Year

FY 2026					FY 2025				
Source	YTD Total	Adjustment	FY Goal	% of Goal	Source	YTD Total	Adjustment	FY % of Goal	Goal
Major Gifts (Over 10K)	\$4,379,645		4.80	91%	Major Gifts (Over 10K)	\$2,659,507		4.68	57%
Planned Gift Commitments	\$18,224,003		15.89	115%	Planned Gift Commitments	\$11,957,095		15.50	77%
Annual Giving (10K or less)	\$1,076,024		2.49	43%	Annual Giving (10K or less)	\$1,129,035		2.43	46%
<i>Subtotal: Ind Giving</i>	<i>\$23,679,673</i>		<i>23.18</i>	<i>102%</i>	<i>Subtotal: Ind Giving</i>	<i>\$15,745,637</i>		<i>22.61</i>	<i>70%</i>
Corporate Giving	\$1,497,079		2.62	57%	Corporate Giving	\$1,356,233		2.56	53%
Foundation & Other Org Giving	\$1,065,374		5.13	21%	Foundation & Other Org Giving	\$1,566,769		5.00	31%
Corporate Sponsored Research	\$7,265,331		14.09	52%	Corporate Sponsored Research	\$7,866,106		13.75	57%
FUNDRAISING TOTAL	\$33,507,457		45.02	74%	FUNDRAISING TOTAL	\$26,534,745		43.92	60%

VII- D. HONORARY POSTHUMOUS DEGREE

The administration is recommending that Trenton M. Robinson be awarded an Honorary Posthumous Master of Engineering Management Degree.

Before joining Michigan Tech in August of 2022 as a software engineer and remote consultant, Trenton held a position with Macy's System and Technology in their Electronic Commerce Technology Office. As an employee of Michigan Tech, Trenton was also working toward his Master of Engineering Management Degree, had completed 98% of the degree requirements with a 4.0, and was planning to participate in commencement in April 2026 where he would have been graduating Summa Cum Laude. He had also been inducted into the National Society of Leadership and Success. Due to his untimely passing on February 12, 2026 Trenton was not able to complete his degree or participate in spring commencement.

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended to the Board of Trustees that Trenton M. Robinson be awarded an Honorary Posthumous Master of Engineering Management Degree.

VIII. ACTION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Tenure-Track Appointments Not Involving Tenure and/or Promotion

It was moved by J. Bacon, supported by M. Wells and passed by voice vote without dissent, that the Board of Trustees approves the appointments listed herein. The appointments do not include tenure or promotion.

Appointment without Tenure for Two Years Effective August 17, 2026

Giridhar Reddy-Bojja	Assistant Professor	College of Business
Xin Li	Assistant Professor	College of Business
Amna Mazen	Assistant Professor	Applied Computing
Ashraf Saleen	Assistant Professor	Applied Computing
Michael Walker	Assistant Professor	Computer Science
Aytug Gencoglu	Assistant Professor	Chemical Engineering
Maria Gencoglu	Assistant Professor	Chemical Engineering
Robert Handler	Assistant Professor	Chemical Engineer
Sai Sandeep Chitta	Assistant Professor	Civil, Environmental & Geospatial Eng.
Jiehong Guo	Assistant Professor	Civil, Environmental & Geospatial Eng.
Yousef Mohammadi	Assistant Professor	Civil, Environmental & Geospatial Eng.
Darestani		
Mohammadhossein	Assistant Professor	Civil, Environmental, & Geospatial Eng.
Sadeghiamirshahidi		
Yi Zhu	Assistant Professor	Civil, Environmental, & Geospatial Eng.
Flavio Bezerra Costa	Assistant Professor	Electrical & Computer Engineering
Tan Chen	Assistant Professor	Electrical & Computer Engineering
Fengying Dang	Assistant Professor	Electrical & Computer Engineering
Kaichen Yang	Assistant Professor	Electrical & Computer Engineering
Michelle Jarvie-Eggart	Assistant Professor	Engineering Fundamentals
Xiang Li	Assistant Professor	Geological & Mining Eng. & Sciences
Anis Fatima	Assistant Professor	Manufacturing & Mechanical Eng. Tech.
Fei Long	Assistant Professor	Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering
Vinh Nguyen	Assistant Professor	Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering
Wei Wei	Associate Professor	Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering
Shangyan Zou	Assistant Professor	Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering
Sarah Hoy	Assistant Professor	College of Forest Resources & Env. Sci.
Jason Archer	Assistant Professor	Humanities
Robert Schneider	Assistant Professor	Mathematical Sciences
Kayla Gabehart	Assistant Professor	Social Sciences
Daniel Schtob	Assistant Professor	Social Sciences
Terry Jachimiak	Assistant Professor	Visual & Performing Arts

