




Office of the Provost and
Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

Phone: (906) 487-2440
Fax: (906) 487-2935

TO: Richard Koubek, President

FROM: Andrew Storer, Provost & Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs 

DATE: April 1, 2024

SUBJECT: Senate Proposal 12-24

Attached is Senate proposal 12-24, "Proposal to shelve a program - MS in Integrated Geospatial Technology (TGT)," and a memo stating the Senate passed this proposal at their March 6, 2024 meeting. I have reviewed this memo and recommend approving the proposal. If you concur with my recommendation, the provost's office will notify the appropriate offices.

I concur X do not concur with the provost's recommendation as stated in this memo.

Richard Koubek, President

4/3/2024

Date



Michigan Tech

University Senate

DATE: March 7, 2024
TO: Richard Koubek, President
FROM: Robert Hutchinson
University Senate President
SUBJECT: Proposal 12-24
COPIES: Andrew Storer, Provost & Senior VP for Academic Affairs

At its meeting on March 6, 2024, the University Senate approved Proposal 12-24, "Proposal to shelve a program - MS in Integrated Geospatial Technology (TGT)." Feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Proposal 12-24
Proposal to shelve a program - MS in Integrated Geospatial Technology (TGT)
Submitted by CEGE department on 11/7/2023

1. Full name of program to be shelved.
MS in Integrated Geospatial Technology (TGT)
2. Final term program will be open for new admits.
Fall/2024
3. Plan to complete all enrolled students and any returning students.
They will be able to pursue the MS in Integrated Geospatial Technology.
4. Reason for shelving
The program had been primarily dependent on one faculty member who departed the University in August 2021. Although the program is now supported by a tenure-track faculty member, the program is still primarily dependent on one faculty member.

Additionally, the program faculty found that four out of five R1 (2021) universities (Purdue University, Ohio State University, Oregon State University, University of Colorado Denver) who have geospatial/geomatics graduate program house those programs within Civil Engineering Departments. Therefore, students pursue a Master of Science in Civil Engineering, and the area of emphasis is geospatial/geomatics. The one exception program faculty found was the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at University of Houston, which offers Master of Science in Geosensing instead of Master of Science in Civil Engineering.

5. Financial Impact
As the program pathway will still exist, the change is not likely to decrease program enrollment. In fact, mimicking the most common practices at R1 universities may help enrollment as students are accustomed to looking in Civil Engineering MS degrees for this graduate program option. The elimination of the program reduces advertising costs of the program, reduces the number of graduate programs in the department needing graduate program reviews, and streamlines graduate program accreditation activities. The MSCE program currently requires all program students to complete a CEE 57XX course and the geospatial faculty have deemed the courses appropriate for geospatial engineering students. The CEGE Graduate Program director can support the program and seek guidance from geospatial engineering faculty when needed. This reduction in program overhead should allow faculty to spend more time on research and teaching, which can benefit the quality of the program, having a positive financial impact on the university.