THE UNIVERSITY SENATE OF  
MICHIGAN TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY  

Minutes of Meeting 435  
1 March 2006

Synopsis:
The Senate  
(1) heard that all proposals sent to the Board of Control were approved at its meeting on 24 February  
(2) were advised that nominees are needed for a number of university committees and senatorial positions.  
(3) heard a presentation by Christa Walck on Proposal 23-06, Master of Business Administration Degree  
(4) discussed Proposal 24-06, Proposal to extend Martin Luther King Jr. Day to a Full Day Recess  
(5) discussed the Career Day Resolution from Undergraduate Student Government.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL  
President Sloan called the University Senate Meeting 435 to order at 5:30 pm on Wednesday, 1 March 2006, in Room B45 EERC.  
Secretary Glime called roll. Absent were at-large Senators Don Beck and Brenda Helminen and representatives from Army/Air Force ROTC, Physical Education, Academic Services A, Academic Services C, and Auxiliaries. Liaisons in attendance were Becky Christianson (Staff Council), Liz Van Heusden (USG), and Nick Nanninga (GSC). Academic Services C and Auxiliaries currently have no elected representatives.

2. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS  
Guests included Phil Ribeiro (Pres. USG), Kayla Stewart (Daily Mining Gazette), Sharron Paris (Registrar), and Christa Walck (Dean SBC).

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA  
Seidel MOVED and Polzien seconded the motion to approve the agenda.  
Senator Milligan asked what happened to the proposals that were introduced in the last meeting. President Sloan responded that they had been sent back to committee for consideration of the comments made at the last meeting.  
The motion to approve the agenda PASSED on voice vote with no dissent. [Appendix A. NOTE: Only senate and library archival copies of minutes will have a full complement of appendices.]

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MEETING 434  
Waddell MOVED and Clancey seconded the motion to approve the minutes of Meeting 434 as presented. The motion PASSED on voice vote with no dissent.

6. PRESIDENT’S REPORT  
President Sloan reported that the Provost will miss this meeting and the next one due to a conference on technology startups and the Board of Control retreat.  

Proposals: The Board of Control at its meeting last Friday approved all Senate proposals presented to it. These included:
- final approval for the BS in Anthropology  
- first approval for the BS in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology  
- first approval for the BS in Exercise Science  
- the degree title change in technology  
- the new Ombuds policy  
The Provost today, before leaving for the airport, has outlined several issues he and other members of the Administration have with Senate proposals 9-06 and 10-06 on transfer of faculty between units and 11-06 on charters. These proposals will be reviewed by the appropriate committees.

Evaluation of the President: The evaluation survey for the president has ended. The Administrative Policy Committee is compiling the results, which are expected at the Senate meeting on 22 March. The Board of Control, which holds a retreat in Detroit that same day, has requested preliminary feedback for its own evaluation of the president.

Nominations and Elections
Senators: So far 3 out of 8 academic units with vacancies have elected and reported representatives for the next term. Four staff units have vacancies to be filled for the next term. There is one nomination for the faculty at-large vacancy.

Committees: There are openings on the Academic Tenure Committee: a) one tenured faculty member elected by academic faculty and b) a slate for presidential appointment (one vacancy); Athletic Council: two vacancies filled by slate for presidential appointment; Faculty Distinguished Service Award Committee: one elected by faculty (Beth Smock's position); Ombudsman Search Committee: one member elected by the academic faculty (also required is one person appointed by President - do we need a slate of nominees?) and one person elected by and from the Senate.

We will send you information about these openings right after spring break so you can see if any of your constituents are interested. Because we have agreed to try to hold elections for those positions elected by academic faculty at the same time as the Senator-at-large election, we will need to determine nominees earlier than usual.

There were no questions.

7. NEW BUSINESS
A. Senator Gorman introduced Proposal 23-06, Master of Business Administration Degree. [Appendix B]

Walck (Dean of the School of Business) presented the MBA program. This program name is more recognized than the current name of MSBA. It also fills a need for more flexibility for the students. The MBA is a spin-off of the current MSBA, so it does not need as much documentation as a new program, but it still does need state approval.

The program is designed so it can be completed in three semesters, or one calendar year. It requires 36 credits, whereas the MSBA requires only 30. It will be a plan D Master's, which is typical for the MBA. With an anticipated 50 students per year getting an MBA and a projected 100 students as the program grows, there would not be enough faculty time to cover 50 oral defenses a year. Since the program targets MTU graduates in science and engineering, it could function like a fifth-year Master's, but would also be available to other students.

