

The University Senate of Michigan Technological University

Date: 12/08/2021

Subject: Minutes for University Senate Meeting #667

Video recording of the meeting can be found here:

[https://huskycast.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=67341627-95ea-4d9b-9293-
adf900467a38](https://huskycast.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=67341627-95ea-4d9b-9293-adf900467a38)

Format: In-person/online

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

President Sweitz called meeting 667 to order at 5:30pm.

Vice President Knudstrup performed roll call of senators and representatives. Quorum was met.

Motion moved to approve agenda for meeting 667. Motion approved.

Motion made to approve the minutes for meeting 665. Approved.

President's Report:

A few announcements from President Sweitz:

First, on the subject of having two commencements this spring, the original announcement has been reversed. There will be one commencement. This is partly resulting from the fact that the planning committee will be moving from the registrar's office back to student affairs so they would like to stick to status quo until they complete the transition.

Also, Study Abroad will also be moving from Pavlis to Student Affairs.

Secondly, "we are in search of a Senate representative for the Assessment Council. The floor is open for nominations, including self-nominations." Ballots will go out for nominations.

Committee Reports:

No reports.

Unfinished Business:

Presentation by Tim Scarlett (Chair of AIPC) regarding Proposal 2-22

Some minor amendments have been made: "some phrases that help clarify some points were added to the proposal."

First, a schedule was added based on discussions. Once this proposal passes, there will be options related to best guidelines provided by the end of the spring. These are to be incorporated into charters by individual units based on their current system of teaching evaluations. This process should be in place by the end of the fall semester.

Clarification made about the fact that administrators will use both numerical and written comments in their teaching evaluation process.

Motion made to accept both amendments to the original proposal. (Not to be confused with a motion to accept 2-22)

Discussion:

Question: "How did the verbiage come about?"

Response: the schedule was an open question at the end of the meeting discussing proposal 2-22. In consultation with administration, the schedule was clarified.

Question: With charters still pending with the Provost, how can changes be made to current charters?

Response: there is a rule that if the administration doesn't approve the charters within a certain time, they are automatically approved.

Provost Huntoon response: delays due to the pandemic but you can assume that the charters are approved so that they will have to be revised again for this.

Question: where do things stand on the timeline, given charter revisions.

Response: 19-22 is pivotal. We are committed to having this proposal passed in the Spring semester, which means we have the summer and "the first 12 weeks of the fall for units to work on this particular issue, while also getting it into their charters." From there it goes to the Senate, then the Provost.

Question: If a recently revised charter has just gone to the Provost in the last month, and if it is not approved by the time there is work on these revisions, can we just put through a second charter?

Response: Yes. This should not be a very involved approval process if it meets the objectives as defined in the proposals.

Vote on acceptance of the two amendments passed.

Discussion:

Concern raised about comfort levels of those sharing personal information meant for the instructor and student with the head of the department. Concern that it risks being "leaked," seen by others, which may be subject to litigations.

Response: units are charged with handling sensitive information, which sometimes gets mishandled, but the alternative is to have a policy imposed which makes the comments public. Also, department chairs must ensure quality instruction, while guarding against misuse of evaluations. This will be spelled out in proposal 19-22.

Question: Is there any system already in place that will enable implementation of this process?

Response: There are some. Specificity lies in proposal 19-22.

Clarification on question as to whether or not software will be introduced. Concerns over trusting machines to calibrate written responses.

Response: the concerns will be addressed in proposal 19-22.

Concern raised that the problem with trying to average out thousands of comments cannot be solved easily.

Response: the focus is on getting "good information," as what you find in well-designed surveys and studies. "What we're talking about is the mechanisms by which when you use those comments and the way we collect those comments."

Concern raised that students want their comments to be meaningful, so that the tools for collecting data need to reflect student voices.

Note: Alternative methods for collecting data were discussed.

Concern raised that we are moving ahead without a tool in place to handle the data based on anecdotal testimony made to the Board of Trustees.

Clarification made that Proposal 19-22 can direct approach to the evaluations, which includes addressing those anecdotal materials. Clarification made that the concern on the Board and the Senate differ on this matter.

Question: "is there an interface with the Board to help them better understand the problem with anecdotal information?"

Response: Over the years the problem has come up because of the relationships between the students and the Board members. Repairing the problems can be tackled in 19-22. "Although... we have to have student feedback in comments in some form, but we (also) need that feedback... The question is how best to do that?" Secondly, yes, we continue to talk to the Board and the Provost.

Move to a vote on Proposal 2-22. Motion passed.

Proposal 8-22 – Master of Science in Manufacturing Engineering. CPC Presentation.
Motion made to accept Proposal 8-22. Proposal passed.

Resolution 9-22 – Raise awareness and reduce mental health stigma, CPFEU, Paige Short introduces quest speaker.
Motion made to accept resolution. Resolution passed.

Proposal 12-22 - Minor in Jazz Studies. CPC.
Motion made to accept. Motion passed.

Proposal 19-20 - Uses of student evaluations of instruction, best practice and minimal standards, AIPC.

Motion made to bring back the proposal in Spring semester with an "absolute drop-dead deadline" of April for that meeting.

Amendment proposed that the meeting be postponed until April 6. Proposal passed.

New Business:

Proposal 3-22 – Change degree title from Pharmaceutical Chemistry to Medicinal Chemistry, CPC.

Proposal 15-22 - Changes to the Senate policy, 706.1.1 Section 8 on timing of sabbatical applications. Concerns raised that the new proposal creates constraints for faculty. Discussion over schedules and course coverage for units. Concerns raised over lack of flexibility. Discussion over deadline dates. Discussion over faculty shortages.

Proposal 16-22 - Institutional compliance standard changes to Senate procedure 804.1.1 Senate search procedures for University Presidents.

Proposal 23-22 - a proposal for the creation of an ad hoc committee to evaluate the structure and timing of Senate meetings, Executive Committee.

Public Comments:

None.

Adjourned.

ROLL CALL

Meeting #667 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

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

___ Paul Weiss
 ___ Guiliang Tang
 ___ Smitha Rao
X Michael Mullins
 ___ Pat Heiden
 ___ Stan Vitton
X 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
X Jeff Wall Robert on sabbatical this semester
 ___ VACANT
 ___ Tim Scarlett
 ___ Libby Meyer

Senators-At-Large

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X Carl Blair
X Radwin Askari
X L. Alexandra Morrison
 ___ Stefka Hristova
X Courtney Archambeau
X Shaun Burriss
 ___ 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

___ VACANT
X Lindsey Wells
X Nicole Seigneurie
X Paige Short
 ___ Quincy Higgins
 ___ Mike Olson
X Lorraine Young
 ___ Patrice Cobin
X Steve Knudstrup
 ___ VACANT
 ___ VACANT
 ___ VACANT
X Jessica Stormoen
 ___ VACANT

Official Non-Voting Liaison Members

Graduate Faculty Council ___ ?
 Graduate Student Government ___ Nathan Ford
 Staff Council ___ Paige Short
 Undergraduate Student Government X Ethan Gerds

Quorums:

To transact business:
For academic matters:

24 of 44
17 of 29

32/44
 25/29

UNIVERSITY SENATE MEETING #667
VISITORS LIST

8 December 2021

| | Name | Department or other affiliation |
|-----|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. | Andrew Storck | CFRES |
| 2. | John Irwin | MMET |
| 3. | Ramy El-Ganainy | physics |
| 4. | Mike Meyer | Jackson CTC |
| 5. | John Lehman | VPURE |
| 6. | Huntou | Provost |
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