Appointment without Tenure for One Year – Extension to Tenure Clock Effective August 17, 2026

Seulchan Lee	Assistant Professor	College of Business
Alden Adolph	Assistant Professor	Engineering Fundamentals
Hongyu An	Assistant Professor	Electrical & Computer Engineering
Sriram Vijayan	Assistant Professor	Materials Science & Engineering

Yinan Yuan	Assistant Professor	College of Forest Resources & Env. Sci.
Paul Goetsch	Assistant Professor	Biological Sciences
Carolyn Duncan	Assistant Professor	Kinesiology & Integrative Physiology
Elena Giusarma	Assistant Professor	Physics
Kartik Keshava Iyer	Assistant Professor	Physics

**Appointment without Tenure for One Year
Effective August 17, 2026**

Elham Asgari	Assistant Professor	College of Business
Jae Sung Kim	Assistant Professor	Civil, Environmental & Geospatial Eng.
Byung-Jun Kim	Assistant Professor	Mathematical Sciences
Fan Dai	Assistant Professor	Mathematical Sciences
Xin Xi	Assistant Professor	Geological & Mining Eng. & Sciences

B. Appointments Involving Tenure and/or Promotion

It was moved by S. Tomaszewski, supported by A. Dickson, and passed by voice vote without dissent, that the Board of Trustees approves the appointments involving tenure and/or promotion listed herein.

**Promotion from Assistant Professor without Tenure to
Associate Professor with Tenure**

Jun Dai	College of Business
Briana Bettin	Computer Science
Leo Ureel	Computer Science
Valoree Gagnon	College of Forest Resources & Env. Sci.
David Labyak	Manufacturing & Mechanical Engineering Technology
Jung Yun Bae	Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering
Ana Dyreson	Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering
Susanta Ghosh	Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering
Yixin Liu	Chemical Engineering
Vijaya Venkata Malladi	Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering
Hoda Hatoum	Biomedical Engineering
Stephanie Carpenter	Humanities
Trista Vick-Majors	Biological Sciences

**Promotion from Associate Professor without Tenure to
Associate Professor with Tenure**

Jason Harman	Psychology & Human Factors
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C. Promotions

It was moved by J. Bacon, supported by S. Tomaszewski, and passed by voice vote without dissent, that the Board of Trustees approves the promotions listed herein.

Promotion from Associate Professor with Tenure to Professor with Tenure

Keith Vertanen	Computer Science
Xinfeng Xie	College of Forest Resources & Env. Sci.
Marika Seigel	Humanities
Matthew Bartley Seigel	Humanities
Melissa Baird	Social Sciences

VIII-D. Appointment with Tenure

Dr. Sri Beldona is being recommended for appointment as professor with tenure in the College of Business effective July 1, 2026. The college of business's promotion and tenure committee, the inter-school promotion and tenure committee, the dean of the College of Computing, the provost, and the president have endorsed the recommendation for this appointment and tenure. Dr. Beldona spent over 20 years at the University of Dallas as a faculty member and in administrative roles. Most recently he served as the chief academic officer and special assistant to the president at East Texas A&M University's Dallas location. He will assume the duties of Dean of the College of Business at Michigan Technological University July 1, 2026. Dr. Beldona earned his PhD in Business Administration and a Master of Science in International Business from Temple University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; a Master of Business Administration in Marketing from Pune University of India; and a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from Gulbarga University of India. **RECOMMENDATION:** It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the appointment of Dr. Sri Beldona as professor with tenure in the College of Business effective July 1

It was moved by J. Littmann, supported by S. Wayne, and passed by voice vote without dissent, that the Board of Trustees approves the appointment with tenure for Dr. Sri Beldona, in College of Business.

VIII-D. Emeritus Rank

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approves the request to name Dr. Jaroslaw W. Drelich Professor Emeritus in the Department of Materials Science & Engineering.

