

The University Senate of Michigan Technological University

Date: 02/16/2022

Subject: Minutes for University Senate Meeting #670

Video recording of the meeting can be found here:

<https://huskycast.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=63cf71a1-e5cd-4f14-8d69-ae3f0151f00d>

Format: In-person/online

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

President Sweitz called meeting 670 to order at 5:30pm.

Roll called by Secretary Thomas. Quorum met.

(Absentee list: Justin Casey, Lanrong Bi, Keith Vertanen, Erik Herbert, Courtney Archambeau, Lindsey Wells, Nicole Seigneurie, Paige Short, Quincy Higgins, Mike Olson, Steve Knudstrup)

Motion moved to approve agenda for meeting 670. Motion approved.

Motion made to approve the minutes for meetings 669. Approved.

Presentations:

1. "University Senate Presentation" Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students, Dr. Wallace Southerland

Report on background information

Report on "The First 100 Days"

Student Affairs Goals Report

Find presentation slides here:

<https://www.mtu.edu/senate/policies-procedures/proposals-year/2021-22/stu-affairs-senate-february2022.pdf>

Questions: What would you like the Senate to do for you, Student Affairs?

Response: Rethink its perception of Student Affairs. See SA as genuine partners in shared governance process. Take proposals from SA seriously.

Questions: In terms of retention, how do we make sure we're balancing our desire to raise retention rates with addressing diversity, given current information on MTUs demographics?

Response: We should aspire to 100% retention rates. We have to be intentional about asking tough questions. Who is withdrawing? What patterns do we see? These questions help direct us where we need to go.

2. "Cultural and Natural Resources on Michigan Tech Property: Results from Mount Ripley's Archaeology Survey," Dr. Timothy Scarlett

Presentation of results of archeological project on MTU-controlled lands.

Slide presentation of archeological finds.

What do we do with the cultural and natural resources discovered?
Have we linked our planning process with informed evaluations?
Have we asked neighbors for their thoughts on our plans?
Do we wish to build relationships or continue meeting minimal legal requirements?
University is working to improve relationships with neighbors and it has an opportunity to engage these different stakeholders in conversation. With control of a lot of land, MTU needs an inventory and a plan. Does the Master Plan engage these questions?
No conclusions. It is open to conversation.

President's Report:

Reminders: We have an April 6 deadline at which we promised to reintroduce proposal 19-22. Please start conversations about these changes. They are coming.
We have two ad hoc committees: Update the Senate Constitution and Bylaws Committee and Committee to Evaluate the Structure and Timing of Senate Meetings. Please volunteer for these committees.

Committee Reports:

APC – We should be ready soon with the President's evaluation. Our next meeting will include the Senate evaluation. We would like to put all evaluations of administration together to be presented at the same time.

Unfinished Business:

New Business:

Curricular Policy Committee – Paul Bergstrom

- a. Proposal 21-22: "Proposal for a BS in Business Analytics" Presented by: Curricular Policy Committee (Voting Units: Academic)
- b. Proposal 22-22: "Proposal to Add a Pre-Pharmacy Concentration within the B.A. Chemistry Degree Program" Presented by: Curricular Policy Committee (Voting Units: Academic)
- c. Proposal 28-22: "Proposal to Shelve MS in Applied Science Education" Presented by: Curricular Policy Committee (Voting Units: Academic)
- d. Proposal 29-22: "Establishment of a New Graduate Certificate in Public Policy" Presented by: Curricular Policy Committee (Voting Units: Academic)
- e. Proposal 32-22: "Amendments to Senate Procedure 108.1.1" Presented by: Curricular Policy Committee (Voting Units: Academic)

Public Comments:

Comment on the recent removal of the mask mandate. Concern that CDC website recommends places like Houghton (high transmission) wear masks indoors. Concern that we are going ahead of the CDC.

Seeking feedback from the FlexTeam on this issue.

Clarification that the future date for removing masks is still ahead of the CDC recommendation.

Concern that parents of children under 5 are impacted by the decision as well.

Clarification: Response from Flex Team. Decisions was made by way of the following: 1. Follow the law; 2. Individuals need to make decisions for themselves; 3. Lean on protecting the MTU educational experience.

Question: What is the “Tech Experience?”

Response: Hands-on experience. Education not easily produced in online environments.

Question: Where in the Flex Team’s goals is protect the campus community?

Response: There needs to be a balance and risk assessment as it equates with our mission at this institution.

Question: What are students’ saying about their preference on masks?

Response: It is a mixed bag.

Adjourned.

For staff matters:
Other:

8 of 15
1/2 of eligible

UNIVERSITY SENATE MEETING #670
VISITORS LIST

16 February 2022

	Name	Department or other affiliation
1.	Jackie Huntley	Provost's Office
2.	John Lehman	VP for University Relations & Enrollment
3.	Jingang Sun	Math.
4.	Andrew Sorella	CRCR
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