

The University Senate of Michigan Technological University

To: Senators, Alternates, and Liaisons
From: Robert Hutchinson, Senate President
Date: January 31, 2024
Subject: Agenda for University Senate Meeting #696
Copies: President, Provost, Board of Trustees Secretary, Vice Presidents, Library, Staff Council Chair, *Tech Today*, Michigan Tech Lode

Meeting #696 of the University Senate of Michigan Technological University will convene at 5:30 p.m. on **Wednesday, January 31, 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
Call to Order	
Roll Call of Senators and Recognition of Visitors	5
The quorum was met. Absents: Travis Ellison, Stella Otoo, Ramy Al-Ganainy, Courtney Archambeau, Lindsey Wells, Quincy Higgins, and Patrice Cobin.	
Approval of Agenda	2
The agenda was approved.	
Approval of Minutes from Meeting	5
Minutes for meetings 695 were approved.	
Presentations	30
a. Anne Beffel and Marika Seigel: Curriculum Road Map Working Group Update	
i. Working Group Progress Report	
Anne Beffel presented the "Curriculum Roadmap Working Group - mid-year progress report. They are developing a future roadmap for undergraduate curriculum offerings at Michigan Tech. The vision is to create a curriculum that reflects the university's character, meets industry needs in Michigan, and attracts students nationally. The group, comprising faculty, administration, and stakeholders, reviewed enrollment and retention data, identified programs needing attention due to low enrollments, and prepared a data gathering form for department chairs and deans. The report includes plans for a guiding document titled "Preparing Graduates for 2030 – A Curriculum Road Map for Michigan Tech," aimed at guiding curriculum reform and development for 2025-2030. They have sent questionnaires to academic units and waiting for char responses.	
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President's Report	
Robert Hutchinson: The senate president is pleased with the administration's approval of the senate proposal to extend employee benefits posthumously to surviving beneficiaries. The referendum for the senate constitution has been voted and will be sent the Board for their consideration. In 2019, a member of a white supremacist group defaced Temple Jacob, a Jewish synagogue in Hancock, Michigan, with swastikas and other group symbols. The Senate took a stand against it and condemned the incident. The good news is that the individual responsible for this unfortunate act has been convicted in a federal court in Marquette. Our senator, Laura Fiss, was one of the witnesses who testified in court.	

Committee Reports

- a. Academic and Instructional Policy – Chair
They are working on the instructional track faculty proposal.
- b. Administrative Policy – Chairs Jon Sticklen and Eric Seagren
They are working on chair search and chair evaluation proposals. They have been busy with the president evaluation survey.
- c. Curricular Policy – Chair Paul Bergstrom
Paul Bergstrom: All academic program proposals should follow up the format presented in 108.1.1 procedure to be considered by CPC.
They are receiving reports from academic units. Several big programs will be revised. Academic units should send their reports by the end of February to be considered for evaluation this academic year.
- d. Committee for Promoting and Facilitating Equity and Understanding –
Chairs Lanrong Bi and Sangyoon Han
They are working on mental health proposals. They are thinking about approaches to promote. Mental health on campus.
Robert Hutchinson: We do not need to include/propose approaches of promoting mental health in the proposal.
- e. Elections – Chair Laura Fiss.
There are still some committees without enough nominees, such as the faculty review committee. While these are the senate committees, the people serving on these committees do not have to be senators.
- f. Finance and Institutional Planning – Chair Carl Blair
Cari Blair: Financial proposals pertinent to new programs should follow up the format presented in 108.1.2 procedure to be considered by this committee.
- g. Fringe Benefits – Chair Patrice Cobin
Nothing to report.
- h. Information Technology – Chair
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
Nothing to report.
 - a. Ad-hoc Academic Calendar Committee

Unfinished Business

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

Scott Wagner: This is a revised version of the Proposal to Extend Employee Benefits Posthumously to Surviving Beneficiaries that was approved by the senate and administration has made some recommendations for it. The FBC is pleased with the recommendations.
The proposal was approved.

New Business

- a. [Proposal 8-24](#): “Proposal for shelving the Master of Science in Forestry (Senate Procedure 414.1.1)” Presented by: Curricular Policy Committee (Voting Units: Academic)

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Paul Bergstrom This program significantly overlaps with other programs within the College of Forestry, resulting in decreasing enrollment over time. So, the unit has decided to shelve this program and stop admitting students for it.

- b. [Proposal 11-24](#): “Defining Digital Badges” Presented by: Curricular Policy Committee (Voting Units: Academic)

Paul Bergstrom: The proposal is for Michigan Tech to offer digital badges as a learner credential, integrating them into their educational and professional development programs. These digital badges, different from traditional credentials like degrees, are digital representations of specific skills or competencies that learners have acquired.

The Badges are competency-based and assessed for student learning. Each badge is defined by learning objectives aligned with its name/title, representing about 20 hours of learner engagement with course material.

The badges are non-credit offerings, although they can be earned as part of a for-credit course. They will be fee-supported, with units proposing how to distribute fee revenue.

Public Comments

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No public comments.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned.