



Academic Affairs Report May 16, 2025

Agenda Item #1: Course Fee Change

☐ Information

☒ Action

☐ Discussion

Purpose:

The purpose of this action is to approve a course fee change for the 2025-2026 academic year.

Background:

EVRN389: Environmental Research Methods previously had a weeklong field trip during Spring Break. A \$1,000 course fee was used to cover travel costs. The Curriculum Committee approved revisions to the course on April 17, 2025. The revised course will be taught on campus beginning Spring 2026. A fee of \$100 will cover lab supplies for research projects.

Suggested Action/Motion:

Move to approve a change in course fee for *EVRN 389* from \$1,000 to \$100, effective Spring 2026.

President's Recommendation:

Approval of the motion, as presented.



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Agenda Item #2: Associate of Science in Criminal Justice Cybersecurity

☐ Information

☒ Action

☐ Discussion

Purpose:

The purpose of this action item is to approve the Associate of Science (AS) in Criminal Justice Cybersecurity program.

Background:

1. On April 17, 2025, the Curriculum Committee approved an Associate of Science (AS) in Criminal Justice Cybersecurity degree program to begin Fall 2025.
2. The Associate of Science in Criminal Justice Cybersecurity program is a unique and specialized degree. The degree combines the required knowledge and practical skills of the fields of Criminal Justice and Computer Science. The degree prepares students for a future career as a cybersecurity professional.
3. The problem we are solving includes:
 - a. Creating an entry-level associate degree program that combines computer science and criminal justice courses needed for the interdisciplinary field of cybersecurity.
 - b. Providing an entry-level associate degree into the field of cybersecurity that will allow students to apply TIP funding for the degree.
4. This Associate of Science in Criminal Justice Cybersecurity degree will:
 - a. Prepare students for a growing professional field that protects people and property from unauthorized access or modification.
 - b. Increase enrollment by appealing to students interested in careers in information security.
 - c. Meet demand for a growing 10-year outlook for careers in cybersecurity. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects growth of 33% from 2023 to 2033.
 - d. Train graduates to build, maintain, and protect systems, networks, programs, and people from cyberattacks and intrusions.

- e. Focus on administration, design, integration, policy, protection, and recovery from all types of cyberattacks to modern information systems.
- 5. There are no new courses for this program. All courses are embedded into the existing Bachelor of Science in Cybersecurity program.
- 6. There is sufficient expertise in existing faculty.
- 7. This program was approved by the higher Learning Commission (HLC) on April 29, 2025, pending approval by the LSSU Board of Trustees.

Suggested Action/Motion:

Motion to approve the Associate of Science (AS) in Criminal Justice Cybersecurity.

President's Recommendation:

Approval of the motion, as presented.



Academic Affairs Report May 16, 2025

Agenda Item #3: Associate of Science in Mathematics

☐ Information

☒ Action

☐ Discussion

Purpose:

The purpose of this action item is to approve the Associate of Science (AS) in Mathematics.

Background:

1. On March 20, 2025, the Curriculum Committee approved an Associate of Science program in Mathematics.
2. With a strong emphasis on calculus, mathematical reasoning, and logic, the AS degree in Mathematics ensures students are well prepared to advance their studies in mathematics, engineering, computer science or other STEM disciplines.
3. The problem we are solving includes:
 - a. Currently, students pursuing degrees in mathematics or mathematics education lack access to a dedicated associate degree that qualifies for TIP funding. As a result, students with TIP funding must piece together multiple associate degrees to utilize their financial support effectively.
 - b. Additionally, students in STEM-adjacent fields take a significant number of mathematics courses. Many of these students express interest in pursuing a degree in Mathematics, but are discouraged due to credit restrictions within their primary major.
4. This Associate of Science in Mathematics program will:
 - a. Provide eligible students additional funding for pursuing their degrees.
 - b. Provide students with the opportunity to earn a formal credential in mathematics, complementing their primary field of study and broadening their career prospects.
 - c. Provide students with the skills needed to pursue entry-level careers in industries that value quantitative expertise.

- d. Prepare graduates for seamless transfer into a bachelor's degree program in mathematics or related fields.
5. This program does not require new specialized faculty or courses.
6. This program was approved by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) on April 4, 2025, pending approval by the LSSU Board of Trustees.

Suggested Action/Motion:

Motion to approve the Associate of Science (AS) in Mathematics.

