

MINUTES OF THE FORMAL SPECIAL SESSION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF MICHIGAN TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY held pursuant to due call in Ballroom B of the Memorial Union Building on the campus of Michigan Technological University in the City of Houghton, Michigan at nine o'clock on the morning of December 16, 2022.

The Board of Trustees of Michigan Technological University met in formal session at the University's campus at Michigan Technological University in the City of Houghton, State of Michigan, at 9:00 a.m., on the 16th day of December, in Ballroom B of the Memorial Union Building. The place, hour, and date are duly established and duly published for the holding of such a meeting.

The meeting was called to order by Chair, J. C. Littmann, and a quorum was declared present. The following members of the Board of Trustees were present:

A.R. Dickson (by telephone)  
J. U. Bacon  
J. E. Jipping  
M. D. Johnson  
J. C. Littmann, Chair  
B. R. Ryan, Vice Chair  
D. D. Sanders (by telephone)  
S. M. Tomaszewski  
J. Lehman, Acting Secretary  
S.H. Schulte, Secretary (by telephone)  
J. Seppala, Treasurer  
R. J. Koubek, ex officio

Also present during part or all of the session were: Wallace Southerland III, Wayne Gersie, Andrew Storer, William Kordenbrock, David D. Reed, William Roberts, Suzanne Sanregret, and various members of the faculty, administrative staff, student body, press, and public.

Where item numbers are used, they refer to corresponding item numbers in the agenda, in the hands of the Board members.

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

**II. ROLL CALL**

**III. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA**

It was moved by J. Jipping, supported by S. Tomaszewski, and passed by voice vote without dissent, that the agenda of the formal session of December 16, 2022, as distributed to the Board, be approved.

**IV. OPENING REMARKS**

**A. Chair's Comments**

Good morning and welcome to the December 2022 formal session of the Board of Trustees of Michigan Technological University. The ski hill is open, and winter has arrived in the Copper Country! For our graduates this week, perhaps one more run on the fresh snow as students before joining the ranks of proud alumni?

It's great to see how far along the H-STEM building is. The new development on campus is energizing. Over the past few years, we have also been steadily increasing the annual spend on maintenance and renovations. Now, I am pleased to announce that in early December, Moody's Investor Services provided an A1 rating with a stable outlook and bond pricing took place on December 8th. The Official Statement was made public earlier this week and closing of the 2023A tax exempt bonds in the amount of \$22,705,000 & 2023B taxable bonds in the amount of \$5,525,000 is scheduled for the first week in January. These funds will allow us to proceed with a disciplined, multi-year investment in campus. The projects will include needed renovations to classrooms and teaching labs, the Keweenaw Research Center High Bay Building, MacInnes Ice Arena HVAC improvements, renovations to the 11<sup>th</sup> floor of the R.L. Smith Mechanical Engineering-Engineering Mechanics Building, and 7<sup>th</sup> Street parking.

I also want to take a moment to congratulate this weekend's graduates. You've worked hard to get to this point. The dedication you have shown to reach this milestone will serve you well as you continue your journey. We look forward to celebrating your successes tomorrow and in the years to come.

**B. President's Comments**

Good morning -- Chair, Members of the Board and audience members. Thank you for joining us.

Tomorrow we will celebrate the success of nearly 500 graduates at the 2022 winter commencement ceremony. We are extremely proud of their accomplishments and have every confidence that their future endeavors will reflect well on Michigan Tech.

But today I would like to call attention to the faculty and staff that undoubtedly contribute mightily to the success of our graduates by providing just a few examples of the transformative work happening around us.

This Fall:

- Michigan Tech secured its first ever McNair Scholars Program Grant to help students from underrepresented groups earn undergraduate degrees, enroll in graduate programs and obtain doctorates.
- Michigan Tech's Army ROTC program and the University were unanimously selected as the #1 overall ROTC program and institution for the 2021-22 academic year. Earning the MacArthur Award means we are #1 of the 42 Universities in our Midwest region.
- Our Men's Cross-Country team had their best finish in the history of the program.
- President Joe Biden announced a DOE grant of \$8.3 million in funding for Michigan Tech to help develop technology to recycle batteries in his remarks at Bay City.
- The University received an A1 rating with a stable outlook from Moody's Investor Services.
- Career Fair was the largest in MTU's history.
- And, finally, we celebrated the opening of a new facility for Orbion Space Technology.

Behind each of these accomplishments are the men and women who drive Michigan Tech forward. They are dedicated, smart, hardworking and passionate about our students' success.

In that vein, later in the meeting today we will be recognizing an individual who has left an everlasting mark on this institution as a student leader, an outstanding alumnus and, I believe, serves as a remarkable role model to us all.

But for now, I'd like to again congratulate our graduates on a job well done and thank our faculty and staff for their continued service to Michigan Tech. We all have a lot to be proud of.

