

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 25, 2025.

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 25th 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:

A.R. Dickson
J.E. Jipping, Chair
M. D. Johnson
J. C. Littmann (remote)
S. M. Tomaszewski
S.D. Wayne
M.Q. Wells
R. J. Koubek, ex officio

Not present was J.U. Bacon, Board member

The following officers were present:

S.H. Schulte, Secretary
N.W. Stevens, Treasurer

Also present during part or all the session were: Andrew Barnard, Laura Bulleit, Wayne Gersie, John Lehman, William Kordenbrock, Josh Olson, 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 25, 2025, as distributed to the Board of Trustees, be approved.

IV. OPENING REMARKS

A. Chair's Comments

Good morning, everyone. It is a distinct pleasure to convene this formal session of the Michigan Technological University Board of Trustees on this typical (my notes say bright) but wonderful Houghton April morning, as Spring is trying to arrive. As we gather today, there is a palpable sense of anticipation and accomplishment in the air, a feeling that underscores the very essence of our institution's purpose.

This session holds particular significance as it precedes two of the most cherished and pivotal events in our academic year: the conferral of degrees upon our graduating students and the recognition of our esteemed faculty through the awarding of tenure and promotions.

This weekend, we will take the opportunity to celebrate our graduating seniors and masters and doctoral students. It is time to pause and celebrate the years of hard work, determination, and grit that went into their remarkable achievements.

In the days that follow, we will witness the next evolution of the skills these students forged here at Tech - continuing their work through innovation, excellence, and leadership as they embark on the next chapter of their lives. We, as a Board, share in their pride and look forward to the positive impact they will undoubtedly make on the world.

Today also provides us with the important opportunity to formally acknowledge and celebrate the outstanding contributions of our faculty. The awarding of tenure and promotions recognizes our faculty's sustained excellence in teaching, research, and service – the very pillars upon which Michigan Tech's reputation is built. Achieving tenure and achieving full professorship are both monumental milestones in an academic career. We congratulate these faculty for their remarkable achievements and for their dedication to the academic growth of our students.

We also have the distinct honor of recognizing those who have made the remarkable achievement of being recognized as University or Distinguished Professors. University Professors are recognized for outstanding contributions to the University and their discipline over a substantial period of time. We congratulate Dr. Zhanping You on being awarded the University Professor designation. Distinguished Professors are recognized for substantial contributions to the University and their discipline. We congratulate Dr. Barbara Dai and Dr. Claudio Mazzoleni on being named the University's newest Distinguished Professors.

As we draw this academic year to a close, we as a Board would like to express our appreciation for the collective dedication and hard work that have defined this past year. To our students, whose passion for learning fuels our mission, to our researchers, whose groundbreaking discoveries expand the boundaries of knowledge, to our faculty, whose commitment to excellence and rigor prepares our graduates for unparalleled success, and to our staff, whose tireless efforts provide the foundation for our achievements – thank you.

This year has been marked by significant milestones and unique challenges, each of which we have navigated with resilience, innovation, and a shared commitment to our core values. As we look ahead, we are confident that the Husky community will continue to carry forward the spirit of collaboration and excellence that has characterized our pack and our success.

We now turn to President Koubek for his opening remarks.

B. President's Comments

Chair, Members of the Board, and audience members. Thank you for joining us this morning.

I echo Chairman Jipping's comments -- congratulations to our graduates! It's truly a remarkable milestone in their lives, and Michigan Tech is proud to play a part in shaping their future. I am sure they will do great things with their degrees from Michigan Tech.

The 2024-25 academic year has brought both celebrations and challenges for our institution. Being named an R1 institution by the Carnegie Foundation was certainly a cause for celebration. Also, celebrating MASU's recognition of Jaclyn Johnson, teaching professor in the Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering (MAE), as the 2025 Michigan Distinguished Professor of the Year.

And yet, as you have probably heard in the news, higher education - and we are not immune - faces a number of challenges these days. In this regard, I assure you the leadership team and Board are monitoring them closely and acting accordingly.

On another note, I am pleased to report that many of our faculty and staff participated in the Tech Forward 2.0 campus conversations—a sincere thanks to those who participated. The conversations were insightful and forward-leaning. I thank Provost Storer and Vice President Barnard for their leadership in this regard. I'm excited about the creativity and innovation exhibited during the roundtable conversations, which hold great promise for Michigan Tech and our state over all.

The same goes for the new Essential Education program launching in the fall. Implementing a new undergraduate curriculum usually takes many years of work. From start to finish, Michigan Tech did the job in three -- which is a tremendous accomplishment. As you know I am very excited about what is going to happen this fall and thank you for all the work you've put into setting us apart as an institution that's really focused on what's best for our students and their undergraduate curriculum.

All of this to say that, yes, there were challenges, and there always are, but Michigan Tech has adapted accordingly. And, if the events of the past few years have taught us anything - it's to be mission-driven and agile.

