

# The University Senate of Michigan Technological University

Minutes of Meeting 532

10 April 2013

**1. Call to order and roll call.** President Bill Bulleit called the University Senate Meeting 532 to order at 5:30 pm on Wednesday, April 10, 2013. The Senate Secretary Brian Barkdoll called roll. Absent were representatives of the Army/Air Force ROTC, Chemical Engineering, Chemistry, Kinesiology and Integrative Physiology, Materials Science and Engineering, Academic Services B, Auxiliaries, Student Affairs, and the Graduate Faculty Council.

**Recognition of visitors.** Guests included Max Seel (Provost's Office), Dave Reed (Research), and Stephen Anderson (Daily Mining Gazette).

**2. Approval of agenda.** He asked if there were any changes; the agenda **PASSED** on a voice vote.

**3. Approval of minutes from Meeting 531.** Bulleit asked if there were any changes. There being no additional suggestions, the minutes were **APPROVED** on a voice vote.

**4. Presentation: "Budget Issues" by David Reed, VP for Research** [presentation info.](#)

Reed answered questions regarding the university budget, including the university debt using bonds issued for things like dorms and other buildings. Some bonds were refinanced to obtain a lower interest rate, resulting in a lower net cost to the university. Another bond will be refinanced this year that was interest-only with the principal due upon maturity. This bond will stretch out to 2028 with payments on the principal also to avoid a large expenditure at maturity, even though it will cost more overall.

The bond rating company stated that the university's financial outlook looks negative due to available cash and declining state appropriations. MTU is smaller than other institutions and, therefore, has a smaller cash reserve. In addition, we have a more diverse revenue stream that affects us. Items that affect bond ratings could be layoffs and reduced budget, but MTU is trying to avoid those measures. Our 2013 rating will be downgraded to an A1 rating with a stable outlook. A1 rating is a common rating on other MI universities. There probably will be a negligible effect on the bond interest rate.

Regarding financial aid, appropriations have increased and will more next year. The discount rate has decreased slightly and may be reduced more to cut costs. After plateau tuition takes affect the administration will look at the discount rate and may make adjustments.

International student surcharge will be enacted to offset reporting and tracking costs by the administration. The administration met with international students and talked about issues such as no surcharge in summer and phasing the surcharge in, since it can be substantial for students to pay. Concerns were raised that the number of graduate students may decline over this surcharge. Our out-of-state tuition is one of the lowest, however.

## **5. Reports**

### **a. Senate President**

Bulleit said that Proposal 12-13 regarding dean searches had some changes but was signed by admin. The amended proposal was **APPROVED** unopposed.

### **b. Senate Standing Committees**

Riehl said that election voting has been sent out for some positions and asked for more nominations for non-filled positions for a vote next meeting.

Dewey presented [information](#) on a proposed new bus system to help with the parking situation. It would consolidate the city bus system and the university may contribute also. Alumni Way plan may reduce parking and may cause traffic congestion at the west end. This proposal would give people a choice of transportation.

## 6. Old Business:

a. Proposal 13-13: “Review and Reappointment of Deans of Colleges” presented by Administrative Policy Committee (Voting Units: Full Senate)

Cleaning up language mostly. **APPROVED** unopposed.

b. Proposal 20-13: “Academic Calendar for 2014-15 and Provisional Calendar 2015-16” presented by Instructional Policy Committee (Voting Units: Full Senate)

**APPROVED** unopposed.

c. Proposal 21-13: “Audit Grades presented by Instructional Policy Committee” (Voting Units: Academic)

Proposal requested by the Registrar’s Office to stop working around audits instead of an F grade. An amendment to allow one exception for flexibility was not approved. The original proposal was **APPROVED** with one opposed.

d. Proposal 22-13: “Proposal to Amend Teaching and Course Evaluations” presented by Instructional Policy Committee (Voting Units: Academic)

Hamlin said that the original proposal was changed to keep data release the same as now with comments to instructors and averages to the supervisor. It was brought up that electronic systems will record data and could be obtained by the Freedom of Information Act and that the evaluation should retain Q20 so we can compare with past evaluations, but it was countered that only Q20 may then be used by administrators, however, which the proposal sought to avoid. Amendment 1 was **APPROVED** 8 to 5. A sunset provision proposed for Q20, in which the original Q20 will retire after 6 years, (end of 2018/19) was **APPROVED** unopposed. An amendment on comparing old and new scores using a specific statistical approach was proposed but was amended to allow the CTL to compare old and new evaluation instruments and present the comparison to the Senate on an annual basis, which was **APPROVED** unopposed. The amended proposal was **APPROVED** with one dissent and one extension.

e. Proposal 23-13: “Proposal for a Minor in Aerospace Engineering” presented by Curricular Policy and Finance Committees (Voting Units: Academic)

**APPROVED** unopposed.

f. Proposal 24-13: “Class Attendance Proposal” presented by Instructional Policy Committee (Voting Units: Academic)

Hamlin showed editorial clarifications. **APPROVED** unopposed.

## 7. New Business

a. Proposal 25-13: “Proposal to Amend Senate Policy 701.1” presented by the Senate Executive Committee (Voting Units: Academic)

0% appointments to facilitate inter-departmental interaction, help on thesis committees, and help get research grants. We have adjunct positions but these are perceived as teaching positions at most universities. Concerns were raised regarding updating charters, whether faculty could be the thesis adviser in another department, and if this will artificially inflate the faculty numbers.

b. Proposal 26-13: “Blended Learning Policy” presented by Academic Policy Committee (Voting Units: Academic)

Meyer said that copyright for blended learning material is unclear in the present university policy in regards to who owns copyright for course videos and software and who gets financially remunerated for courses. The proposal would facilitate clarification of these issues.

## **8. Adjournment.**

President Bulleit adjourned the meeting at 7:41pm.

Respectfully submitted

by Brian Barkdoll

Secretary of the University Senate