

**Adrienne Minerick**

In my role as the 2014-2015 Faculty Fellow for Strategic Planning and Budget, I helped with the three year revision of the five year strategic plan, available online ([Strategic Plan](#)), and participated in Financial Data Group meetings providing faculty perspectives on data and decisions. The faculty fellow experience was, on an individual level, perspective changing and substantially expanded my own skill-sets. On an organization level, this assignment influenced the university by enhancing faculty/administrative communication, ensuring more broadly-informed strategy and financial decisions, and developing experiences/skills for continuing leadership at Michigan Tech.

As a faculty fellow, my contributions to strategic planning were in facilitating the process and in directly contributing to the revisions with deans, leaders, and executive team members. I helped communicate and encourage departments, groups, and individuals to submit feedback during each of the open, online comment periods (comments on the existing plan, comments on the revisions). The comments received were carefully read and revisions were made to the strategic plan to ensure the concepts were captured in the current version. After substantial revisions, an open forum was conducted and a second comment period opened followed by additional revisions to the final version. In support of each comment period, I helped by talking to faculty/staff at department meetings and or group events about the process and the content changes. Lastly, I helped map existing metrics to each segment of the goals and subgoals of the strategic plan.

My contributions to the budget process were primarily observatory; I contributed by asking questions and volunteering a faculty perspective. The budget process is complex with annual events influencing numbers and trends. Thus, a two year cycle in this budget faculty fellow position will enable more long-term value. In my one year position, it was extremely valuable to learn how figures at specific points in time are benchmarked against the last 5+ years of data at that same time point, the discussions regarding what current influences are on the system and how to prioritize/project for the future. It was comforting to repeatedly watch how Michigan Tech's current financial stability is carefully and strategically crafted in dynamic response to perturbations. The process is continuously informed by data and inclusive discussions that weigh one option against another to arrive at the most feasible option that was consistent with the strategic plan.

The educational merits of these faculty fellow positions for the faculty as well as the administrative team with which they work are high. Based on my experience and how it facilitated and supported my current role as Associate Dean of Research & Innovation in the College of Engineering, I'd highly recommend participating as a faculty fellow.