I'd like to thank the Board of Trustees for their confidence in our work and commitment to excellence. Today, we will submit a balanced budget for FY 26 for approval. This year's budget prioritizes investments in our faculty, staff, research enterprise, and facilities, while respecting the financial uncertainty facing higher education.

Nick Stevens deserves a great deal of credit for his efforts to balance the university's current needs while preserving capital for unforeseen circumstances.

Finally, I'd like to welcome Carlos Rodriguez to campus and introduce him as our new CFO and Vice President for Administration. Nick Stevens will move to the Associate Vice President for Finance position. Nick, I am delighted that we can continue to lean on your expertise. And, Carlos -- we look forward to welcoming you to Michigan Tech and working with you.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Gabriel Ahrendt, representing Keweenaw Youth for Climate Action (KYCA) spoke about divestment of fossil fuels.

Ruth Gill, parent of a Michigan Tech student. Came to ask if the President planned to sign on to the statement by AACU (American Association of College and Universities) against political overreach endangering higher education.

Sarah Green, retired professor Emerita and former Chair of Chemistry, came to comment on the current graduates' outlook after graduation due to the current political legal actions on institutions across the nation.

Pushpalatha Murthy, retired Dean of Graduate School and Professor Emerita of Chemistry, came to share views on the current political climate affecting universities nationwide including integrity and academic freedom, research grants and innovation.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Academic Affairs Committee

Matt Johnson, Committee Member

The Academic Affairs Committee met once since the last Board meeting. The Committee is excited to announce that MTU continues to have one of the highest placement rates after graduation, at 94.6%, with a median income of \$75,000. These numbers are a tremendous recruiting opportunity for Michigan Tech.

Student enrollment is on track for the 25-26 academic year and Committee looks forward to the implementation of the essential education curriculum, being rolled out this fall. Thank you for all your efforts on this initiative.

The online MBA program continues to gain in popularity, which is great to hear.

Coming up in this meeting, the Committee will vote on tenure and promotion of faculty members. I would like to thank the following professors for their efforts on an economic impact study: Dr. Jenny Apriesnig and Dr. Laura Connolly, who assisted on the report. Thank you for your work on the report and congratulations on your anticipated promotion to associate professor with tenure.

B. Audit and Finance Committee

Steve Tomaszewski, Committee Chair

The Audit and Finance Committee met once since the last Board meeting. They received an update on the FY25 projections, the budget and planning for FY26, which includes the enrollment projections, the State appropriation estimates, the budget repurposing exercise, and the operating budget recommendations.

They also discussed the planning for FY25 external audit and a recent report out from the auditor.

There was also discussions on current events impacting higher education.

The Committee would like to thank Nick Stevens for his leadership as well as his team in attendance. Welcome to Carlos and look forward to working with him.

C. Leadership Committee

Monique Wells, Committee Chair

The Leadership Committee met once since the last Board meeting. The Committee Chair welcomes Carlos to the Michigan Tech family.

The Committee, thinking about the talent of the University and wanted to welcome the new mathematical science, Rodica Curtu and the Chemistry Chair, Patrick Pinhero, welcome.

The Committee reviewed the Presidential initiatives, with great work happening across campus.

Finally, the Committee looks forward to reviewing the risk tolerance statement during the July meeting.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

It was moved by M. Johnson, 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.

A. Approval of Minutes

B. Resignations, Retirements, and Off Payroll

C. Funding Productivity Report

D. Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs

VIII. ACTION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Employee Recognition

It was moved by S. Wayne, supported by M. Johnson, as passed by voice vote without dissent, that the Board of Trustees adopts the Resolution of Appreciation for the following individuals:

1. Song-Lin “Jason” Yang, Professor Emeritus, Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering – 36 years of service
2. John Lukowski, Associate Professor, Electrical & Computer Engineering - 41 years of service

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

It was moved by A. Dickson, supported by S. Tomaszewski 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 11, 2025**

Jun Dai	Assistant Professor	College of Business
Nathir Rawashdeh	Assistant Professor	Applied Computing
Ronghua Xu	Assistant Professor	Applied Computing
Xinyu Lei	Assistant Professor	Computer Science
Chunxiu "Traci" Yu	Assistant Professor	Biomedical Engineering
Yixin Liu	Assistant Professor	Chemical Engineering
Abdolmajid Erfani	Assistant Professor	Civil, Environmental & Geospatial Eng.
Ishi Keenum	Assistant Professor	Civil, Environmental & Geospatial Eng.
Quang Tran	Assistant Professor	Civil, Environmental & Geospatial Eng.
Bo Xiao	Assistant Professor	Civil, Environmental & Geospatial Eng.
Hongyu An	Assistant Professor	Electrical & Computer Engineering
Anna Stuhlmacher	Assistant Professor	Electrical & Computer Engineering
Alexandra Glover	Assistant Professor	Materials Science & Engineering
Joshua Mueller	Assistant Professor	Materials Science & Engineering
Sriram Vijayan	Assistant Professor	Materials Science & Engineering
Jung Yun Bae	Assistant Professor	Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering
Shawn Brueshaber	Assistant Professor	Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering
Ana Dyreson	Assistant Professor	Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering
Susanta Ghosh	Assistant Professor	Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering
Vijaya V. N.	Assistant Professor	Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering
Sriram Malladi		

