

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 December 12, 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 12th day of December, 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  
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 J. Bacon, and passed by voice vote without dissent, that the agenda of the formal session of December 12, 2025, as distributed to the Board

of Trustees, be approved.

#### **IV. OPENING REMARKS**

##### **A. Chair's Comments**

Good morning, everyone. To our Board members, President, faculty, staff, and our wonderful families and friends, thank you for being here today.

It is impossible to be here in Houghton in December and not feel something special. With the snow falling softly outside (later), this truly is everything that the holiday season should be—a time of warmth, reflection, and celebration, as the Copper Country transforms into a winter wonderland.

We are gathered on the eve of a momentous occasion: our 2025 Midyear Commencement. Tomorrow, we will proudly watch more than 300 remarkable undergraduate students cross the stage in the SDC Varsity Gym to receive their diplomas. These graduates are the embodiment of the resilience, ingenuity, and passion that defines a Michigan Tech Husky.

We look forward to hearing the words of graduating senior Quinn Riordan, an applied ecology and environmental science major who represents the hands-on, community-focused education that makes this University unique. Quinn's education, emphasizing field-based training, is a testament to the real-world rigor embedded in every MTU degree.

I also want to pause and offer special recognition to the outstanding students who will be commissioned tomorrow through our ROTC program. Your commitment to service, leadership, and duty is inspiring. You stand ready to defend our nation, and we salute your dedication and sacrifice.

To the Class of 2025 and the families who supported them, congratulations. We hope that you savor the celebration tomorrow. You have earned it, and we are excited to see the amazing contributions you will make in the world.

I would also like to take a moment to recognize the institution's commitment to supporting the whole student. We were recently honored to be named to The Princeton Review's 2026 Mental Health Services Honor Roll, one of just 30 institutions nationwide with this designation. Michigan Tech is not just developing the engineers and scientists of tomorrow but is also dedicated to providing an environment where our students can equally excel in developing their personal health and well-being.

Finally, certainly at this time of year, it's the right thing to do to offer a sincere thank you to the many MTU staff and faculty who make our Board meetings successful throughout the year. The tireless work that goes into the preparations, the logistics, the room setup, and the presentations all ensure that we can conduct the important business of the University. Especially at this time of year, your commitment and professionalism deserve our heartfelt recognition. Thank you.

President Koubek, I believe you also have a few opening remarks.

## **B. President's Comments**

Chair, Members of the Board, and audience members. Good morning and happy holidays. It's my pleasure to welcome you this morning.

In the spirit of the season, we have much to celebrate at Michigan Tech. First, congratulations to our trustee John Bacon, for his remarkable success on his new book about the Edmond Fitzgerald, which continues to be on the best seller list. Having you as a trustee, with this success, makes us all proud that you're affiliated with Michigan Tech. Congratulations to you for this great accomplishment. Indeed, in the spirit of the season, we have much to celebrate here at Michigan Tech. First, congratulations to the graduates walking across the stage tomorrow. There are many who helped them along the way, but a very special thanks is owed to the Michigan Tech faculty and staff who have made their experience here at Michigan Tech so special. Every day, I witness your commitment to their success, wellness, and their future, so thank you.

The 2025 graduating class represents 21 countries and 26 states. They earned an average cumulative GPA of 3.1 at Michigan Tech. Nine will go on to serve our country in the United States military, filling the shoes of the eight veterans who will also graduate tomorrow.

At a recent commencement ceremony, Alumnus Chang Park offered these words of encouragement to the graduating class: "You will do very well in life: you managed to survive against such great odds at Michigan Tech that whatever challenges life brings to you from now on will be a piece of cake."

Mr. Park is certainly living proof of this, having become a very successful businessman and entrepreneur.

Thank you for your confidence and belief in our mission. We are fortunate to have such dedicated alumni, students, faculty, staff, and board members to support the work we do.

Congratulations again to the class of 2025 and happy holidays to you all. Thank you.

## **V. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

Sarah Green, Emerita Professor, spoke about her concerns about an autocratic takeover of higher education.

## **VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **A. Academic Affairs Committee**

John Bacon, Committee Chair

The Committee met once since the last Board meeting. The Committee Chair affirms that all is going well on the academic side; quietly effective due to Provost Storer and the shared governance with the University Senate.

