

# The University Senate of Michigan Technological University

To: Senators, Alternates, and Liaisons  
From: Robert Hutchinson, Senate President  
Date: December 6, 2023  
Subject: Agenda for University Senate Meeting #694  
Copies: President, Provost, Board of Trustees Secretary, Vice Presidents, Library, Staff Council Chair, *Tech Today*, Michigan Tech Lode

**Meeting #694** of the University Senate of Michigan Technological University will convene at 5:30 p.m. on **Wednesday, December 6, 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>
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<b>Call to Order</b>	
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<b>Roll Call of Senators and Recognition of Visitors</b>	<b>5</b>
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The quorum was met.

Absents: Erich Petushek, Gerard Caneba, Ramy Al-Ganaini, Alexandra Morrison, , Lindsey Wells, Quincy Higgins, and Mason Krause (non-voting member).

<b>Approval of Agenda</b>	<b>2</b>
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The agenda approved.

<b>Approval of Minutes from Meeting <a href="#">693</a></b>	<b>5</b>
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The minutes for our meeting number [693](#) were approved.

<b>Presentations</b>	<b>20</b>
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a. Ombuds with Susanna Peters

- Susanna Peters gave a presentation about the Ombuds office, which aims to resolve conflicts. She mentioned various links are available on the office of Academic and Community Conduct's webpage for reporting concerns. In cases where there isn't a relevant link, a form can be filled out and sent to the office.
- The Ombuds office sometimes assists in revising reports and offers brainstorming sessions to solve conflicts. Another method is to help employees directly. Confidentiality is a key aspect of this office; they listen, talk, and advise on next steps. An example of this is toning down angry emails. The Ombuds office provides various options for solving different issues and helps people find appropriate avenues for resolution.

Answers to the asked questions:

- People can contact the Ombuds office via email or phone.
- A crucial note is that when someone's safety or that of others is at risk, it is the only time the Ombuds office is obligated to report the issue.

<b>President's Report</b>	<b>5</b>
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There was no president's report.

<b>Committee Reports</b>	<b>10</b>
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a. Academic and Instructional Policy – Chair Stephen Morse

- They have received a new proposal and will be working on it in the coming days.

- b. Administrative Policy – Chairs Jon Sticklen and Eric Seagren
- They are working on the chair proposal. In addition, they are working on annual faculty and the staff survey about the president. It will go out in the spring.
- c. Curricular Policy – Chair Paul Bergstrom
- They will be presenting two proposals tonight. In addition, there is another proposal from the College of Forestry that will come up in January.
- d. Committee for Promoting and Facilitating Equity and Understanding – Chairs Lanrong Bi and Sangyoon Han
- Nothing to report.
- e. Elections – Chair Laura Fiss
- Laura Fiss thanked those who nominated themselves or others for the 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
- The summer semester discussions are continued.

**Unfinished Business**

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- a. None

**New Business**

- a. [Proposal 2-24](#): “Establishment of a New Graduate Certificate - Foundations in Geographic Information Science for Natural Resources” Presented by: Curricular Policy Committee (Voting Units: Academic)
  - Paul Bergstrom presented proposal 2-24.
- b. [Proposal 3-24](#): “Proposal to Rename the Master of Science in Accounting Degree to the Master of Science in Accounting & Analytics Degree” Presented by: Curricular Policy Committee (Voting Units: Academic)
  - Paul Bergstrom presented proposal 3-24 that is a rename of a degree from the College of Business to reflect it better.

**10**

**Public Comments**

**10**

Tim Scarlet made a few public comments. He made some comments on behalf of himself first and then on behalf of his department (Social Sciences).

- In the week of November 13th events, there were some disagreements about the freedom of speech. Tim Scarlet believes that the institutional response was unacceptable it left a vacuum for misinformation to the community and the public.

- The faculty and staff at the Department of Social Science have prepared and signed a draft to welcome people from the LGBTQ plus community to their department. People from outside of the department are welcomed to sign this draft.

Statements from the Department of Social Sciences:

- This department condemns hate speech while recognizing the rights of the First Amendment for the freedom of speech.
- This department supports the interpretation of law of the Chicago Principles, inspiring notes that a faculty teaches classes as an individual, not as representatives of the university.
- The faculty and staff from the Department of Social Sciences have received so many emails and voice calls that extended from outrage to threats of violence and death threats. They were even concerned with the possibility of shooting on campus.

### **Adjournment**

- Adjourned.