University Senate Minutes

Meeting: Michigan Tech Senate Meeting #730
Date: 19 February 2026Time: 12:31 p.m.–12:58 p.m.
Location: ChemSci 102
Presiding: Robert Hutchinson, Senate President
Minutes: Holly Hassel, Senate Secretary

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 12:31 p.m.

2. Roll Call of Senators and Recognition of Visitors

Roll was called and visitors were recognized.

3. Approval of Agenda

A motion to approve the agenda was made and seconded. The agenda was approved unanimously.

4. Approval of Minutes (Meeting 729)

A motion to approve the minutes from Meeting 729 was made and seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

5. President's Report

- The President reported that the receipt of the Fringe Benefits proposal had been acknowledged by administration.
- The President commented on recent productive dialogue (including with Curricular Policy) regarding the Bachelor of Science in Artificial Intelligence and emphasized the importance of cross-disciplinary collaboration and collegiality. Appreciation was expressed for engagement from Humanities and Social Sciences.

6. Proposal 07-26

"The College of Computing requests to establish a Department in Data Science."

- The President noted that the proposal number was assigned for record-keeping and consistency with past practice and referred the item to AIPC for review of relevant policy and process.
- AIPC reported meeting with College of Computing leadership to review the rationale for establishing the department, including enrollment growth, anticipated program development, coordination benefits, and use of existing resources.

A motion to support the request was made and seconded. The motion carried with one "nay" vote.

7. Committee Reports / Presentations

Scheduled Presentation: Funding – Carlos Rodriguez, CFO

- The scheduled presenter was unable to attend and has been rescheduled for March 19th.

8. Unfinished Business

a. Proposal 20-26

"Update to Michigan Tech's Procedures for Responding to Allegations of Misconduct in Research, Scholarly and Creative Endeavor."

- A question was raised regarding contradictory language regarding self-plagiarism; follow-up was suggested (including consultation with Cathy Halvorson, Associate vice President for Research, Integrity and Facilities).

- A motion to table the proposal was made and seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The item was referred back for further review (Research Policy / VPR follow-up).

b. Proposal 14-26

"Proposal to establish an Associate of Science in General Studies."

- The proposal was discussed as a replacement for the Associate of Arts in Humanities and as an off-ramp option for baccalaureate students, including relevance to TIP-associated student pathways. A motion to approve was made and seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

c. Proposal 15-26

"Bachelor of Science in Artificial Intelligence."

- Continued discussion was noted regarding integrating social, ethical, and humanistic dimensions of AI and identifying appropriate curricular pathways.
The proposal was moved and seconded. The motion to table until the next meeting carried.

d. Proposal 19-26

"Proposal for Shelving the Computational Fluid Dynamics Graduate Certificate."
A motion to approve was made and seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

9. New Business

No new business was recorded.

10. Public Comment

Public comment was invited. There were no comments.

11. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:58 p.m.