

**SUMMARY**  
**Northern Michigan University Board of Trustees**  
**Academic Affairs Committee**  
**December 8, 2016**

**Members Present:** Mr. Steve Mitchell, Chair, Dr. L. Garnet Lewis and Dr. Sook Wilkinson

**Also present but not participating were:** Mr. Scott Holman, Mr. Richard Popp, Mr. Robert Mahaney, Ms. Tami Seavoy, Dr. Kerri Schuiling, Dr. Fritz Erickson, ex officio

The Academic Affairs Committee meeting was called to order at 2:34 p.m.

**Academic Senate Report**

Professor Rachel Nye provided an update of Senate activities. Since the last report, a budget oversight committee was formed and members identified; bylaws were updated and several committee reports were approved. A proposal for an Indigenous People's Day was not supported but is expected to be resubmitted to the Senate after some revisions.

**Charter School Board Renewals/Appointments**

Mr. William Pistulka, Charter Schools Officer, proposed board member appointments for George Crockett Academy and Nah Tah Wahsh Public School Academy.

**After motion duly made and seconded the Committee recommends to the Board of Trustees the approval of the board member appointments. This motion is part of the formal recommendations.**

**New Program: Medicinal Plant Chemistry**

Dr. Mark Paulsen, Head, Department of Chemistry, presented a proposal for a new bachelor's program in Medicinal Plant Chemistry. The program would be unique in Michigan and leading edge in the country. Dr. Paulsen assured the committee that NMU will not unlawfully use or research cannabis in the program and students would only grow legal plants, isolate compounds and learn techniques. The program is scheduled to begin in fall 2017.

**After motion duly made and seconded the Committee recommends to the Board of Trustees the approval of the Medicinal Plant Chemistry bachelor's degree program. This motion is part of the formal recommendations.**

**Online RN to BSN Program**

Dr. Katherine Menard discussed an online RN to BSN program that would be managed through Academic Partnerships, an online program management company. NMU will retain control of curricular content, staffing and program delivery. The program is scheduled to begin in fall of 2017 and is expected to have cohorts of 30 students admitted six times per year when fully enrolled. Committee members strongly support the program.

**Strategic Resource Allocation**

Dr. Kerri Schuiling, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, discussed strategic resource allocation. This will be a faculty driven process and the review will include all programs across the university. The process will also help inform decision making and improve overall efficiency and effectiveness.

Mr. Mitchell thanked the Committee and the meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m.