

**The University Senate
of Michigan Technological University**

Minutes of Meeting 510
5 October 2011

Synopsis:

The Senate

- Proposal 1-12 passed
- Proposal 2-12 passed
- Proposal 3-12 passed
- Proposal 4-12 passed
- Proposal 5-12 passed

1. Call to order and roll call. President Rudy Luck called the University Senate Meeting 510 to order at 5:30 pm on Wednesday, October 5, 2011. The Senate Secretary Marty Thompson called roll. Absent were representatives of Biomedical Engineering, Physics and Staff Council and Senators Sha, Koszykowski and Panian.

2. Recognition of visitors. Guests included Max Seel (Provost), Mike Patterson (Dining Services), John Lehman (Enrollment), Mike Meyer (Physics), William Kennedy (CTLF), Ravi Pandey (Physics) and Jacqueline Huntoon (Graduate School).

3. Approval of agenda. Luck asked if there were any changes; there being none Luck declared the agenda stood **approved**.

4. Approval of minutes from Meeting 509. Luck asked if there were any changes; there being none Luck declared the minutes stood **approved**.

5. Presentation: “2011 Michigan Tech Teaching Award Winner – Michael Meyer”

Kennedy introduced Meyer, recipient of the 2011 teaching award. Meyer centered his discussion on the ways in which higher education is changing. He provided several examples of ways in which he has crafted his courses in physics to the changing mindset and value system of students, including; pre-lecture quizzes, confidence building and mentoring. Meyer stated his overarching goal is to have some fun and learn some physics. He concluded by presenting three demonstrations to illustrate the joy of physics. Mullins asked if test scores increase from testing more often and made a comparison to European higher education. Meyer noted that in the United States, we are striving towards self-assessment, but currently are not ready for that approach. Pandey said Meyer teaches the early-year students. Luck said that many countries only take the top students, whereas in America most students are accepted. Meyer stated that the labs are attendance and experience. He noted that the average grade in his course ranges from a BC to a C. Pandey said they are not physics majors. Schutte asked if the pre-lecture grade means they do not perform after a grade has been given. Meyer noted that there needs to be some grading pressure because if students are not rewarded for an activity it will not happen. Luck thanked Meyer.

6. Presentation: “[Enrollment Statistics](#)” by John Lehman

Bulleit, Institutional Planning Committee, introduced Lehman, assistant vice-president for enrollment services. Lehman delivered the 2011 enrollment report. Overall enrollment is 7031, up from 6976 from last year. He provided data for graduate student, female and international enrollment – all of which has increased. Lehman compared the ACT scores of students admitted to Tech versus the national ACT score averages from 2000-2011. He noted that freshman to sophomore retention rates increased to 83.3%. Luck asked how student loans and retention rates correlate. Lehman said that the highest retention rate was for those with little or no student loans, whereas higher loan amounts show a decreased retention rate. Mullins asked if the time to graduation has changed. Lehman said he has not looked at that. Seel said Tech is third, behind Michigan State University and the University of Michigan, but the difference was not significant. Mullins said if we have more students taking fewer credit hours and taking longer to graduate, it will appear as if we have more students overall. Lehman said there was a decrease in non-compulsory classes. Mullins asked if students were not taking overloads and remarked on the decrease in average credit hours per semester. Lehman said he did not know and remarked that the per student semester credit hours dropped from 14.2 to 14.1. Vable said the ACT scores show a nice Gaussian distribution but course grade distributions are bimodal. He said this was cause for concern because the students in the lower mode are more likely to repeat courses, take more effort and time to teach, and pose a problem in retention rates, as they may be more likely to drop-out. Vable suggested the Provost Office or enrollment services need to explain this discrepancy. Lehman said he saw this phenomenon in out of state students and it should be looked into. He then introduced the new undergraduate recruitment campaign. Barkdoll asked if we can find out why students choose not to come to Tech. Lehman performs cancellation surveys but the data acquired is difficult to make use of. Barkdoll asked which schools students attend rather than Tech. Lehman said Michigan State University and the University of Michigan.

7. Report from the Senate President

Luck expressed his happiness that nearly all senator positions are filled. He then read Senate By-Law C.4. and proposed that we announce committee meeting times so any member of the university community can attend. Presentation slides from the presentation at the Board of Control are on the web. Referring to President Mroz’s campus forum, Luck stated the President’s solution to parking was bike lanes, walking lanes and added bus service. Luck then noted that previously submitted parking proposals could be revisited.