Students accepted this year into the MSBA program would have a choice between that and the MBA program once it is approved. After the MBA program is in effect, no more students would be accepted into the MSBA program. The school also has an approved MSOM (Operations Management) program, but does not currently offer it.

The AACSB is the accrediting body for the business programs. In 2002 they changed the rules to a more mission-driven approach and approve programs that are crafted around the mission of the universities.

The School of Business has determined that the fast track is the best choice for their students. There is no other MBA program in the Upper Peninsula, and the nearest program is over 200 miles away.

The curriculum would consist of 24 credits of core courses and 12 credits of electives. It does not include any new courses at this time.

The program would not require any additional resources. They have a $750,000 Brule Challenge Grant in which Board of Control member Brule offered $250,000 if the School could triple it. Two new faculty lines have already been allocated, but have not been filled yet because they were waiting to see what expertise would best fit their new program.

The next review of their program is scheduled for 2010. The AACSB considers a new program to be accredited until it is reviewed.

They hope to start this program in fall 2006. That would be a transition year in which both programs would be active.

There are three summer courses planned; the school will try to choose core courses as well as electives for the summer.

Senator Nitz asked how many engineers would have the prerequisites required for the listed courses. Walck responded that the science and engineering degrees required calculus and that most students would have taken some of the other courses as well. Most students would probably need three of the prerequisites.

Senator Johnson stated that the School of Technology has planned its programs so that students can go to the business program's Master's. He asked if the requirement for 36 hours is likely to adversely affect these students. Most of them don't want to spend more than one year.

Walck responded that they need to plan and take prerequisites as undergraduates.

Senator Vitton asked if the MSBA degree wouldn't be more impressive. Walck responded that most people have to ask what an MSBA program is; the MBA degree is widely known.

Phil Ribeiro (Pres. USG) asked if there would be any accreditation problem. Do we have the right faculty?

Walck responded that they already have a number of good faculty in the right areas and would be hiring two more.

When asked about the number of students expected, Walck responded that she expected about 50, but she would love to double that number.

President Sloan stated that the Chair of the Finance Committee was unable to attend this meeting but that he had stated that he saw no problems with the proposal since outside money was available.

Walck added that the Graduate Dean, Provost, and other deans had a favorable response to the proposal.

B. President Sloan introduced Proposal 24-06, Proposal to extend Martin Luther King Jr. Day to a Full Day Recess [Appendix C].

Senator Wood asked if this could cause changes to any other holidays. Sloan responded that it would not.

Nitz asked about effects for next year. Secretary Glime responded that next year it would fall on the first day of the semester, so that classes would start on Tuesday instead. Glime explained that when the calendar change to semesters was discussed, the Senate had discussed a full day vs. a half day for MLK Day and decided on the half day, in part, because of such years as 2007 when the semester starts on MLK Day. There was concern then that there would be no opportunity for the programs sponsored by BSA to provide education on what Martin Luther King Jr. stood for.

Liz Van Heusden (USG) stated that the USG had considered the proposal and defeated it. They argued that it would take away from classes and that one could also argue to make President's Day a holiday because both were national holidays.

Johnson countered that a half day is very disruptive due to multiple sections of labs and lectures. His faculty were overwhelmingly in favor of the proposal. They also felt that a half-day holiday was hypocritical.

Senator Janniers stated that observing doesn't mean not working. We can observe the day by talking about the issues. Vitton stated that the U of M had only a half-day holiday. Van Heusden added that Northern does not have a holiday.

Johnson reiterated his support for a whole day or not at all.

Senator Miskiyoglu agreed that there is the same problem with K-Day.

Senator Sutter stated that if you lose one lab, you also lose the other lab days that week.

Senator Boschetto-Sandoval stated that if there are classes that day, students will not necessarily discuss the issues related to celebrating the life of Martin Luther King Jr.; it will be business as usual.

Wood stated that our way of recognizing MLK Day impacts our attraction to minority students.

Senator Milligan responded that we need to ask the Black Student's Association for their view.

C. President Sloan introduced the Career Day Resolution from Undergraduate Student Government. Senators had been given a copy of a proposed Senate Resolution on the subject to get a sense of the Senate [Appendix D].

Senator Turnquist presented a perspective from the Career Center. He stated that in 2004-05 there was 95% placement of our students. They have to prep students for the interviews, so Career Day must be later in the year.

Companies tell students and encourage them to attend the Career Day/Job Fair. They try to avoid days when there are sports events, Board of Control meetings, or other major meetings; they need all the rooms they can get.

When the company representatives come, they want to spend several days here and come only once. It is expensive for them to come here. Although students meet representatives on Career Day, 60% of the interviews are on the following two
8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by Janice M. Glime
Secretary of the University Senate