

The University Senate of Michigan Technological University

To: Senators, Alternates, and Liaisons
From: Robert Hutchinson, Senate President
Date: January 17, 2024
Subject: Agenda for University Senate Meeting #695
Copies: President, Provost, Board of Trustees Secretary, Vice Presidents, Library, Staff Council Chair, *Tech Today*, Michigan Tech Lode

Meeting #695 of the University Senate of Michigan Technological University will convene at 5:30 p.m. on **Wednesday, January 17, 2024 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.

Agenda	Time
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Call to Order	
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Roll Call of Senators and Recognition of Visitors	5
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The quorum was met.

Absents: Travis Ellison, Gerard Caneba, Eric Seagren, Bo Chen, Ramy Al-Ganaini, Tim Scarlett, Alexandra Morrison, Jaroslaw Drelich, Courtney Archambeau, Lindey Wells, Quincy Higgins, and Nason Krause (non-voting member).

Approval of Agenda	2
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The agenda was approved.

Approval of Minutes from Meeting 694	5
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Minutes from meeting 694 were approved.

Presentations	0
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No presentation.

President's Report	5
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You will see that we have a new business that looks like an old business and that is a response that we received from the administration about our approved proposal (Proposal to Extend Employee Benefits Posthumously to Surviving Beneficiaries). The university president has confirmed that this is the university policy now and the senate approval is procedural.

In addition, the senate constitution will go out for referendum. Some people have argued that there should be some necessary changes in the proposal, due to the newly approved policies. The senate president agrees that those changes are necessary, but this proposal was approved by the senate two years ago. So, it should go for referendum first, then the necessary modifications will be applied.

Committee Reports	10
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a. Academic and Instructional Policy – Chair Stephen Morse

They are working on a proposal that they have received.

b. Administrative Policy – Chairs Jon Sticklen and Eric Seagren

They found time for their weekly readings. They returned the letter to the president and will go forward polling for the president evaluation. They will be working on the revision of the chair evaluation proposal soon.

c. Curricular Policy – Chair Paul Bergstrom:

They have received 5 proposals. One of them is about badging that is about a mechanism that the university calculates some knowledge that people can earn to do some training.

- d. Committee for Promoting and Facilitating Equity and Understanding –
Chairs Lanrong Bi and Sangyoon Han
They are working on the mental health proposal.
- e. Elections – Chair Laura Fiss
Laura Fiss thanked everybody 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
They are working on two tasks, one staff handbook and management development. The staff handbook is prepared based on revising the existing handbook.
- 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

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- 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 the proposal. They have sent out some questions about the proposal and they have received the required answers.
The proposal was approved.
- 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 the proposal. This is about renaming a degree to reflect the scope of the degree better.
The proposal was approved.

New Business

- a. [Proposal 5-24](#): “Proposal to Extend Employee Benefits Posthumously to Surviving Beneficiaries” Presented by: Fringe Benefits Committee (Voting Units: All)

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This is the proposal had been already approved by the senate and. The administration approved it after some modification and took it in place as the university policy. And the senate is supposed to vote and approve the new changes.

Jon Sticklen had some objections about the procedure (not the proposal).

Public Comments

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Robert Hutchinson: In the future the podium is only for Ashley who directs the meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned.