

The University Senate of Michigan Technological University

Proposal 5-18

Proposed Addition of a Section of the Role of Innovation and Commercialization to the Faculty Handbook

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Introduction:

Many Michigan Tech faculty, staff and students are involved with activities that involve innovation and commercialization.

Faculty are not required to be involved with innovation and commercialization activities and there should be no penalty for not engaging in these types of activities.

Faculty who are involved in innovation and commercialization activities should, however, be recognized for their contributions in these areas as part of their teaching, research, and/or service roles. There should be no negative consequences to faculty for being involved in innovation and commercialization activities, because these activities can substantially benefit the University as a whole.

Having a clear statement that the University supports innovation and commercialization efforts will be valuable in recruiting and retaining outstanding faculty members who have an interest in developing ideas with the potential for future commercial viability.

The following language is intended for insertion in the Tenure and Tenure Track Faculty Handbook as a new section (e.g., *Section 2.5*). The language proposed here parallels that currently present in *Section 2.3 Role of Interdisciplinary Scholarship and Teaching*. Just as Section 2.3 was added to the Faculty Handbook to make it clear to new and continuing faculty that interdisciplinary activities are valued at Michigan Tech, the new section proposed here is intended to make it clear that innovation and commercialization activities are similarly valued.

Proposed Addition to the Tenured and Tenure Track Faculty Handbook:

Section 2.5 Role of Innovation and Commercialization

Innovation and commercialization are consistent with and directly support the education, research and public service goals of Michigan Tech. Innovation refers to the process of creating economic and social value from inventions and discoveries. Commercialization supports

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innovation and results in the creation of societal and economic value from knowledge, discoveries, and experiences. Commercialization can result from a number of activities including applied research, consulting, securing patent rights and technology commercialization through licensing to established businesses or through the formation of new businesses. Faculty participation in innovation and commercialization enhances student education by providing a source of content and context which can directly complement, reinforce, and add relevance to course subject matter.

Innovation and commercialization related to teaching, research, and scholarly expertise are recognized as having value within the Michigan Tech community. The University acknowledges that additional time and effort are required for involvement in such activities, and is committed to recognizing these efforts. In particular, promotion and tenure and merit evaluations shall recognize innovation and commercialization as an indicator of commitment to expanding traditional boundaries and to the economic prosperity of society.