

# The University Senate of Michigan Technological University

To: Senators, Alternates, and Liaisons  
From: Robert Hutchinson, Senate President  
Date: November 1, 2023  
Subject: Agenda for University Senate Meeting #692  
Copies: President, Provost, Board of Trustees Secretary, Vice Presidents, Library, Staff Council Chair, *Tech Today*, Michigan Tech Lode

**Meeting #692** of the University Senate of Michigan Technological University will convene at 5:30 p.m. on **Wednesday, November 1, 2023 in DOW room 642.**

Senators are responsible for making their constituents aware of the agenda for this meeting. Senators who are unable to attend should arrange for their alternates to attend in their place.

<b>Agenda</b>	<b>Time</b>
<b>Call to Order</b>	
<b>Roll Call of Senators and Recognition of Visitors</b>	<b>5</b>
Quorum was met. Absents: Steve Kampe, Alexandra Morrison, Lindsey Wells, Quincy Higgins, Patrice Cobin, Jessica Stormoen, and Karlee Westrem (non-voting member).	
<b>Approval of Agenda</b>	<b>2</b>
The agenda was approved.	
<b>Approval of Minutes from Meeting <a href="#">691</a></b>	<b>5</b>
The minutes from meeting 691 were approved.	
<b>Presentations</b>	<b>0</b>
No presentation.	
<b>President's Report</b>	<b>5</b>
The president (Robert Hutchinson) briefed on the Senate Constitution proposal:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>We should have approved it last year. Any change in the constitution should go to a referendum.</li><li>The proposal addresses some discrepancies between the bylaws and the constitution.</li><li>If the administration has some comments on the constitution, they can share it with the senate after the referendum.</li></ul>	
The president also talked about Proposal 5-24: "Proposal to Extend Employee Benefits Posthumously to Surviving Beneficiaries". He mentioned the importance of the proposal for the wellbeing of the employees. He also said that he had received many positive feedback from the employees about the proposal.	
<b>Committee Reports</b>	<b>10</b>
a. Academic and Instructional Policy – Chair Stephen Morse Nothing to report.	
b. Administrative Policy – Chairs Jon Sticklen and Eric Seagren Nothing to report.	
c. Curricular Policy – Chair Paul Bergstrom They will meet tomorrow to review their first proposal.	
d. Committee for Promoting and Facilitating Equity and Understanding – Chairs Lanrong Bi and Sangyoon Han	

- Nothing to report.
- e. Elections – Chair Laura Fiss  
Emails have been sent out to nominate people for the university committees.  
Laua Fiss: Please nominate and ask appropriate people to serve on these committees.
- f. Finance and Institutional Planning – Chair Carl Blair  
Nothing to report.
- g. Fringe Benefits – Chair Patrice Cobin  
Nothing to report.
- h. Information Technology – Chair Paniz Hazaveh  
Nothing to report.
- i. Professional Staff Policy – Chair Christine Grotzke  
Nothing to report.
- j. Research Policy – Chair Kelsey Kocher  
Nothing to report.
- k. Ad Hoc Committee Reports
  - a. Ad-hoc Academic Calendar Committee  
Nothing to report.

### Unfinished Business

- a. [Proposal 5-24](#): “Proposal to Extend Employee Benefits Posthumously to Surviving Beneficiaries” Presented by: Fringe Benefits Committee (Voting Units: All) **10**  
The president presented the proposal.  
Discussions:
  - Paige Short shared some received feedback: There are some concerns about the proposal. It has not been discussed with the Benefit Office. There is no analysis of cost and benefit. The Fringe Benefit committee may not have done enough research. There is no benchmarking.
  - Robert Hutchinson: TRIP is not an expense for the university. The university president supports this proposal. Note that issues related to employees' benefits are on the Senate's B-list items, and though our job is not to go through details, we should also enhance those benefits that do not cost the university.
  - A senator: Giving some flexibility to the survivors of a deceased employee is humane.

The proposal was passed unanimously.

### New Business

- a. None **0**

### Public Comments

**10**

Jon Sticklen: There are two important points:

- 1) Active Shooter Taskforce. It has not been publicized yet (what has been done).
- 2) We should invite someone to inquire about health issues or status (many people are being infected by COVID these days).

### Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned.