The University Senate of Michigan Technological University  
Date: 04/06/2022  
Subject: Minutes for University Senate Meeting #673

Video recording of the meeting can be found here:  
https://huskycast.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=15b45acc-623b-43ee-8b5c-ae700032ec2c

Format: In-person/Online

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

President Sweitz called meeting 673 to order at 5:30pm.

Roll called by Secretary Thomas. Quorum met.  
(Absentee list: Justin Casey, Susanne Kilpela, Courtney Archambeau, Lindsey Wells, Nicole Seigneurie, Quincy Higgins, Jessica Stormoen)

Motion made to approve agenda for meeting 673. Motion approved.

Motion made to approve the minutes for meeting 672. Approved.

Presentations:
Elections Committee, Carl Blair  
Presentation on elections for Senate Officers.  
Call made for any last-minute nominations from the Senate floor. None made.  
Forego presentations from the candidates because there are no competing categories.  
Ballots will be distributed.

President’s Report:  
Forego the evenings President’s report.

Committee Reports:
Question from the Fringe Benefits Committee. A grievance has been filed against removal of the RSVP program. How does this affect the non-represented salaried employee?  
Provost Huntoon states she is unaware of the situation at this time.  
Recommendation that terms should be the same for all MTU employees.

Unfinished Business

Motion made to approve. Motion moved to a ballot. Passed.

Amendment made to change deadline dates to Feb 1.  
Soften the word “deadline”. Just state when applications are due.  
Wording can be “for full consideration, applications are due Feb 1 or similar language.”
Amendment approved.

Amendment: Applicants will be notified by April 1 on the decision. AIPC supports the amendment.
Amendment approved.

Motion to approve proposal. Motion passed.


Motion made to accept all proposals as a unit.
Question: Can you confirm that the changes are reflected in the same way for all proposal?
Response: Yes.
Proposals passed.


Clarification made about the complexities of the proposal. Current proposal reflects minimal compliance.
Motion made to postpone the vote on this proposal until next Senate meeting.
Recommendation made to have an additional meeting to discuss. Concern that evaluations are thought of as a “precision instrument.” Concerns over slanderous comments. Concerns over legal responsibilities. Recommendation that substantial “safeguards” against “cherry-picking” are implemented.
Concern over integrating comments rather than simply the supervisors get to see the comments.
Response: Units have to look at all the triggers to get the supervisors to see the comments.
Concern over the timeline.
Concern that Chairs are barred from doing their responsibility. Concern over true shared governance.
Discussion about the timeline and the deadline. Recommendation that this proposal be implemented in the fall.
Question for Provost, can some of these details go into a manual instead of department charters?
Concern that these pieces do not belong in operating manuals but in a document where
there can be oversight.

What does the “minimum” (standard) mean?

How do professors respond to comments used by their chairs?

How do students get feedback that their comments are being read?

Concern over implicit bias. Concern that these processes promote implicit bias. Legally, comments can make the University more accountable for instances of Title IX, etc.

Affirmation that this would create greater accountability.

In regards to “closing the loop”, the Senate and faculty should be encouraged to communicate with students about the whole process.

Concern over the kind of information are provided to the students.

Recommendations about mentorship.

Postpone until April 20 passed.


Motion made to pass proposal. Motion passed.

i. Proposal 31-22: “Establishment of an Accessible & Affordable Course Materials University Standing Committee” Presented by: Academic and Instructional Policy Committee and The Ad hoc Committee on Textbook Accessibility and Affordability (Voting Units: Academic)

Motion made to pass proposal.

Question: How does this become less of a substitute and more of more options for the students?

Response: This would be helpful to bring attention to other options, though it does not interfere with academic freedom in the classroom.

Proposal passed.


Two of three stackable certificates. Motion made to accept proposal. Both will be voted on together. Motion passed.


Motion made to accept proposal.

Amendment proposed: Add that the break will coincide with Houghton County Schools whenever feasible.

Point of order: this should be a substitute amendment because this amendment is too substantial.

Language is adjusted to reflect amendment.

Problem with amendment is too substantial. Would need to define “substantial.”

The timing of Spring break would be too variable if it had to coincide with Houghton schools.
Concern that new date is too close to Winter Carnival.
Question: Voting unit?
Question: When does the Houghton School district submit their calendars?
Concern: We have not discussed this with the school district.
Concern over speaking to the students about this.
USG member discussed this and moving it later received negative response. Need more time to discuss it. Only prepared to vote on week seven change.
Concern over exam schedule.
Concern that we should consider an amendment that moves dates back.
Concern over Track A and Track B classes would be deeply affected.
Concern that shift from academic semester is being determined by parental concerns.
Concern about student mental health for both semesters. This should be about the students only.
Amendment is stricken.
Motion to amend voting units to full.
Motion passed.
Question: should this be tabled?
Concern over calendars.
Proposal passed by ballot.

