

The University Senate of Michigan Technological University

PROPOSAL 28-99

(Voting Units: Full Senate)

STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS

The Senate recommends that Michigan Tech incorporate a more explicit strategic planning effort within the existing Five Year Budget Development process. At a minimum, this process should involve a Strategic Planning Committee composed of the Senate officers, chairs of the Senate Finance Committee and Curricular Policy Committee, the Provost, Chief Financial Officer, and Academic Deans. This committee shall be charged with the preparation of an annual strategic planning summary that identifies all new and existing initiatives for programs, buildings, and other new enterprises on the five-year time line. This report should be prepared before the initiation of the annual budget process.

Rationale

In recent discussions concerning new academic programs, buildings, and various other new initiatives, several senators have become concerned about the manner in which each degree proposal, proposed program addition, or facilities' expansion has been discussed and considered largely in isolation. In fact, some initiatives are never discussed by representatives of the larger campus, or formally considered by the Senate. This proposal should address this difficulty by developing a planning process that functions in a genuinely strategic fashion. The Senate seeks to create a forum that will adopt a broader view of the commitments already made by the University even as it considers new initiatives. One immediate result will be to make these commitments more explicitly visible in the five-year budgeting progress. A long-term result should be to provide clear input from the academic community as the University moves toward and adjusts its strategic vision.

Proposal Development

As required by the Senate Constitution, the Senate Executive Committee approved bringing this proposal directly to the floor for debate.

Draft of 12 May 1999