Happy Holidays!

## **V. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

Steve Store, President of AFSCME Union thanked the University bargaining committee for the smooth negotiations this year.

## **VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **VI-A. Academic Affairs Committee**

John Bacon, Committee Chair

The Academic Affairs Committee has met once since the last Board meeting. The first topic of discussion was the student-to-faculty evaluation system, which has been two years in the making and is now underway. The evaluations are being processed in January with the Chairs and Deans, which they trust will be a collaborative process. Thank you to the faculty and those who worked to make this process happen.

Next, the academic calendar has been approved with fall break in week eight (8). The Committee is in the process of department chair evaluations with the University Senate and others.

The General Education process draft will come from the University Senate in February. The Committee is assisting with elevator repair issues.

Finally, the USG president requested that the academic integrity process be reviewed.

There are three options:

1. The current process
2. A modified honor system
3. A stricter honor system (University of Virginia model)

They may land on the second option, a modified honor system, as there is an issue with the CHEGG, the CHEGG program. This is a national issue which needs to be addressed, and Michigan Tech should get in front of this issue.

#### **VI-B. Audit and Finance Committee**

Andrea Dickson, Committee Chair

The Audit and Finance Committee has met once since the last Board meeting. The Committee reviewed the University's financial position and outlook for the current fiscal year, which includes projections compared to actuals, and the current year budget is on target. While there is current inflation and the cooling of investments, we are holding steady.

The Committee reviewed the upcoming planning process for preliminary budget parameters, including looking at room and board and tuition rates, which are all preliminary. The Committee also reviewed the University's debt level. The Committee is happy with the current debt level and Moody's A-1 rating, as Board Chair mentioned. Based on the financials and Moody's rating, we have good strategic positioning, with steady enrollment and fundraising, which are aspects of our financial position. The Committee Chair thanks the faculty, Dave Reed, VP for Research, and Andrew Storer, Interim Provost, for the robust research grants.

Related to the Campus Master Plan, the Committee continues to assess our debt capacity and what will be the next major parts of the plan's strategic initiatives.

### **VI-C. Leadership Committee Report**

The Leadership Committee has met once since the last Board meeting. President Koubek provided an update on the University's strategic initiatives, broken down by quarter. The initiatives are on track, and the Chair commends the leadership team and the campus community for everyone's efforts.

An update was provided regarding open leadership positions. There is steady progress on the Provost & CFO searches and the recent hire of the Chief Human Resources Officer.

There are upcoming changes to the Board of Trustees Committee assignments. Jon Jipping will Chair the Leadership Committee and join the Michigan Tech Fund Board. John Bacon will join the Leadership Committee. Formal Board member, Linda Kennedy, will be a member of the MTSEC Board.

The Leadership Committee is discussing succession planning with the Governor's office. The Committee is focused on the skill set of possible members that can move the University forward. This process will continue in 2025 with the exit of Steve Tomaszewski and Derhun Sanders.

### **VII. CONSENT AGENDA**

It was moved by S. Tomaszewski, supported by J. Bacon, and passed by voice vote without dissent, that the Board of Trustees approve and adopt the items contained in the Consent Agenda.

#### **VII-A. Approval of Minutes**

It was moved by S. Tomaszewski, supported by J. Bacon, and passed by voice vote without dissent, that the minutes of the formal session of October 7, 2022, as distributed to the Board, be approved.

#### **VII-B. Resignations, Retirements, and Off Payroll**

It was moved by S. Tomaszewski, supported by J. Bacon, and passed by voice vote without dissent, that the Board of Trustees accepts the resignations and confirms the off-payroll determinations.

#### **VII-C. Funding Productivity Report**

It was moved by S. Tomaszewski, supported by J. Bacon, and passed by voice vote without dissent, that the Board of Trustees acknowledges the gifts to Michigan Technological University.

#### **VII-D. Resolution to Approve Revisions to the USG Constitution**

It was moved by S. Tomaszewski, supported by J. Bacon, and passed by voice vote without dissent, that the Board of Trustees approves the revisions to the USG Constitution.

## **VIII. ACTION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **VIII-A. Employee Recognition**

It was moved by S. Tomaszewski, supported by J. Jipping, and passed by voice vote without dissent, that the Board of Trustees adopts the Resolution of Appreciation for the following individual:

1. Christopher Dessellier, Building Mechanic, Facilities Management – 40 years of service

### **VIII-B. Emeritus Rank**

It was moved J. Jipping, supported by J. Bacon, and passed by voice vote without dissent, that the Board of Trustees approves the following emeritus/emerita appointments:

1. Dr. Jean Kampe, Professor Emerita  
Department of Materials Science and Engineering
2. Dr. S. Komar Kawatra, Professor Emeritus  
Department of Chemical Engineering

### **VIII-C. Resolution to Eliminate Shelved Program**

It was moved by S. Tomaszewski, supported by M. Johnson, and passed by voice vote without dissent, that the Board of Trustees approves the elimination of shelved programs.