It was moved by M. Wells, supported by J. Bacon, and passed by voice vote without dissent, that the Board of Trustees approves the following emeritus/emerita appointment:



Michigan Tech

OFFICE MEMO

TO: Michigan Technological University Board of Trustees

FROM: Walter Milligan, Chair, Materials Science and Engineering

DATE: February 6, 2026

SUBJECT: Recommendation for Emeritus Status

The faculty of the Department of Materials Science and Engineering voted on February 6, 2026 to request that the Michigan Technological University Board of Trustees name Jaroslaw W. Drelich as Professor Emeritus upon his retirement on June 30, 2026.

Jarek has been on the faculty since 1997 and was named a Distinguished Professor and the Witte Family Endowed Professor. He is among the most distinguished researchers ever to work at Michigan Tech, with over 190 refereed journal publications, 10 patents, over 19,000 citations and an h-Index of 72. He has been a valued colleague and teacher.

Approved

Walter W. Milligan

2/6/2026

Department Chair

Michelle Scherer

Digitally signed by Michelle
Scherer
Date: 2026.02.11 06:43:25 -05'00'

Date

College Dean

Andrew J. Storer

Digitally signed by Andrew J. Storer
Date: 2026.02.19 10:10:27 -05'00'

Date

Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

Richard J. Koubek

Digitally signed by Richard J. Koubek
Date: 2026.02.19 13:23:33 -05'00'

Date

President

Date

**VIII-F.1. NEW DEGREE PROGRAM
PROPOSAL FOR AN ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE (AS) IN GENERAL STUDIES**

The proposed Associate of Science (AS) in General Studies allows students who qualify for Michigan's Tuition Incentive Program (TIP) to use this financial aid which is earmarked specifically for obtaining an associate's degree. Continued financial aid through the TIP program is also available for students who complete an associate's degree and go on for a bachelor's degree, as long as the credits taken during their associate's degree count toward their bachelor's degree.

This associate's degree is available to students who are interested in exploring any of the bachelor's degree programs at Michigan Tech.

The proposal has been approved by the University Senate and University administration. The University is seeking Board of Trustees approval.

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approves the Associate of Science (AS) degree in General Studies.

It was moved by A. Dickson, supported by J. Bacon, and passed by voice vote without dissent, that the Board of Trustees approves the Associate of Science (AS) degree in General Studies.

VIII-F.2. NEW DEGREE PROGRAM PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (BS) IN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI)

The faculty in the Departments of Computer Science and Data Science, under the umbrella of the College of Computing, seek to establish a Bachelor of Science (BS) degree in Artificial Intelligence (AI). The proposed program recognizes that AI is not only a technical discipline but also a social and ethical one. The curriculum integrates ethical, political, and social considerations alongside core technical training.

With AI's workforce rapidly expanding across areas in computing, healthcare, manufacturing, finance and national security, employers need graduates who can develop new AI algorithms and systems along with hands-on experience in AI tools and applications. While computer science provides broad computing foundations and data science emphasizes statistics and data analysis, this AI degree will focus on designing, developing, and deploying intelligent systems that can learn, adapt, and act in the world, specifically focusing on machine learning and deep learning with electives in natural language processing, computer vision, and robotics. The degree also provides focus areas/tracks where students may deepen their knowledge in areas such as the traditional computer science system, data analysis, or data engineering.

The proposal has been approved by the University Senate and University administration. The University is seeking Board of Trustees approval to advance the proposal to the State Academic Affairs Officers.

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approves the Bachelor of Science (BS) in Artificial Intelligence (AI).

It was moved by S. Tomaszewski, supported by M. Wells, and passed by voice vote without dissent, that the Board of Trustees approves the Bachelor of Science (BS) degree in Artificial Intelligence

**VIII-F.3. NEW DEGREE PROGRAM
PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A MASTER OF SCIENCE (MS) IN ROBOTICS
ENGINEERING**

The faculty in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, under the umbrella of the College of Engineering, seek to establish a Master of Science (MS) degree in Robotics Engineering. Building on the Bachelor of Science in Robotics Engineering, the MS serves as a natural progression to prepare graduates for technical leadership roles in the robotics industry and for advanced research in robotics.

With the rapid growth of automation, there is an increasing demand for skilled professionals capable of designing, implementing, and maintaining advanced robotic systems. The MS in Robotics Engineering builds upon existing strengths in robotics systems, control systems, artificial intelligence, biomechanics, mechatronics, and human–robot interaction at the University. It aims to provide rigorous graduate-level education, integrating theory, design, research, and practical applications in robotics – preparing graduates for diverse opportunities across industries such as manufacturing, healthcare, agriculture, aerospace, and defense.

