

The University Senate of Michigan Technological University

To: Senators, Alternates, and Liaisons
From: Robert Hutchinson, Senate President
Date: April 17, 2024
Subject: Agenda for University Senate Meeting #701
Copies: President, Provost, Board of Trustees Secretary, Vice Presidents, Library, Staff Council Chair, *Tech Today*, Michigan Tech Lode

Meeting #701 of the University Senate of Michigan Technological University will convene at 5:30 p.m. on **Wednesday, April 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: Sangyoon Han, Alexandra Morrison, Courtney Archambeau, Lindsey Wells, Quincy Higgins, and Karlee Westrem (non-voting).

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| Approval of Agenda | 2 |
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The agenda was approved.

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| Approval of Minutes from Meeting 700 | 5 |
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The minutes from meeting 700 were approved.

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| Presentations | 0 |
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No presentation.

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| President's Report | 5 |
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Robert Hutchinson: It was a great year, and thanks to everyone who helped the senate, in particular the executive committee, officers, and Ashley. I am happy to serve as the president next year. The next senate meeting will be held on September 12, 2024.

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| Committee Reports | 10 |
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- a. Academic and Instructional Policy – Chair Paniz Hazaveh

They will present several proposals tonight.

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

They will present two proposals tonight.

- c. Curricular Policy – Chair Paul Bergstrom

They will present several proposals tonight.

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

They received the mental health survey results. According to the survey, the students consider faculty as a major reference to share their mental concerns with.

- e. Elections – Chair Laura Fiss

Laura Fiss announced the senate officers' election results. Robert Hutchinson, Paige Short, and Paul Bergstrom were elected for the positions of President, Vice President, and Secretary, respectively.

- f. Finance and Institutional Planning – Chair
They will present the senate budget for the next year as a new business.
- g. Fringe Benefits – Chair Patrice Cobin
They have sent out the survey today via several avenues. The initial participation was promising.
- 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
 - a. Ad-hoc Academic Calendar Committee
Nothing to report.

Unfinished Business

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- a. [Proposal 18-24](#): “Revisions to the Accelerated Master’s Policy” Presented by: Curricular Policy Committee (Voting Units: Academic)
Paul Bergstrom presented the proposal.
There was a concern that this proposal may devalue our master’s programs.
The proposal was approved.
- b. [Proposal 19-24](#): “Repeat Policy” Presented by: Academic and Instructional Policy Committee (Voting Units: Academic)
Paniz Hazaveh presented the proposal.
There was a concern that this proposal aims to penalize students who fail at courses.
The response was that this proposal aims to make grade reporting more consistent with other institutions. Students may use the improvement in their grading as a selling point to their prospective employers.
The proposal was approved.
- c. [Proposal 20-24](#): “Academic Policies and Scholastic Standards” Presented by: Academic and Instructional Policy Committee (Voting Units: Academic)
Paniz Hazaveh presented the proposal.
The proposal was approved.
- 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 presented the proposal.
The proposal was approved.
- e. [Proposal 22-24](#): “Modify Senate Procedure 506.1.1- Department Chair Evaluation” Presented by: Administrative Policy Committee (Voting Units: Full Senate) ([version with changes noted](#))
Eric Seagren presented the proposal.
There was a concern about the contribution of staff in the evaluation process.
The response was that we had to make a compromise to approve the proposal.
The proposal was approved.
- f. [Proposal 23-24](#): “Modify Senate Procedure 805.1.1: Search Procedures for Departmental Chairs” Presented by: Administrative Policy Committee (Voting Units: Full Senate) ([version with changes noted](#))
Jon Sticklen presented the proposal.

There were some concerns about the possible cost (search costs) or if a chair is doing a good job, why should we limit the term to 10 years.

The response was that the chair can be included in the search after ten years, but the spirit of the proposal is to give opportunity to every faculty to serve in those positions.

The proposal was approved.

- 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 and requested tabling it until the fall semester so it can be reviewed during the summer.

A motion was made to send the proposal to the Academic and Instructional Policy Committee.

The motion was approved.

- 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 the proposal.

There were some concerns about the meaning of accessibility in the proposal. One senator raised the concern that this proposal may pay the wave to force instructors to use Canvas while using Canvas is not mandatory.

Due to these concerns, a motion made to table the proposal for further considerations.

The motion was approved.

New Business

- a. [Proposal 26-24](#): “2024-2025 Senate Budget” Presented by: Finance and Institutional Planning Committee (Voting Units: All) **5**

The proposal was presented.

One suggestion was made to include some budget for food to increase staff participation.

Public Comments

No public comments.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned.

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