

The University Senate of Michigan Technological University

Date: 9/30/2021

Subject: Minutes for University Senate Meeting #662

Video recording of the meeting can be found here:

<https://huskycast.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=16f860ed-23c7-4fe7-a372-adb300d58311>

Format: In-person/online

Senate Officers: Sam Sweitz (President), Steve Knudstrup (Vice-President), Kette Thomas (Secretary), Ashley Buchanan (Senate Assistant)

Sam Sweitz called meeting 662 to order at 5:30pm.

Kette Thomas performed roll call and recognized visitors. A quorum was reached.

Motion to approve the agenda for meeting 661. Approved

Motion to approve meeting #659, Approved with 1 abstention.

Motion to approve meeting #660, Approved with 1 abstention.

Motion to approve meeting #661. Approved.

Presentation: Nathan Ford (Graduate Student Government)

Update: Softball: Congratulations to teams

Fall So Far: (Advocacy, Enrichment, and Community)

Grad Commons: "GSG has secured 207 E. Street (the erstwhile OAP House a.k.a O'Connor House) to be developed as a Graduate Commons." There is now a graduate space where students can lounge. Should be open to the public in the Spring.

Grammarly@edu. Pilot program will be released from October 25 to December 24. Training will be provided. Anyone with an active MTU ID is welcome to participate. Seeking feedback from users to determine whether it is worth the cost of the software.

Community: Orientations and social events, such as Fall Color Tours was discussed.

Looking ahead:

Advocacy: GEAR; Diversity Committee; Elections: Childcare Access Group

Enrichment: 3MT, Seminar Series

Community: Halloween Escape Room, Travel Grants, and Career Enrichment Grants

President's Report:

With the list of committee members now, would like to confirm committee lists.

Motion to approve lists. Approved.

Committee Reports:

Academic and Instructional Policy Committee: Tim Scarlett (Chair). Committee has had 2 meetings.

Administrative Policy Committee: Jon Sticklen (Chair). Met 2 times and will submit more later.

Curricular Policy Committee: Paul Bergstrom (Chair). Have met 2x and will submit 3 proposals very soon.

Committee for Promoting and Facilitating Equity and Understanding (CPFEU): Paige Short (Co-Chair). Met twice and began working on proposals.

Elections Committee: Seven elections coming up soon.

Finance and Institutional Planning Committee: Still seeking a Chair.

Fringe Benefits Committee: Nothing to report.

Information Technology Committee: Still seeking a Chair.

Professional Staff Policy Committee: Nothing to report.

Research Policy Committee: Nothing to report.

Ad hoc Committee to Draft a Senate Handbook: Paige Short (Chair). Defer to proposal in old business.

Ad hoc Committee on Textbook Affordability: Nothing to report.

Unfinished Business:

Proposal 1-22 - University Senate Handbook –

Motion to approve the Handbook, as developed under the ad hoc committee on Senate Handbook.

Concerns raised about the accessibility of the document. Motion approved.

Proposal 2-22 – Revisions to Procedure 504.1.1 Teaching Effectiveness Evaluations – Tim Scarlett (Chair of AIPC) states there are edits to the current policy with one “major change.” Area of greatest concern is the compromising possibilities involved with changes to policy. States that the Board of Trustees wants student comments to be part of the performance review in evaluations. Concerns by faculty about how this data will be used. The process for this revision is not free-form. Rules will be determined by the units. There will be information provided about best practices, so as to avoid complications such as “cherry-picking” evaluations. Best practice is again emphasized as a means of avoiding misuse of free-form comments.

Audience is provided with three choices:

-Can move to vote on the proposal now.

-Can leave it on the table for further discussion in another cycle (Postpone the vote).

-Can leave it alone to “die” on the table.

An audience member suggests there is a fourth option:

-Ask the Board of Trustees to give the Senate this term to work on it.

Concerns raised that other committees should be involved in the processing of this proposal, such as APC because of its involvement with Chair and Dean evaluations.

Recommendation made that explicit information on best practices is provided.

Recommendation made to address problems with understanding and disseminating coding and data.

Motion is made to postpone until October 27. Approved with 1 abstention

New business:

No new business.

Public Comments:

No public comments.

Adjournment:

Adjourned.

UNIVERSITY SENATE MEETING #662
VISITORS LIST

29 September 2021

	Name	Department or other affiliation
1.	ANDREW STORER	CFRES
2.	Jackie Huntoon	Provost
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