The University Senate of Michigan Technological University
Date: 10/27/2021
Subject: Minutes for University Senate Meeting #664

Video recording of the meeting can be found here: https://huskycast.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=b4c92c3d-c3cd-43a2-b4b9-adcf00dd299a

Format: In-person/online

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

Sam Sweitz called meeting 664 to order at 5:30pm. Secretary Thomas performed roll call and recognized visitors. A quorum was reached. Motion to approve the agenda for meeting 661. Motion to approve the agenda 664 made. Motion approved. Motion to approve minutes from meeting 662 made. Motion approved.

No presentations this evening.

President’s Report:
President Sweitz foregoes the President’s report this evening.

Committee Reports:
Sweitz recognized Shaun Burriss as Chair of the Information Technology Committee.
   Academic and Instructional Policy Committee: See “Unfinished Business”
   Curricular Policy Committee: See “New Business”
   Elections Committee: There have been problems getting nominations for various other review committees, such as Dean review committees. Will be seeking volunteers for those willing to perform these duties. Sweitz invites nominations from the floor. Specifically, Dean of the College of Engineering and Dean of the College of Sciences and Arts. Criteria requires that volunteers be from another college. Sam Sweitz volunteers for the College of Engineering. Still in search of someone for CSA.

Unfinished Business:
Proposal 2-22 – Revisions to Procedure 504.1.1 Teaching Effectiveness Evaluations. Timothy Scarlett, Chair of AIPC presents update. Will make a motion for postponement for a two weeks period. An updated version of the proposal will be available the following day. There will be a new bill with best practices and examples of how teaching evaluations should be handled. Invites discussion.

Clarification made that in two weeks there will be a vote on the policy as well as a new bill with the procedures for carrying out policy change. Review of unit charters to look at examples of how to implement changes are underway. Concerns raised about current system. Is there enough marketing before this step is taken? Concerns raised about DEI. Research shows there are biases in evaluations. How will this be mitigated? Concerns raised that the policy will be used for disciplinary or punitive reasons rather than as a teaching tool.
Clarification made that this policy is for continuous improvement and not for disciplinary or even promotion and tenure.

Question posed as to how units are currently handling teaching evaluations to mitigate against problematic uses of evaluations. This will be the key concern for the second bill.

Concern raised that policy states the change is for performance evaluations, therefore how will it avoid consequences to merit or promotion and tenure.

Clarification made that the procedure bill will address how or when comments are to be used. The bill will explain how to contextualize student comments. Information will need to be clear, including language used to communicate best practices.

Concern raised about use of anonymity. Clarify the difference between anonymity and confidentiality.

Clarification that student comments are anonymous unless threatening or inappropriate.

Request made that there be clarification about the specific problem this policy addresses.

Concern raised about implementation. Does a one-size-fits-all approach work? Can the policy changes remain very broad so that each unit can specify how student comments will be used for teaching improvement?

Clarification made that each unit will incorporate the policy relative to their own charter.

Concerns about the fact that the policy does not actually address teaching effectiveness or how it can be used for teaching effectiveness.

Further clarification made that the second bill will address these concerns and will require longer periods of discussion.

Future work regarding an educational campaign is forthcoming.

Motion made to postpone until November 10. Motion approved.

**New business:**
Curricular Policy Committee presented by Paul Bergstrom, Chair.

Clarification made that all proposals were vetted to meet minimum requirements for the degree’s minor.

a. Proposal 4-22 presented: “Proposal to rename the minor in International Studies to a minor in Global Studies”

b. Proposal 5-22 presented: “Proposal for a Minor in Business IT Solutions”

c. Proposal 6-22 presented: “Minor in Construction Management”

d. Proposal 7-22 presented: “Proposal for a Minor in Entrepreneurship, Technology, and Innovation”

e. Proposal 10-22 presented: “Minor in Theatre Performance”

f. Proposal 11-22 presented: “Minor in Sound”

All proposals were unanimously approved by the Curricular Policy Committee.

Proposals will be voted on at the next meeting.

**Public Comments:**
None.

**Adjournment:**
Adjourned.
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Department or other affiliation</th>
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<tr>
<td>Jackie Huntoon</td>
<td>Provost</td>
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<td>Mike Maye</td>
<td>Jackson CTC</td>
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<td>John Lehman</td>
<td>University Admissions</td>
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<td>Lyon Armstrong</td>
<td>Construction Management</td>
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<td>Vosie Reynolds</td>
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<td>Dean Johnson</td>
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### CONSTITUENCY

**Academic Departments**

- Army/Air Force ROTC
- Biological Sciences
- Biomedical Engineering
- Chemical Engineering
- Chemistry
- Civil & Environmental
- Cognitive and Learning Sciences
- Applied Computing
- Computer Science
- Electrical & Computer Engineering
- Engineering Fundamentals
- Geological and Mining Eng & Sci
- Humanities
- Kinesiology & Integrative Phy
- Library
- Materials Sci & Eng
- Mathematical Sciences
- ME-EM
- MMET
- Pavlis Honors College
- Physics
- College of Business
- College of Forestry
- Social Sciences
- Visual & Performing Arts

### SENATOR

1. Justin Casey
2. Michael Gretz
3. Sangyoon Han
4. Kurt Rickard
5. Lanrong Bi
6. Eric Seagren
7. Erich Petushok
8. Paniz Hazaveh
9. Keith Vertanen
10. Chee-Wooi Ten
11. Jon Sticklen
12. Greg Waite
13. Kette Thomas
14. Qing-Hui Chen
15. **Nora Allred
16. Erik Herbert
17. William Keith
18. VACANT
19. Rick Berkey
20. Ramy El-Ganainy
21. Laura Fiss
22. Robert-Hutchinson
23. Paul Doskey
24. Samuel Sweitz
25. Susanne Kilpela

### ALTERNATE

1. Paul Weiss
2. Guiliang Tang
3. Smitha Rao
4. Michael Mullins
5. Pat Heiden
6. Stan Vitton
7. Kevin Trewartha
8. Nathir Rawashdeh
9. Scott Kuhl
10. Paul Bergstrom
11. Brett Hamlin
12. John Gierke
13. VACANT
14. Zhiliying Shan
15. **Patti Luokkanen
16. Steve Kampe
17. Tamara Olson
18. VACANT
19. David Labyak
20. Bryan Suits
21. VACANT
22. Jeff Wall
23. Robert on sabbatical this semester
24. VACANT
25. Tim Scarlett
26. Libby Meyer

### SENATORS-AT-LARGE

- At-large F
- At-large F
- At-large F
- At-large S
- At-large S
- VACANT

### PROFESSIONAL STAFF UNITS

1. Academic Services A
2. Academic Services B
3. Academic Services C
4. Administration A
5. Administration B
6. Advancement & Alumni Engage
7. Auxiliaries & Athletics
8. Information Technology
9. Research 1
10. Research 2
11. Student Affairs
12. University Relations and Enroll

### OFFICIAL NON-VOTING LIASON MEMBERS

- Graduate Faculty Council
- Graduate Student Government
- Staff Council
- Undergraduate Student Government

### QUORUMS

- To transact business: 24 of 44
- For academic matters: 17 of 29