

TO: Dr. Gerard T. Caneba
Chair, Senate Review Committee

FROM: Glenn D. Mroz

RE: President Evaluation Personal Statement

DATE: February 23, 2011

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a personal statement as part of this fifth annual University Senate evaluation of the president. This will be the third year of review by the entire faculty and staff and I appreciate your effort to conduct this review. The input has been valuable to me in the past, and I look forward to working with faculty, staff and students to apply the constructive comments that are sure to result from the evaluation.

As in the past years, much of what is presented here is just a glimpse of the progress of the entire university. Because there are so many new members of the Michigan Tech community, I have also added background information to put our current direction and progress in a longer term context. Much of this statement is supported with fact, but since this is a personal statement, I have added my own opinion in a few areas as well.

For any presidential self-evaluation, it is hard to separate personal efforts from those of you with whom I work on a day to day basis, as well as efforts of the University community as a whole. When I use the term “we” it is because our achievements result from teamwork with varying degrees of direct involvement from the president. For example, on one end of the spectrum are activities such as the initiation of new degree programs that are a faculty led effort. Other activities, like setting the parameters for developing a balanced budget are informed by student, faculty and staff input and opinion, but are ultimately my responsibility. I trust that you will recognize these nuances as you evaluate “my “ performance.

Background:

In the mid 1960’s several key events occurred that set the stage for transformational change at Michigan Tech. The constitution of the State of Michigan was ratified giving new independence to a university poised for change, allowing the university to charge tuition. A new President with a record of research (Dr. Raymond L. Smith) was appointed, and a strategic plan and campus master plan were initiated that forever changed the appearance and function of the campus. The plan also focused the direction of the university on building on its heritage and strengths while also emphasizing growth of research and graduate studies. At about the same time, the name of the university was changed to reflect this new direction – Michigan Technological University.

The plan and the direction that it set was refined and refocused by the people of Michigan Tech resulting in nearly five decades of growth. Today, our plan emphasizes people, distinctive programs, and the research, creativity, scholarly work and innovation that are essential for the success of our students and the University in today’s global economy. There is a full presentation of the plan as well as the key metrics at the following websites for your convenience.

For more information on the current plan see <http://www.mtu.edu/stratplan>

For strategic plan metrics see <http://www.admin.mtu.edu/urel/dashboard>

Overview of Michigan Tech Today:

The Michigan Tech of today is a result of sustained effort on the common themes that emerge from the 1960’s and subsequent plans resulting in:

- 126 undergraduate degrees and concentration, 63 minors, 5 graduate certificates, 36 MS & 30 PhD programs.
- Total enrollment in Fall’10 was 6,957 students including 1,241 graduate students. The highest graduate enrollment in Michigan Tech’s history.
- Undergraduate enrollment applications for Fall 2010 was at 5,375.
- The ACT composite score of new students rose to 26.1 for Fall’10.

- Discovery and innovation programs such as Enterprise, Honors Institute, Applied Portfolio Management Program (APMP), The Forest and Environmental Resource Management Program (The FERM), and the Pavlis Global Technological Leadership Program have over 800 students in them.
- First year student retention for Fall'10 is at 80.9, slightly lower than 81.9 percent for Fall'09.
- The career fair in Fall'10 attracted 186 organizations which represents about a 20 percent increase from the Fall'09. There were approximately 516 representatives and about 3,600 students in attendance. The spring career is scheduled to have over 150 organizations.
- Michigan Tech has moved up in the top tier of U.S. News and World Report National Universities to 117th from 121st, we moved from 60th in 2009 to 57th in 2010 among national public universities.
- Research awards for FY10 totaled \$58.7 million, an increase of 11 percent over FY09.
- National Science Foundation (NSF) reports that Michigan Tech was one of three Michigan universities whose science and engineering research expenditures rose during FY08. Michigan Tech rose by 6.3 percent over 2007; while expenditures at the University of Michigan rose 8.4 percent and ranked fourth nationally, and Wayne State University increased 6 percent but dropped from 73rd to 75th in national ranking. Michigan State University's research expenditures dipped 1.1 percent, lowering it from 44th to 50th nationally.
- NSF data show that Michigan Tech research expenditures for FY08 reached \$58.8M, up 6.3 percent over 2007; NSF ranks Michigan Tech at 163rd nationally. Rankings increased in almost all disciplines with the largest moves in electrical and computer engineering (from 87th to 66th) and environmental science (from 73rd to 59th). Detailed ranking for non-science and engineering fields show humanities at 78th and visual and performing arts at 72nd. Our highest NSF ranked program is mechanical engineering at 21st.
- We have moved ahead with numerous building projects. I've listed them with their funding source:
 - Raised a \$700k gift to remodel the Physics Labs – that work is in the planning stages
 - Raised money to redo the 5th floor of the EERC and to free up the space by building a building to house the museum collection; other parts of EERC will be remodeled with gift money.
 - \$25MM lab and classroom facility under construction (GLRC)
 - The HDMZ in Walker is being remodeled (final stages) with gift money
 - The second floor of the ad building is being remodeled as a home for the Career Center using gift money.
 - The Cognitive and Learning Sciences Department will be moving to the Meese Center when the Career Center moves to the ad building so that Cognitive and Learning Sciences, Social Sciences, and the School of Business and Economics all have more space (any work will be done with gift money).
 - The Graduate School space was at long last updated, in part with a gift to name the conference room.
 - Purchased a 54, 000 square foot building primarily for KRC and MEEM research and teaching (graduate level) and perhaps other departments along with land to access the track.

These accomplishments are the result of the sustained efforts of many people – faculty, staff, students and alumni. Along the way, some less visible but no less important work has also facilitated the continued development of Michigan Tech as a nationally recognized technological university for the world. These include:

- Successfully recruited 21 tenure-track faculty members to positions across the university this past year (2010-11). Seven were SFHI hires and 14 were replacement hires.
- Continuing to build research capacity at the Michigan Tech Research Institute in Ann Arbor.
- LEAN management processes continue to be developed in many service areas across campus. Approximately 22 projects have been completed with 270+ people participating across campus since 2009. LEAN is designed to improve efficiencies, thus saving time and money.

- Continuing to implement the continuous improvement accreditation procedures; AQIP (Academic Quality Improvement Program). Developing an AQIP project on gender.
- Due to enhanced recruitment and retention efforts the number of women at the university stands at an all time high of 1,809. In addition, domestic and internationally diverse students now account for 20% of the student body population, also an all time high. Domestic underrepresented students numbers rose from 383 (5.4%) to 409 (5.9%). International student numbers rose from 892 (12.5%) to 991 (14.2%).
- Michigan Tech's financial rating was raised from A1 to Aa3 by Moody's Investor Service, which is a financial and credit rating agency. This rating is based upon the overall management of the university, along with external economic and political factors. Our rating of Aa3 is the highest of any Michigan public university, without a hospital. This raise in credit rating reaffirms the positive strength and long-term outlook with which Moody's views Michigan Tech.
- The current fund^[1] balance decreased in FY'10 to \$15.3M from \$15.6M in FY'09, mainly due to increases in institutional financial aid given to replace the State's discontinuance of the Promise Grant and Michigan Competitive Scholarship programs (totaling \$1.0MM) and an increase in enrollment of students receiving merit-based financial aid (\$2.5MM). These increases in financial aid expense were partially offset by increases in tuition revenue, Grant and Contract revenue and gain on market value of securities held within our Retirement and Insurance Fund. The specific decrease in the current fund balance was \$322K, which is 0.13% of the \$239MM in revenue and expense. Importantly, new philanthropic resources are being pursued for the university through a capital campaign that has raised over \$140M in cash and pledges to date including six endowed professorships and 7 endowed chairs. We continue to work with our corporate partners both in the SmartZone and nationally to gain their investment and support in spite of a poor economy.
- We added Women's Soccer as a result of a philanthropic gift.
- The Michigan Tech Entrepreneurial Support Corporation (MTESC) was formed to assist in carrying out any of the educational, scientific, economic development, and technology transfer purposes of Michigan Tech's faculty, staff and students.

Closing Statement:

Governor Rick Snyder's budget proposal for next year (the state's fiscal year runs October 1 – September 30) which would reduce Michigan Tech's state allocation 22%, from \$47.9 million in fiscal 2011 (the current year) to \$37.4 million next year. The proposal offers public universities the option to reduce the cut to 15% if they agree to limit their tuition increase for next year to less than 7%. With that option, Michigan Tech would be eligible for \$3.32 million in tuition restraint dollars, bringing its total state appropriation to \$40.8 million.

It is important to note that the Governor's proposal is just that. It is now being deliberated in the state legislature. Thus, the final budget for fiscal 2012 is yet to be determined.

While the budget reductions present a challenging situation for all of higher education, we will respond to them and they will not deter us from our objective of being a world-class research university. Michigan Tech's greatest asset is its people – the talented and motivated students, faculty, and staff who make us all proud. Each of us needs to forge ahead with our core mission in mind and continue the exceptional work that goes on at Michigan Tech every day. We embrace our students, encourage intellectual curiosity and achievement, and foster a community that is second to none. Michigan Tech is a special place and will continue to be so for years to come.

For more information related to the budget and on Michigan Tech's Guiding Principles, see the February 21 Campus Forum presentation on Michigan Tech's home page.

[1] The Current Fund includes the day to day operating funds of the university including the General, Auxiliary (dorms etc.), Expendable Restricted (research, scholarships etc.), Retirement and Insurance, and Designated funds (incentive accounts, lab accounts etc.).