

Richard Koubek, President

Office Memo

04/03/24

Date

Phone: (906) 487-2440 Office of the Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs Fax: (906) 487-2935 TO: Richard Koubek, President Andrew Storer, Provost & Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs FROM: DATE: April 1, 2024 SUBJECT: Senate Proposal 1-24 Attached is an amended version of Senate proposal, 1-24, "Amending the Scheduling of Spring Break in Senate Procedure 101.1.1," which addresses the modifications suggested by the administration in the memo signed December 1, 2023. I have reviewed the proposal and recommend approving this amended proposal. I concur do not concur with the provost's recommendation as stated in this memo.



University Senate

DATE: March 5, 2024

TO: Richard Koubek, President

FROM: Robert Hutchinson

University Senate President

SUBJECT: Proposal 1-24

COPIES: Andrew Storer, Provost & Senior VP for Academic Affairs

At its meeting on October 4, 2023, the University Senate approved Proposal 1-24, "Amending the Scheduling of Spring Break in Senate Procedure 101.1.1." Based on the administration's suggestions from 12/1/23, the proposal has been amended. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

The University Senate of Michigan Technological University Proposal 1-24

Amending the Scheduling of Spring Break in Senate Procedure 101.1.1

(Voting Units: All)

Submitted by: Ad-hoc Academic Calendar Committee

I. Introduction

The scheduling of dates in the academic calendar is regulated by <u>Senate Procedure</u> <u>101.1.1: Guidelines for an Academic Calendar of 14 Weeks</u>. According to the Spring semester guidelines, "Spring break will be for one week following the seventh week of the semester." Due to the current policy, the placement of spring break is quite early in the calendar year and there are compelling reasons to move the break to the week following the eighth week of the semester.

II. Rationale

In March 2022, <u>Proposal 39-22</u> shifted spring break after week seven with arguments in favor of a half-semester break in support of certificate programs, half-semester courses, and midterm scheduling. However, due to the adjustment of the fall semester start date (<u>Proposal 50-22</u>), the placement of spring break can occur earlier in some years than originally intended. Moving spring break back to week 8 provides a shorter time to the end of the semester and it moves the break closer to its original placement. Most importantly, this change aligns with overwhelming feedback from a variety of constituents.

III. Proposal

It is proposed that the wording in Senate Procedure 101.1.1 related to Spring break be changed from "the seventh week of the semester" to read in full, "Spring break will be for one week following the eighth week of the semester." This change would go into effect starting with the 2025-26 academic calendar.¹

¹ The 2025-2026 Spring semester may start January 12, 2026 due to future proposals. Spring Break would fall on the week of March 9, 2026 in this scenario.