The proposal has been approved by the University Senate and University administration. The University is seeking Board of Trustees approval to advance the proposal to the State Academic Affairs Officers.

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approves the Master of Science (MS) in Robotics Engineering.

It was moved by M. Wells, supported by J. Littmann, and passed by voice vote without dissent, that the Board of Trustees approves the Master of Science (MS) degree in Robotics Engineering.

**VIII-F.4. NEW DEGREE PROGRAM
PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PHD) IN ELECTRICAL
AND COMPUTER ENGINEERING**

The faculty in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, under the umbrella of the College of Engineering, seek to establish a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree in Electrical and Computer Engineering. The proposed program will meet the needs of engineers seeking training in all areas of electrical and computer engineering. The new degree allows students to determine a flexible mix of coursework in electrical and computer engineering, engineering from related fields, physical sciences, and computer science to meet their educational and career goals, while fulfilling a demanding set of Graduate School and departmental requirements.

This new degree follows current trends to combine Computer Engineering and Electrical Engineering PhD programs, and was a recommendation from the department's last external review. If approved, the department will shelve the existing PhD in Computer Engineering and PhD in Electrical Engineering.

The proposal has been approved by the University Senate and University administration. The University is seeking Board of Trustees approval to advance the proposal to the State Academic Affairs Officers.

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approves the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Electrical and Computer Engineering.

It was moved by M. Wells, supported by A. Dickson, and passed by voice vote without dissent, that the Board of Trustees approves the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree in Electrical & Computer Engineering.

VIII-G. ESTABLISH SCHOOL OF HEALTH, HUMAN, & BIOLOGICAL SYSTEMS

The College of Sciences and Arts proposes to establish a new school within the college that elevates research and academic programs broadly relating to health. The School of Health, Human, and Biological Systems would encompass the Departments of Biological Sciences, Kinesiology and Integrative Physiology, and Psychology and Human Factors. Faculty from each of these units will contribute expertise in the foundational understanding of complex health, human, and biological systems while supporting applications in real world contexts. The school aligns with other initiatives at Michigan Tech, including the opening of the H-STEM building, construction of the donor funded Chang K. Park Center for Student Wellness, establishment of the Health Research Institute during the first round of Tech Forward initiatives, and the Tech Forward 2.0 initiatives.

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approves the formation of a new School of Health, Human, and Biological Systems within the College of Sciences and Arts.

It was moved by M. Wells, supported by J. Littman, and passed by voice vote without dissent, that the Board of Trustees approves the formation of a new School of Health, Human, and Biological Systems within the College of Sciences and Arts.

VIII-H. HONORARY DEGREE

RECOMMENDATION

The Administration recommends that Mr. Jeffrey Littmann be awarded an Honorary Doctor of Philosophy degree from Michigan Technological University in recognition of his distinguished career in fiscal and business management, his visionary leadership in national philanthropy, and his selfless, dedicated service to Michigan Tech.

Jeff Littmann's relationship with Michigan Tech began in 2019 when he was appointed to the Board of Trustees by Governor Snyder. Despite having no prior ties to the University, Jeff eagerly embraced the campus culture. He served three terms as Board Chair (that's a hat trick to a Husky), is a member of the Michigan Tech Fund Board of Directors, and has routinely made extra visits to campus to engage directly with students, staff, and faculty.

Beyond his governance roles, Jeff has regularly shared his wisdom and insights with the College of Business's Applied Portfolio Management Program. He - along with his wife, Cindy - also served as judges for the Winter Carnival statute competition, have a section of the Tech Trails named for their family (the Littmann Gateway Loop), and are much-loved supporters of The Mushing Club. In 2025, Michigan Tech recognized Jeff's dedication to the University by naming him an Honorary Alumnus.

Jeff's career is a testament to the "game-changing" power of education. He earned his Bachelor of Accountancy ('77) and Master of Science in Taxation ('81) from Walsh College, followed by a Juris Doctor (*cum laude*) from the Detroit College of Law. Notably, Jeff attended law school at night while working a full-time job—a reflection of the relentless work ethic that has defined his career.

Jeff's professional journey demonstrates a mastery of intricate fiscal operations grounded in steadfast ethics and an unparalleled eye for detail. Following roles at Ziebart International and Arthur Andersen, Jeff spent nearly three decades as the CFO and a Director for the Buffalo Bills and Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Enterprises. He was a key figure in the NFL, serving on the league's Executive and Investment Committees, as well as advisory committees on Labor and League Economics.

