

# The University Senate of Michigan Technological University

To: Senators, Alternates, and Liaisons  
From: Robert Hutchinson, Senate President  
Date: November 15, 2023  
Subject: Agenda for University Senate Meeting #693  
Copies: President, Provost, Board of Trustees Secretary, Vice Presidents, Library, Staff Council Chair, *Tech Today*, Michigan Tech Lode

**Meeting #693** of the University Senate of Michigan Technological University will convene at 5:30 p.m. on **Wednesday, November 15, 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>
The quorum was met. <b>Absents:</b> Erick Petushek, Elizabeth Dennis, Ramy Al-Ganainy, Steve Kampe, and Mason Krause (non-voting member).	
<b>Approval of Agenda</b>	<b>2</b>
The agenda was approved.	
<b>Approval of Minutes from Meeting</b>	<b>5</b>
The minutes from meeting #692 were approved.	
<b>Presentations</b>	<b>30</b>
a. Campus Master Plan with Jacob Guter	
• The master plan was approved by the board in 2022. It is posted on the MTU facility website. It is a combination of tasks to grow the university. If we want to grow, we should do these things. Compared to many public universities in the state, MTU has a good stance in terms of facility. We want to recruit competitive faculties, to be recognized for research, and to have an enrollment of 10,000 students by 10 by 2025.	
• The master plan is 1 1/2 years progress. They had many meetings and surveys. They are building a new gateway and walkaway to downtown. It is. It is a living plan, and it can be revised.	
• A general picture of the master plan was presented.	
• More housing in the west end of the university will be built.	
• Parking is not supported by the state. It costs about \$35,000 to build a parking deck.	
• The master plan is also about renovating already existing spaces. Therefore, renovation is a major component of the masterplan manifest facilities have been updated. The major consideration is when we renovate, we ensure inclusivity. The university supports sustainability.	
• Benchmarking is considered in the master plan.	
• We have enough research space, but it doesn't mean updates are not needed. The master plan has an open space initiative.	
• Energy transition is a major component of the master plan, such as renovating heating system.	
• H-STEM will be finished in December.	

- Teaching space renovation was emphasized by the board and administration. Last summer, renovation of lab facilities was started by the Department of Chemistry. Teaching should be equipped by the-state-of-the-art facility. The Organic Chemistry Lab has been renovated.
- The Alumni West Gateway will be completed soon. From College Ave, students' entering experience will be improved.
- East Hall dorm is under construction. The foundation will be finished by the end of December.

These answers were given to the audience's questions:

- For the storm water, Michigan Tech is collaborating with the city about it to have the right engineering.
- Many parking spots have been taken for construction. As an interim solution, Cliff Drive has become one way to be used as a parking space. We will revisit the Cliff Drive solution in the summer.
- The problem is that we don't have enough flat space at the university. To address the parking issue, we may build 8 to 10. The parking deck but it's going to cost a lot. One solution is to use the private sector, but it's going to be expensive for the faculties, staff, and students.
- Childcare and Husky Health are not a part of the master plan.
- Off campus facilities such as Alberta are not a part of the current master plan.
- For new buildings, we're not going to use the basement as a parking space because it's going to be very expensive.
- The new dorms that are under-construction are an answer for the next 1-2 years ahead. But the university should build more dorms to meet the demands in the future.

## President's Report

5

### a. Constitute an ad-hoc Constitution Committee

Constituting an ad-hoc Constitution Committee for the senate constitution was approved.

Robert Hutchinson:

- Academic tradition is built on the freedom of speech.
- University is a place to discuss tough questions, others safety should not be violated.
- There are some limitations to freedom of speech. The safety of others is important when we consider freedom of speech.
- Another limitation, for example, no one can arbitrarily enter a class to discuss Constitution in an unrelated class, in which the course topic is something else.
- Students shouldn't feel unsafe and targeted due to the freedom of speech.

## Committee Reports

10

### a. Academic and Instructional Policy – Chair Stephen Morse

Nothing to report.

### b. Administrative Policy – Chairs Jon Sticklen and Eric Seagren

They are working on some procedures pertinent to search and evaluation.

### c. Curricular Policy – Chair Paul Bergstrom

They are working on a few proposals to present in the next senate meetings.

- d. Committee for Promoting and Facilitating Equity and Understanding –  
Chairs Lanrong Bi and Sangyoon Han  
Nothing to report.
- e. Elections – Chair Laura Fiss  
Thanks to those people who nominated themselves or others for the vice president research committee. Because so many people are nominated, the balloting process is becoming slow. But there still are some committees with not enough nominees. So please nominate yourself or if you know somebody who may be interested, please nominate them. Ballots will be sent out for some of the committees.
- f. Finance and Institutional Planning – Chair Carl Blair  
Nothing to report.
- g. Fringe Benefits – Chair Patrice Cobin  
You are viewing the administration response to the Husky Health resolution, approved by the senate last year.
- 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  
You are working the feasibility of having 12 weeks summer semesters.

**Unfinished Business**

**0**

- a. None

**New Business**

**0**

- a. None

**Public Comments**

**10**

Lindsey Wells expressed her disappointment about the progress of the Mental Health proposal that she worked on last year. The progress is slow.

**Adjournment**