

To: Andrew Storer, MTU Provost
From: MTU AI Working Group
March 29, 2024

This report summarizes the activities of the AI working group during the Spring semester, 2024. The final report and recommendations which document in more detail the results of these activities and associated recommendations will be provided to the academic community in mid-April.

Working Group Activities

- The AI Working Group met on a weekly basis throughout the Spring semester, more frequently than in the Fall term when we met on a biweekly basis.
- We distributed responsibilities among our WG members for planning and attending feedback sessions, creating a web AI resource-hub for the campus community, curating resources for the resource-hub, and documenting the WG's progress.
- Three WG members served as part of a panel for the [CTL Lunch and Learn-Teaching with AI: Insights and Innovations](#).

Conversations with Campus Groups

The AIWG continued to solicit requests to visit with units, departments, or colleges across campus during the spring semester. We placed a second announcement in Tech Today in January, requesting campus units invite the AIWG to meet with them. Members of the WG held conversations with each of the following units on campus during Spring 2024 (in addition to other units during the Fall):

- Department of Cognitive and Learning Sciences
- College of Business
- CSA College Council
- Graduate Student Government
- Department of Materials Science and Engineering
- Facilities Management
- Department of Civil, Environmental, and Geospatial Engineering
- Department of Geological and Mining Engineering Sciences
- Department of Chemical Engineering
- Department of Kinesiology and Physiology
- University Senate
- Department of Chemical Engineering

We took notes on these listening sessions and used them to direct the development of content for the web resource.

Listening Sessions with Faculty

In addition to meeting with individual units and departments across campus, we also hosted two campus-wide listening sessions for faculty and staff on February 5th (virtual) and February 6th (in person). Both listening sessions were announced in Tech Today. The WG prepared a brief presentation and a list of topics to discuss with attendees at each session. These topics included resource needs on campus, AI policies in the classroom, current use of GAI tools in academic settings, and concerns surrounding AI. Although attendance at each listening session was relatively low, the AI WG received valuable insight from faculty and staff regarding their usage of AI, associated concerns, and resource needs. We took notes on each session and will summarize the main takeaways from these sessions in the working group's final report.

Listening Sessions with Students

The listening session with graduate students was held on February 21, 2024. The primary topics of discussion were determining how students have been using AI tools in their professional activities, graduate student perceptions of faculty AI use for course materials, attribution of AI use, privacy concerns, and equity issues.

An undergraduate student event coordinated by USG was held March 26th, 6-7 pm at DHH. More detailed information about the findings of the event will be provided in the AI Working Group's Final Report and Recommendations.

AI Website Resource Created

As part of the charge, a website was created within the Provost's second level domain at: <https://www.mtu.edu/provost/ai/>.

This site is a curated collection of resources organized by the two main audiences that the working group focused on, faculty/staff and students. It includes information about the AI Working Group charge and membership.

For the section for students, the information is provided in an easy to navigate "Frequently Asked Questions" (FAQ) format. Content for this section was generated from themes provided by student-focused listening sessions and curated by the AI working group. It was also shared with the Assistant Dean of Academic Conduct to ensure students receive consistent language and guidance. The faculty and staff section provides an FAQ as well and includes a section on policy guidance, discipline specific resources on AI, outside agencies' guidance on the use of AI, pedagogical tools and resources concerning AI and critical perspectives about the use of AI.

These resources were considered and posted to the site based on themes that emerged from the aggregation of topics of discussion from campus-wide and department specific listening sessions conducted, moderated and attended by various members of the AI Working Group.

Other Campus Events

- CTL Lunch and Learn, AI Insights and Innovations, February 20, 2024.

Registration for this luncheon reached capacity and had a waiting list. Seven Michigan Tech instructors shared their GenAI course policies, how they used GenAI tools as productivity enhancers as well as examples of GenAI enabled course assignments. The sessions were recorded and will be featured on the AI website and are also available on a [CTL events page](#). The instructors showed examples of how they had their students use GenAI tools in coding assignments where they served as efficiency amplifiers, to compare and contrast student generated code versus GenAI code, or to improve the grading of coding assignments by automatically adding comments with the help of GenAI. Custom GPT bots were demonstrated that were trained to serve as tutors, supporting students during code-based assignments and other applications. GenAI uses in writing intensive courses detailed how the tools were leveraged to support students during the ideation process. Several instructors also shared how they used GenAI tools to enhance their course development workflows including developing active learning assignments, and to summarize and categorize early term student survey results. Featured instructors at the CTL luncheon were:

- Yu Cai, Applied Computing
- Holly Hassel, Humanities
- Tao Liu, College of Forest Resources and Environmental Science
- Todd Arney, Applied Computing
- Kelly Steelman, Cognitive and Learning Sciences
- Oren Abeles, Humanities,
- Shane Oberloier, Electrical and Computer Engineering