

**The University Senate
of Michigan Technological University**

Minutes of Meeting 512
2 November 2011

Synopsis:

The Senate

- Presentation on AQIP projects by Associate Provost Christa Walck
- Presentation on graduate program by Provost Max Seel
- Proposal 6-12 passed
- Proposal 7-12 passed

1. Call to order and roll call. President Rudy Luck called the University Senate Meeting 512 to order at 5:30 pm on Wednesday, November 2, 2011. The Senate Secretary Marty Thompson called roll. Absent were representatives of Biomedical Engineering, Materials Science and Engineering, Mathematical Sciences, Physics, Visual and Performing Arts, Academic Services B, Auxiliaries and Cultural Enrichment and Staff Council and Senators Bulleit.

2. Recognition of visitors. Guests included Max Seel (Provost Office), Christa Walck (Provost Office), Jim Frentheway (School of Technology), Hasan Sapci (School of Technology), Guy Hembroff (School of Technology), Jessica Benda (Student Affairs), Sean Kirkpatrick (Biomedical Engineering), Zack Kukkonen (Daily Mining Gazette), Stacey Kukkonen (Daily Mining Gazette), Anita Quinn (Human Resources), Pushpa Murthy (Chemistry) and Shehar Joshi (School of Forest Resources and Environmental Science).

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 Meetings 511. Luck asked if there were any changes; there being none Luck declared the minutes stood **approved**.

5. Presentation: “[Update on AQIP Projects](#)” by Associate Provost Christa Walck

Luck introduced Associate Provost Christa Walck, who proceeded to discuss action projects, accreditation and strategy updates pertaining to AQIP. She noted a quality check-up visit which will occur in March 2012. Walck discussed several ongoing projects and new projects such as, increasing the numbers of female faculty and students, and improving student success. Seel noted the placement rates are very good. Walck said the placement rates are good but the corresponding data gathered was not very good. Seel said 94 percent is very good. Walck agreed but felt the sample size was too small to be statistically significant. Mullins asked who our peer institutions are. Walck said it depends on what aspect we are looking at. Seel said it varies by department. Kallio said the benchmarks are on the Tech website. Walck discussed the new task force on blended and technology-rich teaching/learning environment and support systems. Seel noted Steve Kamp from the senate is a member of the task force. Walck concluded by mentioning the NSSE 2012 student survey. Luck asked who chose the two representatives from Tech. Walck said the higher learning commission. Luck asked if the commission is comprised of peer-institutions. Walck said no and noted most of the commission is composed of community colleges as they also choose AQIP. Luck thanked Walck.

6. Presentation: “[Provost Report on the Graduate Program](#)” by Provost Max Seel

Luck introduced Provost Max Seel, who provided information about graduate student support. Seel described the support mechanisms for doctoral and master's students. Mullins asked how this compares to research intensive universities. Seel said we are trying to grow our graduate program. Mullins asked for the comparable numbers at other institutions. Seel said that the external research support needs to be much higher. Mullins said at engineering schools the self-supporting students represent about 90% of the total. Seel said we need to grow the master's degree numbers, noting the majority were self-supported (504 of the 664 master's students were self-supported versus 127 of the 500 doctoral students were self-supported). He noted the state support to universities has gone down whereas tuition and fees have gone up over the past 30 years. Vable commented that the state appropriations and tuition amounts presented as a percent of revenue does not describe the point being made. Seel referenced the plot as a general trend and as support for scholarships to bridge the widening cost gap. Luck asked about the 'Other' category. Seel said 'Other' includes, dorms, endowments and anything else that goes into the fund. He noted the state financial-aid decreased dramatically and institutional financial-aid has more than doubled. Vable asked about the graduate and undergraduate numbers. Seel restated the graduate and undergraduate financial-aid amounts. Vable asked what percent of undergraduate tuition goes to the institutional support of students. Seel said that amount is approximately 40%.

