The University Senate of Michigan Technological University

To: Senators, Alternates, and Liaisons
From: Robert Hutchinson, Senate President
Date: April 3, 2024
Subject: Agenda for University Senate Meeting #700
Copies: President, Provost, Board of Trustees Secretary, Vice Presidents, Library, Staff Council Chair, *Tech Today,* Michigan Tech *Lode*

Meeting #700 of the University Senate of Michigan Technological University will convene at 5:30 p.m. on **Wednesday, April 3, 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, Stephanie Carpenter, Ramy Al-Ganainy, Joel Neves, Alexandra Morrison, Courtney Archambeau, Lindsey Wells, Quincy Higgins, and Karlee Westrem (non-voting).	
Approval of Agenda	2
A motion to amend the agenda was proposed by Paniz Hazaveh. The amended agenda was approved.	
Approval of Minutes from Meeting 699	5
Minutes from meeting #699 were approved.	
Presentations: Senate Elections Committee,	30

Senate Officer Confirmed Candidates

Laura Fiss asked the candidates to present themselves.

a. President
   I. Robert Hutchinson
      He thanked those who nominated him for the position.
b. Vice President
   I. Paige Short
      She thanked those who nominated her for the position.
c. Secretary
   I. Paul Bergstrom
      He thanked those who nominated him. He would like to be the voice for the employees.
   II. Lanrong Bi
      She thanked those who nominated her for the position. She introduced herself and vision.
   III. Eric Seagren
      He thanked those who nominated him for the position.

President's Report	5

Paige Short announced that the name change has been approved for two departments: the Department of Cognitive and Learning Sciences is changed to the Department of Psychology

and Human Factors and the Department of Mechanical Engineering-Engineering Mechanics is changed to the Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering.

Committee Reports 10

    a. Academic and Instructional Policy – Chair Paniz Hazaveh

They will be introducing several proposals for new business tonight.

    b. Administrative Policy – Chairs Jon Sticklen and Eric Seagren

They hope to present the president survey report in the next meeting.

They will introduce two new proposals tonight.

    c. Curricular Policy – Chair Paul Bergstrom

They have completed all the proposals that they could process.

These proposals are going to be either introduced at this meeting or voted on at this meeting. However, there are some proposals whose entire processes cannot be completed this academic year, so they will be processed in the fall semester.

    d. Committee for Promoting and Facilitating Equity and Understanding – Chairs Lanrong Bi and Sangyoon Han

Lanrong Bi will present the mental health proposal in the next executive committee meeting.

    e. Elections – Chair Laura Fiss

Laura Fiss: The Faculty Distinguished Service Award Committee needs two interim committee members immediately. Please nominate yourself or anybody who you prefer.

    f. Finance and Institutional Planning – Chair

They have inquired about the Doctoral Philosophy of Manufacturing Engineering and the Bachelor of Science of Aerospace Engineering; and received great responses back from them.

    g. Fringe Benefits – Chair Patrice Cobin

They will send a survey to those who receive the benefit from the university. Since this survey is long, they cannot present the results at the next meeting.

    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 20

    a. Proposal 7-24: "Proposal for a Graduate Certificate in Foundations of Cybersecurity" Presented by: Curricular Policy Committee (Voting Units: Academic)

Paul Bergstrom presented the proposal.

The proposal was approved.

    b. Proposal 10-24: "Minor in Ecological Engineering" Presented by: Curricular Policy Committee (Voting Units: Academic)

Paul Bergstrom presented the proposal.

The proposal was approved.

c. [Proposal 14-24](#): "Establishment of a Doctor of Philosophy in Manufacturing Engineering" Presented by: Curricular Policy Committee (Voting Units: Academic)
Paul Bergstrom presented the proposal.
Ezra Bar-Ziv commented that the program should think about offering a Bachelor of Science program.
The proposal was approved.

d. [Proposal 17-24](#): "Bachelors of Science in Aerospace Engineering" Presented by: Curricular Policy Committee (Voting Units: Academic)
Paul Bergstrom presented the proposal.
The proposal was approved.

New Business

a. [Proposal 18-24](#): "Revisions to the Accelerated Master's Policy" Presented **30**
by: Curricular Policy Committee (Voting Units: Academic)
Paul Bergstrom introduced the proposal.
Proposal 18-24 updates to the Accelerated Master's Policy, aiming to expand the program and make it more accessible. The proposal highlights a notable increase in program enrollment and suggests changes to boost this growth further. Key updates include allowing up to nine credits to count towards both undergraduate and graduate degrees, extending application eligibility from sophomore year through six semesters post-graduation, and making the accelerated option a default for new master's programs post-Spring 2024. Financial analyses indicate the program's success and viability, with expectations for continued growth without significantly impacting the university's revenue. The proposal also outlines detailed guidelines for program structure, eligibility, and administration, positioning the program competitively against peer institutions and supporting Michigan Tech's goal of attracting high-caliber students to its graduate offerings.

b. [Proposal 19-24](#): "Repeat Policy" Presented by: Academic and Instructional Policy Committee (Voting Units: Academic)
Paniz Hazaveh introduced the proposal.
Proposal 19-24 revises the repeat policy to ensure all grades from repeated courses are shown on the official transcript, aligning with practices at other Michigan public universities. Currently, Michigan Tech is the only institution in the state that does not display all attempts on official transcripts. The proposal includes several clarifications, such as requiring similar repeats to be approved by the relevant academic unit, maintaining the same grade mode for repeats, and introducing repeat indicators on transcripts. The aim is to provide a comprehensive academic record that reflects all course attempts without changing GPA calculation methods.