Next, Chair Bacon thanked the student government leaders, graduate student leaders, senate leaders and commented that shared governance has never worked better on his tenure than now. He sees that Instructional faculty treated very well here at Michigan Tech.

Lastly the Committee is spending time on valuable things bringing real benefits to the shared governance groups.

**B. Audit and Finance Committee**

Jeff Littmann, Committee Chair

The Committee met once since the last Board meeting. The Committee worked with Michigan Tech staff to update the planning matrix, which delineates the subjects discussed during the five annual meetings, the materials, as well as the action items. The Committee also updated their annual rotation of detailed analysis into University's revenue and expenses; property, plant and equipment; compensation, auxiliaries and research, and our balance sheet.

We are not immune from the demographic cliff that is impacting higher education, but we are well positioned to carry on with disciplined, sustained growth.

Next the Committee reviewed current fiscal state and began looking at FY27 in terms of enrollment and financial outlooks. Marsh, our insurance consultant, provided comprehensive insurance overview, including coverage, premiums, and industry trends.

Finally, the Committee spent considerable time on a detailed review of balance sheet, debt ratio, and debt capacity. Blue Rose, our bond consultant, who gave a debt service capacity analysis and our A1 rating commentary.

**C. Leadership Committee**

Monique Wells, Committee Chair

The Committee met once since our last Board meeting.

The Committee received an update on the initiatives for this year, all of which are on track.

Next, they discussed the strategic implementation of systems that strengthen Michigan Tech as a strong, disciplined R1 university with exceptional ROI for students.

Finally, the Committee discussed Board succession, as 2026 is our last year with Trustees Littmann and Bacon. It's hard to believe that they've already been here 7 years!

**VII. CONSENT AGENDA**

It was moved by J. Littmann, supported by J. Bacon, 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

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES OFF-PAYROLL REPORT (September 14, 2025, to November 15, 2025)

Retirements					
Last	First	Class	Department	Job Title	Term Date
					Most Recent Hire Date

Off Payroll					
Last	First	Class	Department	Job Title	Term Date
Yousefzadehkhavanagh	Nasibeh	NP	Kinesiology/Integrative Physiology	Research Scientist	07/29/2025
Kemppainen	Erin	UF	Rozsa Center for Performing Arts	Senior Administrative Aide	08/21/2025
Miles	Andrew	PF	Financial Aid Administration	Senior Financial Aid Manager	09/14/2025
Castro	La'retta	PF	Sponsored Programs Office	Grants & Contract Analyst	09/20/2025
Adams	Krystal	AF	Residential Dining	Food Service Helper	09/24/2025
Lister	Julie	AF	Residential Dining	Food Service Helper	09/26/2025
Morell	Julia	PF	Financial Aid Administration	Operations & Compliance Coordinator	09/28/2025
Schafer	Carl	AP	Wadsworth Hall Food Service	Food Service Helper	09/29/2025
Karppinen	Stalicee	AF	Residential Dining	Food Service Helper	10/03/2025
Saint-Onge	Samantha	PF	Human Resources	Benefit Specialist	10/04/2025
Dart	Jason	PF	Admissions	Assoc Director of Admissions	10/15/2025
Gnadinger	Ronald	PF	Great Lakes Research Center	Research Technician	10/29/2025
Swain	Gerald	PF	Information Systems & Services (ISS)	Business Systems Analyst	11/05/2025
Carney	Daniel	PF	Human Resources	Chief Human Resources Officer	11/07/2025
Bonini	Bradley	AF	Facilities Management	Building Mechanic	11/14/2025

**Michigan Technological University**  
**Michigan Tech Fund**  
**Fundraising Productivity Report**

C. Funding Productivity Report

Fiscal Year 2026 through 10/31/2025  
Compared to Prior Fiscal Year

Source	FY 2026			FY 2025		
	YTD Total	Adjustment	FY Goal % of Goal	YTD Total	Adjustment	FY % of Goal Goal
Major Gifts (Over 10K)	\$1,325,062		4.80	\$737,648		4.68
Planned Gift Commitments	\$15,230,000		15.89	\$8,535,222		15.50
Annual Giving (10K or less)	\$477,037		2.49	\$472,173		2.43
<i>Subtotal: Ind Giving</i>	<i>\$17,032,099</i>		<i>23.18</i>	<i>\$9,745,043</i>		<i>22.61</i>
Corporate Giving	\$745,353		2.62	\$741,203		2.56
Foundation & Other Org Giving	\$8,026,471		5.13	\$814,188		5.00
Corporate Sponsored Research	\$3,215,679		14.09	\$4,380,737		13.75
<b>FUNDRAISING TOTAL</b>	<b>\$29,019,602</b>		<b>45.02</b>	<b>\$15,681,171</b>		<b>43.92</b>
			<b>64%</b>			<b>36%</b>

**D. Sale of Surplus Property**

**1. 2009 Maine Cat P-47 Catamaran**

The University received a pre-owned 2009 Maine Cat P-47 Catamaran *Crackerjack*, Hull Identification Number (HIN) MCP47005A909, by donation in 2022. At the time of donation, the vessel was valued at \$643,600. The vessel also includes a 2009 rigid inflatable dinghy, model 11 AL, that was valued at \$4,000 at the time of gift acceptance.

The University has evaluated the item for potential use in accordance with Chapter 11 of the Property Procedures Manual and has determined that the item cannot currently be appropriately used by the institution. Accordingly, the University seeks Board approval for the sale of the item in accordance with the terms in the Property Procedures Manual.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the Board of Trustees approve the future sale of the 2009 Maine Cat P-47 Catamaran and the 2009 rigid inflatable dinghy in accordance with the terms in the Property Procedures Manual.

**2. Quick Hot Isostatic Press (HIP) System**

The University would like to sell a Quick Hot Isostatic Press (HIP) System that is no longer in use by the university. The HIP system was purchased in 1987 for \$187,000.

The University is requesting approval to sell, as this highly specialized system has not been operational for the past 25 years and would require significant upgrades and restoration costs before it could be recertified for use. Removal of the system would free up a significant amount of lab space that could be more effectively utilized to support current and future research efforts.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the Board of Trustees approve the future sale of the Quick Hot Isostatic Press (HIP) System at a fair market price.

**VIII. ACTION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**A. Emeritus Rank**

**RECOMMENDATION:** It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approves the request to name Dr. Miguel Levy, Professor Emeritus, in the Department of Physics.

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

1. Dr. Miguel Levy, Professor Emeritus, Department of Physics

**B. Election of Board of Trustees Chair and Vice Chair**

It was moved by S. Tomaszewski, supported by J. Bacon, and passed by voice vote without dissent, that the Board of Trustees elects Jon Jipping as Board Chair for calendar year 2026.

It was moved by A. Dickson, supported by S. Wayne, and passed by voice vote without dissent, that the Board of Trustees elects Monique Wells as Board Vice-Chair for calendar year 2026.

**C. Financial Approval**

The University is thrilled to bring forward a transformative project for the Board's consideration. As a result of the immense generosity of one of our alumnus, we find ourselves preparing for a fully donor-funded, new building on campus.

The Chang K. Park Center for Student Wellness is closely aligned with our institutional priorities and our commitment to supporting student success. It will strengthen the overall student experience by providing a purpose-built space for emotional, mental, and physical well-being that complements our academic environment.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the Board of Trustees authorizes the Administration to proceed with the design and construction of the Chang K. Park Center for Student Wellness at a cost not to exceed \$55,000,000, and to execute the necessary documents for the project.

It was moved by S. Tomaszewski, supported by J. Bacon, and passed by voice vote without dissent, that the Board of Trustees authorizes the Administration to proceed with the design and construction of the Chang K. Park Center for Student Wellness at a cost not to exceed \$55,000,000, and to execute the necessary documents for the project.

Vice President Bill Roberts expressed his appreciation to Chang Park for his transformational gift.

**IX. REPORTS (presentations provided in agenda)**

**A. University Research and Sponsored Programs Report**

Andrew Barnard, Vice President for Research

**B. Undergraduate Student Government**

Ford Schoonover, President

**C. Graduate Student Government**

Lauren Sprague, President

**D. University Senate**

Robert Hutchinson, Presiden

**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**

**XI. Other Business**

**XII. Date for Next Formal Meeting: February 27, 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