

Executive Summary – President’s Personal Statement February 1, 2008

Thank you for taking the time to read this personal statement before you complete the University Senate evaluation. I want you to know how much I value your review and welcome your thoughts on progress at Michigan Tech. The Senate has shortened the evaluation survey this year and I am sure they will want to hear your thoughts on it as well.

Our Historical Context

In the mid-1960’s, Michigan Tech set a new course with a strategic plan that affirmed Tech’s historical strengths while emphasizing growth of research and graduate studies. This move was a response to the emerging needs of the state and region as technological change intensified, and business and industry sought innovations to enhance their competitiveness. We continue to embrace that strategic shift. Our vision is to become a premier technological university of world-class stature. Our plan emphasizes quality, people, distinctive programs, and the research, creativity, scholarly work and innovation that are necessary in today’s global environment.

A Brief Recap of Key Accomplishments

Teamwork - The accomplishments of the campus require teamwork of the entire University community to reach our goals. We are filling key positions in the university including faculty, staff, the Provost, Deans and Department Chairs.

How the World Views Us - Last year Michigan Tech broke into the top tier of the U.S. News & World Report rankings of national universities. The National Science Foundation ranks six of our College of Engineering disciplines in the top 100 nationally, with Mechanical Engineering ranking 21st. Math and Environmental Science are also in the NSF top 100.

Enrollment - Enrollment growth has continued to increase to a total of 6758 students - a trend likely to extend in 2008. We received 5000 applications for the first time ever last year; we have already hit that mark for next fall.

Finances - We stabilized our finances and ended the year with a balanced budget despite year-end state cuts. Philanthropic fundraising totaled \$28M during fiscal 2007, adding endowed chairs and professorships. Research expenditures reached \$56M.

Partnerships With Industry - GE Aviation and Ford Motor Company both established centers in Houghton, bringing new jobs and internships. The fall 2007 Career Fair attracted a record 283 businesses seeking our students and the YES Expo in Detroit attracted 20,000 attendees.

Faculty - We continue to hire talented people, including 35 new faculty members across the University as well as research scientists at the Michigan Tech Research Institute in Ann Arbor. We increased salaries for both faculty and staff an average of 3.7% in FY 06, and 4 percent FY 07 and FY08. *Compensation for faculty and staff remains a high priority going forward.*

Diversity - Increased retention of women, minorities and international students has expanded the diversity of our student body.

Union Relationships - We successfully reached contract agreements with the UAW, POA, and AFSCME, but not the AAUP.

The Future

We are continuing to transform into a university distinctly different from others, one that prepares its students to thrive in a world that demands imagination, innovation, and the ability to develop, understand, apply, manage and communicate science and technology to truly “create the future.”