Bhisham Sharma	Associate Professor	Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering
Valoree Gagnon	Assistant Professor	College of Forest Resources & Env. Sci.
Robert Larson	Assistant Professor	Biological Sciences
Jill Olin	Assistant Professor	Biological Sciences
Trista Vick-Majors	Assistant Professor	Biological Sciences
Richard Canavez	Assistant Professor	Humanities
James Hammond	Assistant Professor	Humanities
Tiffany Lewis	Assistant Professor	Physics
Jason Harman	Associate Professor	Psychology & Human Factors

**Appointment without Tenure for One Year – Extension to Tenure Clock
Effective August 11, 2025**

Elham Asgari	Assistant Professor	College of Business
Jiehong Guo	Assistant Professor	Civil, Environmental & Geospatial Eng.
Xin Xi	Assistant Professor	Geological & Mining Eng. & Sciences
Parisa Abadi	Assistant Professor	Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering
Paul Goetsch	Assistant Professor	Biological Sciences
Byung-Jun Kim	Assistant Professor	Mathematical Sciences
Qian Zhang	Assistant Professor	Mathematical Sciences

**Appointment without Tenure for One Year
Effective August 11, 2025**

Daniel Dowden	Assistant Professor	Civil, Environmental & Geospatial Eng.
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B. Appointments Involving Tenure and/or Promotion

It was moved by M. Johnson, supported by M. Wells, 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**

Jenny Apriesnig	College of Business
Laura Connolly	College of Business
Weihua Zhou	Applied Computing
Jianhui Yue	Computer Science
Tara Bal	College of Forest Resources & Environmental Science
Jared Wolfe	College of Forest Resources & Environmental Science
Paulus van Susante	Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering
Gordon Paterson	Biological Sciences
Oren Abeles	Humanities
Erich Petushek	Psychology & Human Factors
Mark Rhodes	Social Sciences

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

Julia Burton	College of Forest Resources & Environmental Science
Steven Voelker	College of Forest Resources & Environmental Science

Jennifer Nish

Humanities

C. Promotions

It was moved by M. Wells, supported by S. Wayne, 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

Laura Brown	Computer Science
Daisuke Minakata	Civil, Environmental, & Geospatial Engineering
Lanrong Bi	Chemistry
Tatyana Karbencheva-Christova	Chemistry
Rudy Luck	Chemistry
Stefka Hristova	Humanities
Kelly Steelman	Psychology & Human Factors

D. Emeritus Rank

It was moved by M. Johnson, supported by S. Tomaszewski, and passed by voice vote without dissent, that the Board of Trustees approves the following emeritus/emerita appointments:

1. Dr. Leonard J. Bohmann, Professor Emeritus
Department of Electrical & Computer Engineering
2. Dr. John S. Gierke, Professor Emeritus
Department of Geological & Mining Engineering & Sciences
3. Mr. John T. Lukowski, Professor Emeritus
Department of Electrical & Computer Engineering
4. Dr. Judith Perlinger, Professor Emerita
Department of Civil, Environmental, & Geospatial Engineering
5. Dr. Timothy J. Schulz, Professor Emeritus
Department of Electrical & Computer Engineering
6. Dr. Noel Urban, Professor Emeritus

Department of Civil, Environmental, & Geospatial Engineering

E. Appointment with Tenure - Amy Landis, Chemical 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 appointment with tenure for Dr. Amy Landis, in Chemical Engineering.

G. Approval of Revision to Board Policy 8.8 Student Activity Fee

It was moved by M. Wells, supported by S. Tomaszewski, and passed by voice vote without dissent, that the Board of Trustees approves the revisions to Board Policy 8.8 Student Activity Fee.

H. FY 25-26 General Fund Budget

It was moved by M. Wells, supported by S. Tomaszewski, and passed by voice vote without dissent, that the Board of Trustees approves the FY26 General Fund Operating Budget.

I. Resolution for Approval of External Auditor

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.

J. Appointment of Treasurer

It was moved by J. Littmann, supported by A. Dickson, and passed by voice vote without dissent, that the Board of Trustees approves the appointment of Carlos Rodriguez as Treasurer, as of June 1, 2025.

IX. REPORTS (presentations provided in agenda)

A. Michigan Tech Research Award 2024

Simon Carn, Distinguished Professor, Geological and Mining Engineering and Sciences

B. Provost Report

Andrew Storer, Provost & Sr. Vice President for Academic Affairs

C. Undergraduate Student Government

Ford Schoonover, USG 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. 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)**
- H. Contracts over \$500,000**

XI. Other Business

XII. Date for Next Formal Meeting: July 31, 2025

XIII. Adjourn

It was moved by M. Wells, supported by S. Wayne, 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