

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.

Explanation provided that students do not feel their concerns are sufficiently addressed when stated on evaluations. Board wants students' comments reflected more readily in evaluations.

Question raised regarding increase of marketing to mitigate problems first.

Explanation offered of charter changes that can incorporate student comments but also contextualize them alongside other review materials. Further, this is perceived as a problem which requires action and the current proposal is a compromise.

Concerns 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.

Clarification made that the second bill is meant to be best practices but, ultimately, it is up to each unit to specify how the policy is adopted.

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.

UNIVERSITY SENATE MEETING #664
VISITORS LIST

27 October 2021

	Name	Department or other affiliation
1.	Jackie Huntoon	Provost
2.	Mike Mays	Jackson CTL
3.	John Lehman	University relations & enrollment
4.	Lynn Artman	Construction Management
5.	Rosie Reynolds	College of Business
6.	Dean Johnson	COB
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ROLL CALL

Meeting #664 2021-22

CONSTITUENCY

SENATOR

ALTERNATE

SUBSTITUTE

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
- Physics
- Pavlis Honors College
- College of Business
- College of Forestry
- Social Sciences
- Visual & Performing Arts

- 1 Justin Casey
- Michael Gretz
- Sangyoon Han
- Kurt Rickard
- Lanrong Bi
- 1 Eric Seagren
- Erich Petushek
- Paniz Hazaveh
- Keith Vertanen
- Chee-Wooi Ten
- Jon Sticklen
- Greg Waite
- Kette Thomas
- Qing-Hui Chen
- **Nora Allred
- Erik Herbert
- William Keith
- VACANT
- Rick Berkey
- Ramy El-Ganainy
- Laura Fiss
- Robert Hutchinson
- Paul Doskey
- Samuel Sweitz
- Susanne Kilpela

- Paul Weiss
- Guiliang Tang
- Smitha Rao
- 1 Michael Mullins
- Pat Heiden
- Stan Vitton
- Kevin Trewartha
- Nathir Rawashdeh
- Scott Kuhl
- Paul Bergstrom
- Brett Hamlin
- John Gierke
- VACANT
- Zhiying Shan
- ** Pattie Luokkanen
- Steve Kampe
- Tamara Olson
- VACANT
- David Labyak
- Bryan Suits
- VACANT
- Jeff Wall Robert on sabbatical this semester
- VACANT
- Tim Scarlett
- Libby Meyer

Senators-At-Large

- At-large F Carl Blair
- At-large F Radwin Askari
- At-large F 1 L. Alexandra Morrison
- At-large F Stefka Hristova
- At-large S Courtney Archambeau
- At-large S Shaun Burriss
- At-large S 1 Tom Cogswell

21/23 (AD)
4/7 (SAL)
5/8 (PSU)
2/2 (CONVEM)

Professional Staff Units

- 1. Academic Services A VACANT
- 2. Academic Services B Lindsey Wells
- 3. Academic Services C 1 Nicole Seigneurie
- 4. Administration A Paige Short
- 5. Administration B 1 Quincy Higgins
- 6. Advancement & Alumni Engage Mike Olson
- 7. Auxiliaries & Athletics Patrice Cobin
- 8. Information Technology 1 Steve Knudstrup
- 9. Research 1 VACANT
- 10. Research 2 VACANT
- 11. Student Affairs Jessica Stormoen
- 12. University Relations and Enroll VACANT

- VACANT
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- VACANT
- Lorraine Young
- VACANT
- VACANT
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- VACANT
- VACANT
- VACANT

Official Non-Voting Liaison Members

- Graduate Faculty Council ?
- Graduate Student Government Nathan Ford
- Staff Council ?
- Undergraduate Student Government Ethan Gerds

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