Presented by: Fringe Benefits Committee (Voting Units: Full Senate)

Motion made to accept proposal.
Concerns about making SDC free. Asking to give a discount rather than making it free.
Response: Number of people accessing SDC is not because of faculty, staff, or community. Actual numbers suggest that this proposal would save money rather than “bankrupting” the SDC.
Concern that Swedetown Trails is not on Option B, though it is very popular.
Concern over SDC price for family.
If students are paying, faculty and staff ought to pay as well.
Questioning about the uses of the $450.
Concern that current system is discouraging uses of the SDC.
Proposal passed.

n. Proposal 41-22: “Amendments to the University Senate Constitution” Presented by: Ad-hoc Committee to Update the Senate Constitution and Bylaws (Voting Units: Full Senate)
o. Proposal 42-22: “Amendments to the University Senate Bylaws” Presented by: Ad-hoc Committee to Update the Senate Constitution and Bylaws (Voting Units: Full Senate)

Motion made to accept both proposals as a set.
Request that a careful review precede presentation to the Board of Trustees.
Motion passed by ballot.

New Business

c. **Proposal 36-22**: “Establishment of a new Master of Science in Sustainable Communities” Presented by: Curricular Policy Committee (Voting Units: Academic)

Presentation. No questions.


Presentation. No questions.

e. **Proposal 38-22**: “Proposed Revisions to Academic Rank Definitions Section of the Faculty Handbook and Associated Proposed Revisions to Board of Trustees Policy” Presented by: Academic and Instructional Policy (Voting Units: Academic)

Recommendation that a path be created to make tenure track possible.

Recommendation that teaching tenure become an option.

f. **Proposal 43-22**: “Revision of Misconduct Policy in Research, Scholarly, and Creative Endeavors” Presented by: Research Policy Committee (Voting Units: Academic)

Clarification made by President Sweitz. No questions.

g. **Proposal 44-22**: “Proposal to Change Degree Title from “Bioinformatics” to “Computational Biology”” Presented by: Curricular Policy Committee (Voting Units: Academic)

h. **Proposal 45-22**: “Proposal to Change name of Minor from “Pharmaceutical Chemistry” to “Medicinal Chemistry”” Presented by: Curricular Policy Committee (Voting Units: Academic)

i. **Proposal 46-22**: “Proposal for a Bachelor’s of Science Degree in Policy and Community Development” Presented by: Curricular Policy Committee (Voting Units: Academic)

Presentation. No questions.

j. **Proposal 47-22**: “Revisions to Senate Policy 108.1: General Policy For Academic Program Planning” Presented by: Curricular Policy Committee (Voting Units: Academic)

Presentation. No questions.

k. **Proposal 48-22**: “Revisions to the Academic Integrity Policy” Academic and Instructional Policy Committee (Voting Units: Full Senate)
Presentation. No questions.


Presentation. No questions.

m. **Proposal 50-22**: “Proposal to Create an ‘October Recess’” Academic and Instructional Policy Committee (Voting Units: Full Senate)

Presentation.

Clarification made that staff does not go on break during student breaks. Should not be considered a recess.

Concern over the impact on Orientation.
Concerns were addressed.
Question: Are we unique in having a full week for Thanksgiving?
Response: We are fairly unique.
Proposal is widely supported on campus.

**Public Comments:**

Vice-President Knudstrup would like to publicly recognize Ashley Buchanan for her extensive service to the Senate and University at large.

**Something…**

**Adjourned**
### CONSTITUENCY

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| Senators-At-Large                     |                        |                   |                    |
| At-large F                            | ____ Carl Blair        |                   |                    |
| At-large F                            | ____ Radwin Askari     |                   |                    |
| At-large F                            | ____ L. Alexandra Morrison |                 |                    |
| At-large F                            | ____ VACANT            |                   |                    |
| At-large S                            | ____ Courtney Archambeau|                 |                    |
| At-large S                            | ____ Shaun Burriss     |                   |                    |
| At-large S                            | ____ John Linters      |                   |                    |

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

| Official Non-Voting Liaison Members   |                        |                   |                    |
| Graduate Faculty Council              | ____ ?                  |                   |                    |
| Graduate Student Government           | ____ Nathan Ford       |                   |                    |
| Staff Council                         | ____ Paige Short       |                   |                    |
| Undergraduate Student Government      | ____ Davi Sprague      |                   |                    |

**Quorums:**
- To transact business: 24 of 44
- For academic matters: 17 of 29
- For research matters: 14 of 27
For staff matters: 8 of 15
Other: 1/2 of eligible
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<td>Jackie Hunter</td>
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