

University Senate Report

Presented to the Board of Trustees
April 29, 2016

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University Senate

University Senate Accomplishments 2015-16

- 1. Advancing the academic goals of Michigan Tech.*
- 2. Express the concerns of our constituents*
- 3. Responding to new trends in assessment and graduate education*

Curricular Policy Committee

1. Proposals: 19
2. Shelved programs: 8
 - a. Most were following a trend to end certain certifications in favor of (existing/new) minors.
3. New programs: 9
 - a. PhD in Applied Physics
 - b. MS in Cybersecurity
 - c. 7 Minors, including a Minor in leadership

General Education and Assessment Committee

1. Proposals: 1
 - a. Liaisons from each department or school
2. Reports: 2
 - a. One each from past and present Assoc. Provost
3. Assessment
 - a. Developing proper infrastructures to enhance communication between departments, schools, graduate school, etc.

Academic and Instructional Policy Committee

1. Proposals: 5
 - a. Scheduling exams during career day
 - b. Exam policies (2)
 - c. Academic calendar
 - d. Early term survey*
 - i. Additional questions focused on the classroom climate with the goal of responsiveness
2. Report: 1
 - a. Inclusion*

Research Policy Committee

1. Proposals: 0
2. Reports: 1
 - a. Library: Journal subscriptions & trends in pricing
3. Goal: Journal subscription pricing.

Finance & Institutional Planning Committee

1. Proposals: 2 (co-developed with FBC)
 - a. Proposal 2-16: tuition waivers for employees taking Tech courses for professional development.
 - b. Proposal 3-16: Automatic enrollment in retirement plan.
2. Reports: 2
 - a. Salary comparison studies for both faculty and professional staff

Fringe Benefits Committee

1. Proposals: 4

- a. Proposal 3-16: Automatic enrollment in retirement plan.
- b. Proposal 9-16: Reducing Deductibles on Healthcare plans.
- c. Proposal 23-16: A parental leave policy.

2. Reports: 2

- a. Retirement plan analysis
- b. Dependent tuition plan (TRIP) analysis

3. Goals:

- a. Communicate concerns of employees
- b. Ensure an educated and informed dialogue exists
- c. Offer insights and recommendations to the president of the university that is independent of the BLG

Administrative Policy Committee

1. Proposals: 6
2. President's evaluation
 - a. Survey designed by students and faculty.
 - b. Significant improvement in validity.

Additional discussions

1. Recycling
2. Cyber-security
3. IT Update

Looking ahead to 2016-17

1. General Education & Assessment: Developing proper infrastructures to enhance communication and advance core academic issues
 - a. Assessment
 - b. graduate education & assessment
 - c. general education
2. Research Policy: Addressing the growing concern about journal pricing
3. Fringe Benefits: ongoing dialogue, recommendations, expand benefits to compete for top talent
4. Finance and Inst. Planning: restructuring the Senate's budget.