

**The University Senate
of Michigan Technological University**

Minutes of Meeting 558
4 February 2015

Synopsis:

The Senate

- Proposal 21-15: "Deadlines for Dissertation, Thesis, and Report Submission" **passed**
- Proposal 22-15: "Proposal to Shelve Degree Program: Information Systems Concentration (SCS3)" **passed**

1. Call to order and roll call. [00:00 – 01:47]

President Craig Waddell called the University Senate Meeting 558 to order at 5:30 pm on Wednesday, February 4, 2015. The Senate Secretary Marty Thompson called roll. Absent were Senators Caneba and Cadwell and representatives of Army/Air Force ROTC, Engineering Fundamentals, Geological and Mining Engineering & Science, Materials Science & Engineering, School of Technology, Visual & Performing Arts, Academic Services A, Finance, Research, Student Affairs & Advancement A, Student Affairs & Advancement C, and Undergraduate Student Government.

2. Recognition of visitors. Guests included Max Seel (Provost's Office) and Debra Charlesworth (Graduate School).

3. Approval of agenda. [01:48 – 03:04]

Barkdoll **moved** to merge items two proposals to be discussed under New Business. Scarlett **seconded**. No discussion. The revised agenda **passed** unanimously on a voice vote.

4. Approval of minutes from Meeting 557. [03:05 – 03:37]

Scarlett **moved** to approve the minutes. Oliveira **seconded**. The minutes **passed** unanimously on a voice vote.

5. Presidents Report [03:38 – 20:11]

a. The Administration has approved the following Senate Proposals:

Proposal 10-15: "Amending Senate Procedures 414.1.1 Procedures for Eliminating and Shelving Degrees and Certificates" approved by the administration with an editorial change. Barkdoll, chair of the Curricular Policy Committee, accepts the changes.

Proposal 19-15: "Amending Senate Policy 102.1: Policy on Class Attendance". The administration approved the proposal with an editorial change consistent with Senate Bylaw I.J.10.d. Nooshabadi **moved** to accept the editorial changes. Scarlett **seconded**. The proposal as modified by the administration was **approved**.

Proposal 20-15: " Policy on Michigan Technological University Information Technology Services" has received no official response yet. Velat, chair of the Information Technology committee said that he and Provost Seel are discussing the nature of A-list versus B-list features of the proposal. They will work together within the 90 day window that Senate approved proposals allow the administration to respond.

b. Discussion on the process of submitting Senate Proposals to the Board of Control as stated in Article III.E.3 of the Senate's Constitution.

c. Vice-President of Research Dave Reed made his presentation slides from the Finance Forum available. [\[LINK\]](#)

d. Presentation of college age population demographics and projections for future numbers. [\[LINK\]](#) Seel commented that the numbers presented are national averages and the majority of Tech students are coming from the upper Midwest, which shows declining, not increasing numbers of college age students.

e. Request to address delays and flight cancellations to and from Houghton County Memorial Airport. Waddell asked if an ad hoc committee needed to be formed or a forum to bring about a broader discussion was needed.

f. Waddell stated that the Senate's Fringe Benefits Committee (FBC) has not been invited to a meeting of the administrations Benefits Liaison Group (BLG) since October 9, 2013. He state there is a BLG meeting scheduled on

February, 12, 2015. The goal is to ensure the BLG is adhering to Board of Control approved policy which ensures the inclusion of the FBC in providing questions to healthcare consultants paid for with university dollars.

g. Discussion about vice-president liaisons to Senate standing committees.

h. The Senate President will be making a report to the Board of Control at the February 19, 2015 meeting.

6. Reports from Senate Standing Committees [20:12 – 23:45]

Academic and Instructional Policy Committee. None.

Administrative Policy Committee. None.

Curricular Policy Committee. None.

Elections Committee. None.

Finance & Institutional Planning Committee. None.

Fringe Benefits Committee. None.

General Education and Assessment Committee. None.

Information Technology Committee. None.

Professional Staff Policy Committee. None.

Research Policy Committee. None.

Ad hoc Library Committee. Froese provided an update on the formation, charge and the option of re-instituting library liaisons. The library is gathering information regarding usage and costs of journals. Froese **moved** that Bethany Klemetsrud be added as the Graduate Student Government member of the committee. Scarlett **seconded**. The addition of Bethany Klemetsrud to the ad hoc Library Committee **passed** unanimously.

7. Unfinished Business [23:46 – 38:50]

a. Proposal 21-15: "Deadlines for Dissertation, Thesis, and Report Submission" [02:00 – 37:17]

Wallace **moved** to approve the proposal. Scarlett **seconded**. Discussion. The proposal **passed** by majority vote.

b. Proposal 22-15: "Proposal to Shelve Degree Program: Information Systems Concentration (SCS3)" [37:18 – 38:50]

Barkdoll **moved** to support. Mullins **seconded**. The proposal **passed** by unanimous vote.

8. New Business [38:51 – 01:11:00]

a. Proposal 4-15: "Access to Student Records, Learning Management Systems and Permanent Record Systems"

Wallace introduced the proposal in terms of student privacy and information accessibility. The goal is to clarify the conditions required to access course content. Wallace noted concerns about balancing student privacy with required course maintenance by IT professionals.

b. Proposal 23-15: "Proposal to Shelve Degree Program: Computer Systems Science (SCSY)" and Proposal 26-15: "New Concentration in Computer Systems within the Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science"

Barkdoll said the Computer Systems Science degree has experienced low enrollment which has been declining over the last three years. This change will move the enrollment into the main Computer Science program. Proposal 26-15

details a concentration that is proposed as a substitute for the Computer Systems Science degree program, which is to be shelved per Proposal 23-15.

c. Proposal 24-15: "Amendment to Senate Policy 411.1: Graduate Certificates"

Barkdoll said this proposal changes the way students apply for a graduate certificate. Degree-seeking graduate students are required to apply and be accepted to a certificate program in order to earn a certificate. At the time of the original Senate proposal, the Graduate School thought that having students apply to certificate programs would be useful in tracking students' progress toward degrees and their level of interest in different certificate programs. In practice, the majority of degree-seeking students are not applying to the certificate programs until they are close to completing their degrees during their final semester on campus. The Graduate School has been enforcing the requirement that students apply to a certificate program, and this has caused the students and their departments to have to work through the certificate application and review process very quickly. Having the application submitted and accepted so late in a student's degree program does not provide the Graduate School with the data it had hoped to collect about current students' involvement with certificate programs.

d. Proposal 25-15: "Proposal to Equalize the Tuition Waiver Benefit for all Full-time Employees"

Nooshabadi introduced the proposal which makes the tuition waiver benefit the same for all full-time employees. Of note are the revision of several procedural details and the limitation of two classes was changed to 9 credits. Discussion.

e. Proposal 27-15: "Fixed vs. Variable Compensation for Senate Officers and Senate President as Financial Manager of the Senate's Budget"

Waddell said this proposal will replace the current variable-compensation system for the Senate president and secretary with a fixed-compensation system. It will simultaneously transfer responsibility for managing the Senate's budget from the provost to the president of the Senate. If accepted, the proposed changes will go into effect after the next Senate elections. Discussion centered on the significant workload for senate officers and committee members and how to best use the senate budget to allow time to perform senate duties.

9. Public Comments

None.

10. Adjournment.

Mullins **moved** to adjourn. Scarlett **seconded**. President Waddell adjourned the meeting at 6:37 pm.

Respectfully submitted
by Marty Thompson
Secretary of the University Senate