7. Report from the Senate President

Luck noted the administration approved Proposals 1-12 through 5-12, noting Proposals 1-12, 3-12 and 4-12 had changes that the senate needs to approve. Seel said they were only typos. Luck presented the changes to Proposal 1-12, and asked if there were any additional discussion on the proposal. There being none he called for a vote; the revised proposal **passed** unanimously on a voice vote. Luck presented the changes to Proposal 3-12, and asked if there were any additional discussion on the proposal. There being none he called for a vote; the revised proposal **passed** unanimously on a voice vote. Luck presented the changes to Proposal 4-12, and asked if there were any additional discussion on the proposal. There being none he called for a vote; the revised proposal **passed** unanimously on a voice vote. Luck reminded the senate that Vice-President Reed was giving a presentation next week on strategic budgeting. He made an announcement for the chess club. Luck requested that each committee with senate appointed members provide a report which will be made available to the senators.

He noted the Benefits Liaison Group is busy and will have a meeting 1/5/2012 to make 3-5 year projections on benefits. Luck noted that Aetna made an evaluation and concluded there was not much we could do to make health-related improvements. Luck disagreed and said we could all stand to lose some weight. He concluded by requesting an update on the IT transformation and commenting on Michigan House Bill No. 4770 – a bill to prohibit public employers from providing certain benefits to public employees. Luck then suggested a [sense of the senate resolution](#) Scarlett noted the bill is in conflict with our strategic plan item 1.1: competitive compensation and recruitment. Barr said this issue will continue to reoccur until sex-orientation is protected under law. Luck said this rule applies to any domestic partnership. Riehl stated this is still a problem with cohabitation in terms of Tech's benefits plan. Barr said that issue is more of an IRS rule. Barkdoll asked what the role of this senate resolution is. Luck felt it was moral support. Mullins noted the local representative is a supporter of the bill. Vable recommended we send our resolution to him. Herbig asked if the above text could be attained. Luck said it will be in the minutes.

8. Report from Senate Standing Committees

Onder, Elections Committee, asked for additional nominations to serve on the committee for the evaluation of the Dean of CSA. There being none, Vable moved forward. Luck asked if there were any additional nominations; there being none he called for a vote; the senate unanimously **approved** Vable's appointment to the Dean evaluation committee by a voice vote.

9. Old Business

Proposal 6-12: "Proposal for a non-departmental Ph.D. Program in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (BMB)"

Storer, Curricular Policy Committee, reiterated the units involved and noted that the authors of the proposal were present for questions. Mullins Finance Committee (FC) stated that we lose money for each student we graduate and declared that his committee should turn down all proposals that do not state new costs. Seel said if we cannot do this because this is true of all programs. He stated that research is expensive and our mission is to educate and do research. Kirkpatrick said 51-04 needs to be revamped to reflect what information the FC actually needs. Seel said he would revisit 51-04 to work out new wording. Murthy noted reallocations exist but if chairs and deans are aware of this and sign off on it, they are aware of the impacts. Luck said the FC is important as an analysis independent of deans and chairs, noting the challenges of the committee. Luck asked if the proposal should move forward. Mullins said it should and noted our non-resident graduate tuition is among the lowest in the country. Luck cut the comments short referring Mullins to the next meeting where the specific issue of graduate tuition will be discussed. Storer pointed out the new wording in section 12. Onder said his constituents were in support of this proposal. 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 7-12: "Master's Program in Biomedical Engineering"

Storer, Curricular Policy Committee, noted there is currently a doctoral program in the Department of Biomedical Engineering and this master's degree is a logical addition. 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.

10. New Business

Proposal 8-12: "Master of Science in Medical Informatics"

Storer, Curricular Policy Committee (CPC), stated this is from the School of Technology. He added that early concerns about the proposal have been addressed and it has CPC support.

Proposal 9-12: "Bachelor of Arts in Physics"

Storer, Curricular Policy Committee, said this is a bachelor of arts degree with less intensity in physics permitting more study in a range of other subjects. Barkdoll asked about the demand. Storer noted the B.S. and B.A. degrees are quite common at many institutions.

Proposal 10-12: "Bachelor of Arts in Physics with a Concentration in Secondary Education"

Storer, Curricular Policy Committee, said this was similar to Proposal 9-12 and has a concentration in secondary education built into the degree program. Luck stated there was a great need for physics teachers in high-school and this degree makes the timeline more tangible.

11. Adjournment. Onder **moved** to adjourn; Storer **seconded** the motion. President Luck adjourned the meeting at 6:35pm

Respectfully submitted
by Marty Thompson
Secretary of the University Senate