The University Senate of Michigan Technological University
Date: 11/10/2021
Subject: Minutes for University Senate Meeting #665

Video recording of the meeting can be found here: https://huskycast.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=be969e68-cea0-49b1-890d-add00d22961&start=12.220179

Format: In-person/online

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

Sam Sweitz called meeting 665 to order at 5:30pm.
Secretary Thomas performed roll call. A quorum was reached.

Motion to approve the agenda 665 made. Motion approved.

Motion to approve minutes from meeting 664 made. Motion approved.

Presentations:
1. Crystal McLeod - presentation on My SSP.
   • Recommends viewing orientation video. Michigan Tech has partnered with Lifeworks. This service provides brief therapy for students with real-time phone service. Follows a “brief therapy” model.
   • Mental health needs are rising. This service would provide more counselors to meet those needs. We do have information on support from Lifeworks. This service is not separate from on-campus services. Students can see someone sooner through My SSP.
   • When students call in, they will get a call back if there is a wait. Current goals are to limit the wait to under one hour.
   • One advantage of bringing on the service is that the staff is more diverse. For example, students can request a therapist who speaks a different language.
   • Question: Has My SSP caused less opportunities to seek on-campus assistance?
   • Response: It’s just an option so, no. There has been little change for on-campus assistance.
   • Question: concerns over a “push” to use the app. Is there a way to encourage students to use both the virtual and on campus support?
   • Response: My SSP provides on-campus and community support.
   • Question: How do you create awareness of appropriate diagnoses?
   • Response: initial assessment is done to determine what is appropriate.
   • QPR brought up to train staff to identify if and when students are struggling.
   • Question: can you require a QPR training?
   • Response: QPR training is not required at this time.
   • Additional benefit is that this can be used as a resource for faculty and staff. Guidance and consultation.
   • Clarification made that this does not replace requirement for reporting concerns.

2. Mary Raber – presentation on Education for the 21st-century
   • Charge: look at development of transformational programs.
• Thanked all those on campus who participated in events and gave input.
• Proposed changes in the draft would include improving connections and opportunities, seeing connections between essential education and majors, provide increased opportunities, incorporate reflection in general Ed education, and improve student focus.
• Changes to the assessment process so that it is more accessible.
• Changes to the learning goals.

Marika Seigel (presents) – leads Essential Ed
• Current goals are the rubric.
• Prepare students for technological society.
• Portfolio based assessment as well as individual assessment.
• Essential education model: see overarching distribution framework.
• Analyze, connect, transform; pilot “transformative texts;” encourage collaborative teaching; take a “structured perspectives” approach.
• Co-curricular component includes physical education and wellness.
• Signature experience, including project-based learning.
• Pathways model: Basic distribution model or pre-approved essential education credits.
• Coverage of essential education in core courses.
• There will be stages of implementation: Stage 1, Spring 2022; Stage 2, Fall 2023; Stage 3, Spring 2023.

Brett Hamlin (presents) – Project Connect
• Students want a holistic first year experience.
• First year experience...
• Connect to self, community, and learning.
• Success with mobile learning centers.
• Over 400 students get help.
• How can we better utilize our calendars?
• Pilot initiatives...
• Documents are accessible for viewing.

• Question: who will teach the app seminars?
• Question: concerns raised about the reduced credit request from Administration or change to required credits for graduation.

• Question: please elaborate on transformative texts.
Response: still working on it. One idea was piloting a group of faculty who will coordinate around a theme and work with the students one on one.
Response: 15-minute conversations to connect disciplines and have conversations across disciplines.

• Question: will this look the same for all students regardless of discipline?
Response: it should be holistic for all students.
• Question is there a writing or communication component?
Response: yes. Heavy writing intensive. Would infuse writing and communication throughout their education.
3. Theresa Jacques - presentation on Spring Commencement.
   • There will be two separate ceremonies, one for graduates, one for undergraduate. This will be more convenient and better tailored to the student body.
   • Will invite PhD students to participate in undergraduate ceremony.
   • Would like it to be equally meaningful to all of the students.
   • This change was needed because of limited space to accommodate friends and family at current graduation ceremonies.

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

Committee Reports:
No committee reports.

Unfinished Business:
Proposal 2-22 – Revisions to Procedure 504.1.1 Teaching Effectiveness Evaluations.
Chair of AIPC presents:
   • Proposal lays out how written comments are included in valuation systems. Each individual unit can build the system, as appropriate to their current charter.
   • Our best methods to use open format questions...
   • Responses included: problematic instrument? Biased instruments in terms of design, response, use, and interpretation?
   • Recommendation and demonstration of “World Clouds” to edit a word list and sort through comments that are inappropriate, neutral, and or positive.
   • Future plans include moving towards workshops, focus groups, and interviews.
   • Proposal enables units to make decisions on how things are contextualized.

From APC...
   • There are two problems: Trust issues. Concerns over misuse. Proposal 2–22 has “guard rails.” Faculty form a committee to put the process in place.
   • Secondly, it will take more faculty time. Responsible faculty will develop the process or administrator must implement changes. Charter will have to change. Faculty will decide how and who will deal with the process. It is considered a local issue.
   • Both issues are handled in Proposal 2–22.

   • Question: how will we manage qualitative analysis?
     Response: there will be a menu of best practice options.

   • Question: Does this process happen before comments are shared?
     Response: CTL can do that immediately but usually does not. There is time to eliminate appropriate comments.

Motion made to pass Proposal 2-22. Motion Passed.

Curricular Policy Committee presented by Paul Bergstrom, Chair.
   • Six proposals below moved as a slate is approved.
   • Motion to approve all six proposals. Passed
a. Proposal 4-22: “Proposal to rename the minor in International Studies to a minor in Global Studies”

New business:
Proposal 8-22: Establishment of a New Master’s in Manufacturing Engineering
Proposal 9-22: Resolution to Raise Awareness and Reduce Mental Health Stigma
Proposal 12-22: Minor in Jazz Studies
Proposal 19-22: Uses of Student Evaluations of Instruction: Best-Practice and Minimal Standards

Public Comments:
None.

Adjournment:
Adjourned.
### 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
- Physics
- Pavlis Honors College
- College of Business
- College of Forestry
- Social Sciences
- Visual & Performing Arts

**Senators-At-Large**
- At-large F
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**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 Liaison Members**
- Graduate Faculty Council
- Graduate Student Government
- Staff Council
- Undergraduate Student Government

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