c. [Proposal 20-24](#): "Academic Policies and Scholastic Standards" Presented by: Academic and Instructional Policy Committee (Voting Units: Academic)
Paniz Hazaveh introduced the proposal.
Proposal 20-24, submitted by the Academic and Instructional Policy Committee at Michigan Technological University, aims to refine the Undergraduate Scholastic Standards by removing outdated and redundant sections from Senate policy 107.1. These sections include stipulations on academic credit for ROTC classes, transfer credit, course repetition, and prerequisites. The proposal argues that these topics are already covered by other, more appropriate policies, and their inclusion in the

scholastic standards policy is unnecessary and potentially confusing. The proposal seeks to rename the policy to "Undergraduate Scholastic Standards," focusing solely on the core purpose of the policy, which is to outline the academic performance required to avoid academic suspension and dismissal, and the conditions for reinstatement after suspension.

d. Proposal 21-24: "Changing the Degree Title from Computer Network and System Administration to Information Technology" Presented by: Curricular Policy Committee (Voting Units: Academic)

Paul Bergstrom introduced the proposal.

Proposal 21-24 suggests changing the title of the Bachelor of Science degree from Computer Network and System Administration (CNSA) to Information Technology (IT) at Michigan Technological University. This change aims to reflect the program's evolution into a comprehensive IT education while addressing declining enrollments by making the program more appealing and marketable. The name "Information Technology" is recognized industry-wide, easier to remember, and aligns with the job market's growth areas such as cybersecurity, cloud computing, and data analysis. The proposal includes a comparison with related programs at Michigan Tech and other institutions, showing the prevalence and acceptance of IT-focused programs. Additionally, the proposal outlines anticipated enrollment increases based on similar program rebrandings and confirms that the program's ABET accreditation will be maintained through communication and compliance with ABET requirements.

e. Proposal 22-24: "Modify Senate Procedure 506.1.1- Department Chair Evaluation" Presented by: Administrative Policy Committee (Voting Units: Full Senate)

Jon Sticklen presented the proposal.

Proposal 22-24 modifies Senate Procedure 506.1.1, detailing the evaluation process for department chairs at Michigan Technological University. It outlines a standardized term length and review frequency, establishing initial four-year terms followed by three-year terms, with performance reviews scheduled accordingly. The proposal includes mechanisms for both formative feedback and performance reviews, allowing for comprehensive assessment and dialogue between faculty, staff, and chairs. Specific procedures for initiating reviews, conducting surveys, and reporting findings ensure transparency and accountability. The review process also emphasizes collegiality, confidentiality, and continuous improvement. Additionally, it clarifies the roles of various participants in the evaluation process, including the department chair, review committee, and college dean, while providing a structured timeline for each review stage. This approach aims to foster leadership effectiveness and align department goals with broader university objectives.

f. Proposal 23-24: "Modify Senate Procedure 805.1.1: Search Procedures for Departmental Chairs" Presented by: Administrative Policy Committee (Voting Units: Full Senate)

Eric Seagren presented the proposal.

Proposal 23-24 revises Senate Procedure 805.1.1, which outlines the search procedures for departmental chairs at Michigan Technological University. It specifies voting eligibility, details on open versus internal searches, the composition, and responsibilities of the search committee (including departmental, at-large, staff, student, and human resources representatives), and confidentiality requirements. The procedure also covers the creation of the position description, candidate shortlisting and interviewing processes, and the final selection of the department chair. Furthermore, it mandates transparency and inclusivity by involving faculty, staff, and student opinions in the decision-making process. The dean, with approval from the Provost and President, makes the final appointment based on committee recommendations, ensuring the chosen candidate aligns with the university's goals

and departmental needs. The procedure also provides for the appointment of interim or acting chairs if necessary and outlines the process for conducting secret ballots to assess candidate acceptability.

g. Proposal 24-24: "Proposal to Amend Senate Procedure 106.1.1: Academic Freedom" Presented by: Senator Timothy Scarlett (Voting Units: Academic)

Tim Scarlet presented the proposal.

Proposal 24-24 aims to amend Michigan Technological University's Senate Procedure 106.1.1 on Academic Freedom to clarify the policy on discussing "controversial matters" in the classroom. The proposal emphasizes that while faculty have the right to explore controversial topics within their areas of expertise, these discussions should be directly related to pedagogical goals. The proposed revision specifies that instructors act as representatives of their discipline and expertise, not of the university, when teaching.

Robert Hutchinson questioned why the proposal wasn't presented to the Executive Committee so it would have been assigned to an appropriate committee.

Scarlet responded that he submitted the proposal to AIPC but received no response.

Scarlet mentioned that he hoped this proposal to be tabled in the next senate meeting to be discussed in the fall.

h. Proposal 25-24: "Proposal to Amend Senate Policy 312.1; SYLLABUS REQUIREMENT FOR ALL COURSES AT MICHIGAN TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY" Presented by: Academic and Instructional Policy Committee (Voting Units: Academic)

Paniz Hazaveh presented this proposal.

Proposal 25-24 aims to update Senate Policy 312.1 at Michigan Technological University to improve student access to course syllabi by requiring instructors to utilize the learning management system, Canvas, for syllabus distribution. This change seeks to standardize syllabus access, cater to students using various devices and assistive technologies, and enhance overall student satisfaction.

Public Comments   10

No public comments.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned.