

**The University Senate
of Michigan Technological University**

Minutes of Meeting 502
16 February 2011

Synopsis:

The Senate

- Annual Report on “Tenure, Promotion, and Reappointment” by Provost Max Seel
- Presentation: “Report on Undergraduate Student Government (USG)” by Erik Riutta
- Proposals 13-11 passed

1. Call to order and roll call. President Rudy Luck called the University Senate Meeting 502 to order at 5:30 pm on Wednesday, February 16, 2011. The Senate Secretary Marty Thompson called roll. Absent were Senators Koszykowski, and Kangas and representatives of Army/Air Force ROTC, Electrical and Computer Engineering, Materials Science and Engineering, Admissions and Research.

2. Recognition of visitors. Guests included Max Seel (Provost Office), Joe Herbig (Accounting Services) and Jackie Huntoon (Graduate School).

3. Approval of agenda. Luck asked if there was approval of the agenda. No changes were requested. The agenda was approved unanimously on a voice vote.

4. Approval of minutes from Meeting 501. Luck asked if there was approval of the minutes. No changes were requested. The minutes were approved unanimously on a voice vote.

5. Annual Report on “Tenure, Promotion, and Reappointment” by Provost Max Seel

Seel, Provost’s Office, stated that eight individuals were granted tenure, one tenure application was denied and four individuals were promoted. Mullins asked if the number of applications for promotion could be reported. Seel noted that four faculty applied for promotion from associate to full professor and that of the eight faculty approved for tenure, six were promotions from assistant to associate professor.

6. Presentation: “Report on Undergraduate Student Government (USG)” by Erik Riutta

Riutta, Undergraduate Student Government, started by describing the organization, role and budget of USG. He discussed several issues important to undergraduate students, including; blue light phones, campus safety and crime, and problems with accessibility for disabled persons. Riutta brought up several new program ideas, including; personality profiling, career planning, empowerment, increase difficulty of exams, and alter student-faculty dynamics. Events such as Senior Prom and MTU’s Got Talent were also discussed. Mullins noted the Graduate Student Government representative raised concern over the lack of a campus healthcare facility and asked if USG has had such discussions with its constituency. Riutta said that issue was not discussed. Scarlett asked for details regarding Senior Prom. Riutta clarified that it was an event for senior citizens.

7. Report from the Senate President

Luck lauded a recently published book authored by Caneba. He then divulged senate assistant Smigowski’s role on the pit crew for her son’s rally [race](#) car. Tim won an [award](#) for the race. Luck informed the senate that John Velat is the new chair of the Fringe Benefits Committee.

8. Report from Senate Standing Committees

There were no reports.

9. Old Business

Proposal 13-11: “Proposal to Establish Guidelines for Accelerated Master’s Program’s at Michigan Tech”

Storer, Curricular Policy Committee, started by clarifying the senior rule and how it is related to this proposal. He also noted terminology changes from ‘professional focus’ to ‘accelerated masters’ which were made for consistency throughout the proposal. Storer discussed the six dual counting credits that may be applied to both the BS and MS and noted that individual programs are not obligated to accept dual counting credits. Luck stated ten credits can be taken by undergraduates at the undergraduate tuition rate and if denoted upon registration, apply to the master’s degree. Yaroch noted the total number of credits cannot be less than 150 credits. Mullins noted this was in addition to and not replacing senior rule. Storer confirmed that senior rule will stay the same. Guy asked why a thesis based master’s degree is not included in this proposal. Storer said that committee removed the thesis (research) based degree portion to ensure committee support. He added that a comparable proposal addressing research based master’s degrees will come in as a separate proposal. Onder stated his support of the proposal, but did express concern over separating the coursework and research-based accelerated master’s programs into two separate proposals. He suggested a textual change to address counting research credits only taken as a master’s student. Onder **motioned** to amend the proposal. Cooper **seconded**. Storer stated he liked the wording changes and felt they would fit in quite well into a separate proposal for the research-based accelerated master’s degree. He added that he would not support the amendment since it was not supported by the CPC and discussion would need to take place. Onder noted that the current wording was acceptable aside for the exclusion of research-based master’s degree. Luck stated that any senator can introduce changes or amendments to a proposal to be voted on the floor so long as they are germane to the proposal. Luck cited the CPC

chair's statement that a second proposal containing wording comparable to Onder's suggested changes to address the lack of a research-based master's degree. He added that it might be helpful to have the CPC describe what it is doing to realize this aim. Storer said the CPC will work with the Dean of the Graduate School to produce a second proposal expanding the types of master's degrees detailed in Proposal 13-11 to contain research-based degrees and bring the resulting proposal to the senate. He stated the key concerns in separating the proposals were whether students should be prevented from getting a graduate degree at the same institution they received their baccalaureate degree. Snyder felt this was an interesting philosophical point, but students can already stay at Tech to get graduate degrees and this proposal does nothing to prevent a student from choosing to stay at Tech for multiple degrees. Yaroch noted there were four types of master's degrees and that the students pay for the non-research degrees as opposed to research-based graduate degrees where the research advisors usually pays a student's tuition and fees. He added that other institutions describe BS/MS degrees differently. Onder felt applying this proposal to all master's degree options was a benefit to the university and he felt credit counting methods would not be a limiting issue. Snyder asked the Dean of the Graduate School if the application for the accelerated master's degree follows the normal process. Huntoon affirmed this. Yaroch said this proposal applies to existing programs and that each will need to be approved. He also inquired about the amended text. Scarlett asked the senate to trust the CPC and let them bring a second proposal to the floor. Luck asked for a voice vote; the amendment to the proposal was defeated by a majority vote. Barkdoll asked about the role of the advisor in this program. Storer said application of this program is dependent on individual departments. He added that the advisor and advisory committee still have the final say as is the case in all graduate degrees. Luck asked for a voice vote; the proposal **passed** by a majority vote.

10. New Business

Proposal 14-11: "Proposal for an Undergraduate Certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages" presented by Curricular Policy Committee

Storer, Curricular Policy Committee, described this certificate as requiring five classes in sequence. He added this proposal has the support of committee. Mullins, chair of the Finance Committee, said the program is a good one, but the lack of information on the financial impact prevents the committee from assessing the impact. Luck asked who should provide the financial information. Storer said the originating department needs to provide the requested information. Mullins said he will request the relevant information and noted that, if provided in timely manner, will be ready for the next senate meeting.

Proposal 15-11: "Concentration/Options Within Degree Programs" presented by Curricular Policy Committee

Storer, Curricular Policy Committee, described the goal of the proposal as clarifying what concentrations or options are within degree programs and to differentiate between focus and technical areas of emphasis. The title will be changed to index more easily. Also addressed is how these terms appear on a transcript and approval mechanism.

Proposal 16-11: "Proposal for an Interdisciplinary Graduate Certificate: The International Profile Certificate" presented by Curricular Policy Committee

Storer, Curricular Policy Committee, described this proposal to recognize advance study in any field for students with advanced international perspectives. The new course proposed is a seminar class. This proposal has approval from relevant deans and chairs, as well as the support of the CPC. Mullins said he did not receive any financial information. Siegel stated that an updated course list will be provided.

11. Adjournment. Onder **moved** to adjourn; Scarlett **seconded** the motion. President Luck adjourned the meeting at 6:42pm

Respectfully submitted
by Marty Thompson
Secretary of the University Senate