Following the passing of Ralph C. Wilson, Jr., Jeff oversaw the sale of the Buffalo Bills and the establishment of the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation. As a Life Trustee and former Chair, Jeff was instrumental in translating a donor's legacy into a transformative force for good. He moved beyond traditional management to lead a mission-driven strategy, ensuring that significant resources were deployed effectively to foster healthy communities, provide early childhood excellence, and create economic opportunities. His leadership is defined by principled

stewardship—balancing a massive philanthropic scale with a genuine concern for the individuals and communities served.

Jeff is brilliant and incredibly hardworking (it helps that he requires almost no sleep), but what truly makes him stand out in each of his endeavors—and is certainly true of his time at Michigan Tech—is that he genuinely cares. He navigates the most complex challenges with a keen sense of humor and a sincere heart for service. Jeff Littmann possesses the "grit and wit" of a true Husky, and he embodies the values we hope to instill in every graduate.

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the awarding of an Honorary Doctor of Philosophy degree to Mr. Jeffrey Littmann.

It was moved by M. Wells, supported by S. Tomaszewski, and passed by voice vote with Jeffrey Littman abstaining from the vote, that the Board of Trustees approves the awarding of an Honorary Doctor of Philosophy degree to Mr. Jeffrey Littmann.

VIII-I. FY2027 GENERAL FUND OPERATING BUDGET

The general fund budget was developed based on assumptions regarding tuition and state appropriations. However, when the State budget is approved by the Legislature, if there are changes from these assumptions, the Administration is requesting that the Board allow them the flexibility to revise the budget to reflect a change in appropriations and/or tuition cap while continuing to maintain a balanced budget.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board of Trustees approves the Fiscal Year 2027 General Fund Operating Budget as presented and authorizes the Administration to revise the general fund operating budget to reflect any changes in state appropriations and/or tuition cap while maintaining a balanced budget and informing the Board Audit and Finance Committee of any such changes that may be necessary.

It was moved by S. Tomaszewski, supported by J. Littmann, and passed by voice vote without dissent, that the Board of Trustees approves the FY27 General Fund Operating Budget.

VIII-J. APPROVAL OF EXTERNAL AUDITOR

The University's external auditors (certified public accountants) perform interim audit work prior to the close of our June 30 fiscal year; therefore, it is desirable that they be appointed prior to the end of the fiscal year.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board of Trustees authorizes the Treasurer to engage the certified public accounting firm Plante & Moran, PLLC to conduct the following audits for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026:

It was moved by M. Wells, supported by S. Tomaszewski, and passed by voice vote without dissent, that the Board of Trustees approves the appointment of Plante & Moran, PLLC, as external auditor.

IX. REPORTS (presentations provided in agenda)

A. Aquatic Ecosystem Ecology at Michigan Tech

Amy Marcarelli, Professor, Department of Biological Sciences

B. Provost Report

Andrew Storer, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

C. Undergraduate Student Government

Ford Schoonover, President

D. Graduate Student Government

Lauren Sprague, President

E. University Senate

Robert Hutchinson, President

X. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS (documents provided in agenda)

A. Analysis of Investments

B. Research and Sponsored Programs

C. Advancement & Alumni Relations

D. Media Coverage

E. Employee Safety Statistics

F. Disposal of Surplus Property

G. Summary of Scholarships, Awards, and Grants (Board Policy 9.3)

XI. Other Business

President Koubek commended Dean Johnson for his remarkable service as Dean of the College of Business as he steps down from being Dean and back into a Faculty Role.

Trustee John Bacon expressed appreciation for Jeffrey Littman. He also commended Heidi Reid for her incredible work assisting the Board of Trustees.

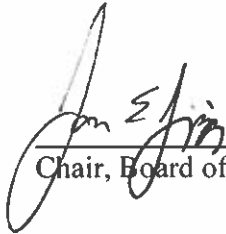
Trustee Shannon Wayne also expressed appreciation for both Jeffery Littmann and Heidi Reid.

XII. Date for Next Formal Meeting: July 30, 2026

XIII. Adjourn

It was moved by M. Wells, supported by S. Tomaszewski, and passed by voice vote without dissent, that the Board of Trustees adjourn the meeting.


Secretary to the Board of Trustees


Chair, Board of Trustees