### **VIII-D. Election of Board Chair and Vice Chair**

It was moved by M. Johnson, supported by J. Jipping, and passed by voice vote without dissent, that the Board of Trustees elects Jeff Littmann as Board Chair for calendar year 2023.

It was moved by J. Bacon, supported by B. Ryan, and passed by voice vote without dissent, that the Board of Trustees elects Steve Tomaszewski as Board Vice-Chair for calendar year 2023.

### **VIII-E. Honorary Doctorate Degree**

**President Koubek:** It is a great honor to recommend to the Board of Trustees, that Brenda Ryan receive an Honorary Doctorate of Philosophy degree from Michigan Technological University.

Brenda Ryan earned her BS in Metallurgical Engineering from Michigan Tech in 1976, and an MS in Materials Science and Engineering from the University of Virginia in 1989. After an eleven (11) year career at General Motors and six (6) years at Kelsey-Hayes, Brenda started two companies, Ryan Industries in Wixom, MI and Alliance Technologies in Springfield, MO, which she continues to own and lead. She is a Women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and

Production honoree, was honored as a National Minority Supplier Development Council "Success Story" in 2013, Minorities in Business Small Businessperson of the Year (MO) of 2013, and a Chrysler Group LLC — Diversity Supplier of the Year in 2011 and 2020.

Brenda has a long and distinguished record of service to the University. She served on the Board of Trustees from 1979 to 1989 and from 2015 to present. In her current term, she served as Vice Chair and Chair of the Board. In addition to her Board service, Brenda was inducted into the Presidential Council of Alumnae in 2002; and was inducted into Michigan Tech's Academy of Materials Science, and Engineering in 2008; and the University's Academy of Business in 2022. She also served on the Presidential Search Committee in 2017. In addition, she has served on the MSE External Advisory Board, the Michigan Tech Fund Board and is a member of the McNair Society.

Her accolades as a leader in her field are outstanding, but perhaps what differentiates Brenda from her peers is her steadfast commitment to Michigan Tech. As the longest standing Board of Trustees member in our history, her passion for this university is unsurpassed. She flies up early to meet with various stakeholder groups before the Board of Trustee meetings to ensure she has situational awareness. She appreciates her role on the board as an advisor and has many times lended her advice to the leadership team. She is inclusive, but also decisive and is indeed a person of outstanding character.

In summary, Brenda has had a distinguished career both in engineering and entrepreneurship and has had an exemplary and long-standing record of service to the University and the Department. There is no doubt that she is worthy of this honor.

It was moved by S. Tomaszewski, and supported by J Bacon, and passed by voice vote without dissent, that the Board of Trustees approves the awarding of an Honorary Doctorate of Philosophy degree to Brenda R. Ryan.

#### **VIII-F. Board Emerita**

It was moved by S. Tomaszewski, supported by J. Jipping, and passed by voice vote without dissent, that the Board of Trustees award the following Board Emerita rank:

1. Brenda R. Ryan, 18 years of service to the Board of Trustees

**Comments from Chair Littmann:** You know they say when you get here, Michigan Tech gets in your blood. Brenda Ryan has, for fifty (50) years bled gold, black, and silver. She has the Husky DNA. Earlier this year, a group of students characterized our faculty as giving, always available, supportive, and encouraging. That also describes Brenda Ryan. She has been there for her fellow Trustees, the students, the faculty, and the administration for some fifty (50) years. It has been my great honor, Brenda, to work beside you and to learn from you, these past four (4) years.

**IX. REPORTS (presentations provided in agenda)**

- A. Mind Trekkers**  
Jannah Tumey, Associate Director, Center for Educational Outreach
- B. University Research and Sponsored Programs Report**  
David Reed, Vice President for Research
- C. Undergraduate Student Government**  
Cheyenne Scott, President
- D. Graduate Student Government**  
Ranit Karmakar, President
- E. University Senate**  
Mike Mullins, President

**X. INFORMATIUNAL ITEMS (documents provided in agenda)**

- A. Analysis of Investments
- B. Research & Sponsored Programs
- C. Advancement & Alumni Relations
- D. Media Coverage
- E. Employee Safety Statistics
- F. Disposal of Surplus Property

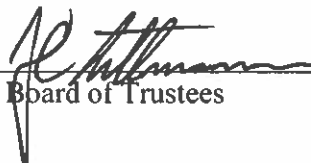
**XI. Other Business**

**XII. Date for Next Formal Meeting: February 24, 2023**

**XIII. Adjourn**

It was moved by S. Tomaszewski, supported J. Bacon, and passed by voice vote without dissent, that the Board of Trustees adjourn the meeting.

  
Secretary to the Board of Trustees

  
Chair, Board of Trustees