President's Recommendation:

Approval of the motion, as presented.



Academic Affairs Report May 16, 2025

Agenda Item #4: Certificate in Indigenous Literatures and Cultures

☐ Information

☒ Action

☐ Discussion

Purpose:

The purpose of this action item is to approve the Certificate in Indigenous Literatures and Cultures.

Background:

1. On April 17, 2025, the Curriculum Committee approved a Certificate in Indigenous Literatures and Cultures.
2. The Certificate in Indigenous Literatures and Cultures provides students the opportunity to examine and advance understanding of contemporary and past Indigenous experiences and to recognize and develop an awareness of the diversity of Indigenous perspectives.
3. The problem we are solving includes:
 - a. While LSSU students currently have the option to take elective courses that explore Indigenous perspectives, there is no formal credential to acknowledge their engagement. This program will both elevate the visibility of these valuable learning opportunities and formally recognize students who complete the designated set of courses.
4. This Certificate in Indigenous Literatures and Cultures will:
 - a. Build awareness of LSSU's interconnectedness with local Indigenous cultures and the region.
 - b. Support the following sections of LSSU's 2020-2025 Strategic Plan:

2.5.5 Develop an immersive cultural program on campus that promotes Native American historical and contemporary narrative.

2.5.6 Establish a new academic program in Native American studies that emphasizes the history of the Great Lakes Region and Native American history and culture.
 - d. Allow students to obtain an introductory knowledge of Indigenous literatures and cultures.
5. This 14-credit certificate program does not require additional specialized faculty or new courses.

6. This certificate was approved by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) on April 25, 2025, pending approval by the LSSU Board of Trustees.

Suggested Action/Motion:

Motion to approve the Certificate in Indigenous Literatures and Cultures.

President's Recommendation:

Approval of the motion, as presented.



Academic Affairs Report May 16, 2025

Agenda Item #5: Academic Affairs Update

☒ Information

☐ Action

☐ Discussion

Purpose:

The purpose of this information is to provide an update on activities in the area of Academic Affairs.

Background:

Highlights from the Academic Affairs Monthly Updates

After the February meeting of the LSSU Board of Trustees, monthly updates have been sent to campus and the Board that contain the activities and accomplishments of our students, faculty, and staff in Academic Affairs. These new reports also include upcoming events. Feedback on this new method has been positive. For your reference, you can find archived copies of the monthly reports for [March](#) and [April](#) by clicking on the links.

Some highlights include:

1. Assistant Professor Adam St. John was cast as a company member with the Michigan Shakespeare Festival that runs at the Hillberry Gateway Theatre in Detroit from July 5 through August 9. More information can be found at <https://www.michiganshakespearefestival.com/>
2. Faculty and staff across campus continue to engage in recruitment activities. On March 20-22, LSSU hosted the FIRST Robotics competition for 39 teams and over 1000 visitors from across Michigan. Faculty, staff, and students served as volunteers, judges, and hosted an academic showcase to recruit students.
3. The School of Education has developed a partnership with VESI to serve as the host for teacher education professional development coursework. This partnership will increase LSSU's visibility to over 150,000 teachers and provide an additional revenue stream for LSSU and the School of Education.
4. The School of Nursing reported an NCLEX-RN pass rate of 95% for 2024. This is above the national average (91.2%) and the Michigan average (87%).

Accreditation and Assessment

Confirmation Visit for the STEP UP Prison Education Program

A peer reviewer from the Higher Learning Commission visited the Chippewa Correctional Facility on February 6, 2025 for a confirmation visit. LSSU submitted a report prior to the visit. The reviewer met with students and faculty. He also met with staff and administrators from LSSU and the Michigan Department of Corrections. The reviewer's feedback can be found [here](#).

Multi-location Visit at the Petoskey and Escanaba Regional Centers

A second peer reviewer from the Higher Learning Commission visited the Regional Centers in Petoskey and Escanaba on March 18-19, 2025. LSSU submitted a multi-location report prior to the visit. The reviewer met with LSSU staff, faculty, and students. The reviewer's feedback can be found [here](#). In conversations with our HLC liaison before and after the multi-location visit, we have agreed that the Petoskey, Escanaba, and Iron Mountain Regional Centers no longer meet the HLC definition of an "additional location". We will be working with HLC to reclassify these locations in the coming weeks.

Upcoming Reviews

- Monitoring report on enrollment, financial and budget planning due on December 10, 2025
- Comprehensive evaluation self-study due on August 31, 2026
- Standard Pathway Comprehensive Evaluation Visit, September 28-29, 2026

Revised Criteria for Accreditation and Assumed Practices

The Higher Learning Commission has adopted revised criteria and assumed practices that will go into effect on September 1, 2025. These revisions can be found [here](#). The revisions contain new language regarding an institution's governing board. At LSSU, the Board of Trustees serves in this role. Those sections are copied below.

Criterion 2. Integrity: Ethical and Responsible Conduct

In fulfilling its mission, the institution acts with integrity; its conduct is ethical and responsible.

2.A. Integrity

Actions taken by the institution's governing board, administration, faculty and staff demonstrate adherence to established policies and procedures.

2.C. Board Governance

In discharging its fiduciary duties, the institution's governing board is free from undue external influence and empowered to act in the best interests of the institution, including the students it serves.

Assumed Practices

1. The institution has a conflict of interest policy that ensures that the governing board and the senior administrative personnel act in the best interest of the institution.
9. The governing board includes some “public” members. Public members have no significant administrative position or any ownership interest in any of the following: the institution itself; a company that does substantial business with the institution; a company or organization with which the institution has a substantial partnership; a parent, ultimate parent, affiliate, or subsidiary corporation; an investment group or firm substantially involved with one of the above organizations. All publicly elected members or members appointed by publicly elected individuals or bodies (governors, elected legislative bodies) are considered public members.
10. The governing board has the authority to approve the annual budget and to hire, evaluate and dismiss the chief executive officer.
11. The governing board is trained and knowledgeable on all subject matter necessary to discharge its legal and fiduciary responsibilities, and to otherwise make informed decisions with respect to the institution’s financial and academic policies and procedures.
12. The governing board delegates day-to-day management of the institution to the institution’s administration and expects the institution’s faculty to oversee academic matters.

Office of Sponsored Programs

New Grants since February Board Meeting

1. Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

External Grant Awards				
Sponsor	Amount	Award Period	Budget Highlights	PI
Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS)	\$6,028	04/01/2025-09/30/2025	Salary/Fringe: N/A Indirect Costs: N/A	Kathy Berchem

Support from MDHHS will support a Nursing Summer Camp for 15 low-income students to attend an immersive three-day experience at LSSU to explore nursing as a career. This grant award will support meals, instructional materials, and hands-on activities designed to give participants a realistic and engaging introduction to the field of nursing. Students will have the opportunity to practice essential nursing skills such as taking vital signs, CPR, and using simulation mannequins to respond to medical scenarios. They will also engage with experienced nurses and healthcare professionals, tour healthcare facilities, and participate in interactive workshops that highlight various nursing specialties. This program aims to inspire the next generation of nurses by fostering a deeper understanding of the profession and providing a supportive environment for learning and career exploration.

2. United States Coast Guard

External Grant Awards				
Sponsor	Amount	Award Period	Budget Highlights	PI
U.S. Coast Guard	\$ 157,278 over 5 years	05/12/2025- 05/11/30	Salary/Fringe: \$67,445 Indirect Costs: \$12,815	Ashley Moerke

The Center for Freshwater Research and Education (CFRE) will provide internship training support services for the United States Coast Guard (USCG) Cadets in collaboration with the Great Lakes Oil Spill Center of Expertise. CFRE currently is home to the USCG Great Lakes Center of Expertise (GLCOE) and it has invested in facilities and expertise that support the GLCOE's mission. Additionally, CFRE co-leads an international partnership, the International Consortium of Oil Research – Our Waters of the North (ICOR-OWN), which includes over 20 researchers from the US and Canada working collaboratively to advance oil spill science. CFRE researchers are actively engaged in research that advances the scientific understanding in three areas: 1) fate and behavior of oil in freshwater ecosystems, 2) detection of oil in freshwaters, and 3) effects of oil spills on freshwater food webs. CFRE will work closely with GLCOE staff to identify research priorities for Cadets and to match them with university researchers that would train and supervise the Cadets' research projects. Cadets would have the opportunity to contribute to a range of projects using CFRE's facilities and equipment.

Suggested Action/Motion:

None

President's Recommendation:

N/A