8. Report from Senate Standing Committees

Barr, Fringe Benefits Committee (FBC), reported that the committee met. She added that she and two others on the FBC were present for the most recent Benefits Liaison Group (BLG) meeting, where sick leave policy and health insurance were discussed. Barr concluded by stating that the BLG will be meeting with President Mroz about total compensation. Luck noted the Daily Mining Gazette article quoting President Mroz regarding pay raises.

9. Old Business

Proposal 1-12 : “Proposal to Modify Senate Policy 413.1: Accelerated Master’s Programs”

Storer, Curricular Policy Committee, reiterated the fact that this was a modification of last years accelerated masters programs. He read the friendly amendment regarding tracking the numbers of students enrolled in this program over time and to report the results to the senate. The final wording change replaces the text, *‘The Dean of the Graduate School will report to the Senate on the number of accelerated master’s programs and enrollment in these programs’* with the new text, *‘The Dean of the Graduate School will report to the Senate on the number of accelerated master’s programs, enrollment in these programs, the number of enrolled master’s students who received their undergraduate degree from Michigan Tech and the number of these that are in accelerated master’s programs. In addition, this report will include a comparison with the data from previous years’*. Luck said this was a clarification of existing text. Huntoon expected her office could get the newly described information. Luck noted the voting issues of a clarifying text versus a major change requiring two weeks before voting. Vable noted the grade point average (GPA) is 3.0 minimum and asked if each program could make it higher than that. Storer noted that with declining grades, students could be taken out of the program. Vable asked if continuation GPA, after admission into the program, could be set higher. Huntoon said departments can make more restrictive policies and not less restrictive policies than the graduate school. Storer noted the continuation and minimum GPA wording could reflect that departments can be more restrictive. Luck asked if GPA requirements were higher in Mechanical Engineering-Engineering Mechanics (ME-EM). Vable stated this was a serious issue among his constituents and noted that ME-EM was reducing enrollment in master’s programs. He sought the flexibility for departments to make the criteria more restrictive. Huntoon provided some clarifying language but once a student is admitted departments cannot require a higher GPA. Storer added the language to permit programs to define additional or more restrictive criteria for admission and continuation. Luck noted students can continue in the graduate program so long as they maintain a GPA of at least 3.0 and inquired as to why students should be required to maintain a 3.4 GPA if required for admission. Vable asked for flexibility in wording so departments could set these criteria. Huntoon said the flexibility would be a good idea because students enroll during their sophomore year and a lot can happen in the ensuing few years. Luck asked for final language. Storer rephrased the clarifications into the final wording. Luck noted the GPA must be maintained if admitted as sophomores through their graduation. Luck asked for comments; there being none he called for a vote on the clarifications; the new text **passed** unanimously on a voice vote. Luck asked if there were any additional discussion on the proposal; there being none he called for a vote; the proposal **passed** unanimously on a voice vote.

Proposal 2-12: “Graduate Appeals of Suspension or Dismissal”

Kampe, Instructional Policy Committee, reiterated how appeals will be implemented and administered. Luck asked for discussion; there being none he called for a vote; the proposal **passed** unanimously on a voice vote.

Proposal 3-12: “Graduate Good Academic Standing and Dismissal”

Kampe, Instructional Policy Committee, reiterated how this proposal defines good academic standing for graduate students. He presented some minor editorial clarifications. Luck asked for comments; there being none he called for a vote; the proposal **passed** unanimously on a voice vote.

Proposal 4-12: “Graduate Scholastic Standards”

Kampe, Instructional Policy Committee, reiterated how the proposal formalizes into policy existing procedures. Luck asked for discussion; there being none he called for a vote; the proposal **passed** unanimously on a voice vote.

Proposal 5-12 : “Graduate Grievances”

Kampe, Instructional Policy Committee, restated the policy. He presented some minor editorial clarifications and noted the ombudsman office is a resource that students should be made aware of. Luck asked for comments; there being none he called for a vote; the proposal **passed** unanimously on a voice vote.

10. New Business

There was no new business

11. Adjournment. Ouder **moved** to adjourn; Storer **seconded**; Luck adjourned the meeting at 6:34pm.

Respectfully submitted
by Marty Thompson
Secretary of the University Senate