



Academic Affairs Report

February 13, 2026

Agenda Item #1: Conferral of Fall 2025 and Winter 2025/2026 Candidates for Degrees

☐ Information

☒ Action

☐ Discussion

Purpose:

The purpose of this action is to confer the appropriate degrees upon the list of candidates for Fall 2025 and Winter 2025/2026 as certified by the Registrar as having completed their graduation requirements.

Background:

The enclosed list of candidates is submitted to the Board of Trustees for the granting of the appropriate degrees. The respective chairs certify these candidates have completed all major departmental requirements and the Registrar certifies these candidates have completed all University requirements. The Registrar's memo and List of Candidates is in Appendix A.

Suggested Action/Motion:

Move to approve the conferral of the appropriate degrees upon the list of candidates for Fall 2025 and Winter 2025/2026 as certified by the Registrar as having completed their graduation requirements.

President's Recommendation:

Approval of the motion, as presented.



Academic Affairs Report February 13, 2026

Agenda Item #2: Promotion and/or Tenure Recommendations

☐ Information

☒ Action

☐ Discussion

Purpose:

The purpose of this action is to approve promotion and/or tenure for the following faculty members:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Dr. Chad Barbour
Associate Professor
School of Arts, Letters, and Social Sciences | Recommend promotion to Professor |
| 2. Dr. Paul Bartus
Assistant Professor
School of Computer Science and Mathematics | Recommend promotion to Associate Professor and Tenure |
| 3. Prof. Koral Brady
Assistant Professor
Lukenda School of Business | Recommend promotion to Associate Professor and Tenure |
| 4. Dr. Jen Gorman
Assistant Professor
School of Computer Science and Mathematics | Recommend promotion to Associate Professor and Tenure |
| 5. Dr. Eric Statt
Associate Professor
School of Kinesiology and Psychology | Recommend promotion to Professor |

Background:

Tenure and Promotion Process

1. The tenure and promotion process is rigorous. The process is prescribed in the bargaining agreement between the Faculty Association and LSSU.

2. A faculty member prepares a Tenure and/or Promotion File consisting of a narrative, curriculum vitae, Annual Faculty Self Evaluation and Reflection Reports, and Summative Evaluation Reports for no more than the past five years, letters of support, and additional information as needed.
3. Next, in the following order, each committee or individual recommends for or against tenure or promotion.
 - School Retention, Promotion, and Tenure Committee composed of tenured faculty in the School
 - Dean
 - University Committee on Tenure and Promotion (composed of one tenured faculty member, associate rank or higher, elected from each college)
 - Provost
 - President
 - Board of Trustees

Six applications for tenure and/or promotion were reviewed, and five are being forwarded for your approval. For each of these five candidates, unanimous support was recorded at all five initial levels of review.

Information:

Comments on Faculty Seeking Promotion and/or Tenure

1. Dr. Chad Barbour

- Associate Professor, School of Arts, Letters, and Social Sciences
- Dr. Barbour has demonstrated an exceptional record of teaching excellence over his 19-year career, offering 17 unique courses that reflect both disciplinary depth and pedagogical versatility. He consistently uses assessment to inform and enhance his instruction, continually refining his teaching methods and integrating new delivery modalities to meet diverse student needs. In foundational courses, such as first-year composition courses, he creates opportunities for students to grow intellectually and personally, fostering empathy and critical reflection. In upper-level courses, Dr. Barbour challenges students to engage with advanced methodologies ranging from Saussurean linguistic theory to ecocriticism, providing them with analytical tools that deepen their understanding of language, literature, and the human experience.

A successful sabbatical led to meaningful scholarly contributions that strengthened Dr. Barbour's discipline and teaching. His book, *From Daniel Boone to Captain America*, offers a compelling examination of American cultural identity and the depiction of Indigenous people by white authors. In addition to this major work, he has published several book chapters and peer reviewed journal articles that extend his research into related themes.

Exemplary leadership and commitment to service are evident throughout Dr. Barbour's career. He has guided his School through several University restructurings with efficiency and professionalism, providing stability and direction during times of transition. As Chair of Education, he was instrumental in LSSU achieving Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) probationary accreditation and later served as the Education Transition Coordinator. His efforts in developing new academic programs and his active participation on multiple university committees demonstrate a deep dedication to institutional improvement and collaboration.

2. Dr. Paul Bartus

- Assistant Professor, School of Computer Science and Mathematics
- Dr. Paul Bartus is an effective and versatile educator whose teaching, professional development, and service demonstrate strong commitment to student success and institutional needs. He is well regarded for his organized, engaging instruction and flexibility in teaching across the computer science, computer networking, and data science programs using multiple modalities. Dr. Bartus employs diverse assessment methods and continually improves his courses through feedback and reflection.

Dr. Bartus remains actively engaged in scholarly activity through conference presentations, workshops, and proposal review. He also provides students with consistent and responsive academic advising support. Dr. Bartus contributes meaningfully to school, university, and community service through laboratory maintenance, curriculum development, student recruitment, and committee work.

3. Prof. Koral Brady

- Assistant Professor, Lukenda School of Business
- Professor Brady has distinguished herself as an exceptional instructor, earning outstanding student and colleague evaluations and receiving LSSU's 2025 Distinguished Teaching Award. While she primarily instructs cannabis business and business law courses, Professor Brady has delivered courses for three other schools, demonstrating versatility and commitment to interdisciplinary education.

Professor Brady's professional development activities include publications, grants, conference presentations, and webinars. Her leadership in professional development through LSSU's Center for Engaged Teaching and Learning has expanded the impact of her scholarly activities. Her scholarship aligns closely with her leadership of the Cannabis Business program and contributes meaningfully to student learning, pedagogical innovation, and institutional visibility.

Professor Brady provides outstanding academic advising and mentorship. She co-advises the Cannabis Studies Club and Living Learning Community, while serving on committees, developing curricula, and promoting well-being initiatives for students, faculty, and staff.

4. Dr. Jennifer Gorman

- Assistant Professor, School of Computer Science and Mathematics

- Dr. Jennifer Gorman is a highly effective educator whose teaching, scholarship, and service reflect strong commitment to student success and institutional excellence. As the instructor of a broad range of mathematics courses, Dr. Gorman is regarded for her enthusiastic, interactive teaching style, effective use of active learning strategies, and ability to foster supportive learning environments for both on-campus and remote students.

Dedicated to continuous improvement, Dr. Gorman demonstrates sustained engagement in professional development and scholarship through active involvement with LSSU's Center for Engaged Teaching and Learning, successful grant writing, interdisciplinary collaboration, and ongoing research in mathematics.

Dr. Gorman provides thoughtful academic advising and makes substantial service contributions across the university, profession, and broader community. Her leadership in outreach, curriculum support, and institutional initiatives highlights her impact beyond the classroom.

5. Dr. Eric Statt

- Associate Professor, School of Kinesiology and Psychology
- Dr. Statt has demonstrated sustained excellence in teaching, scholarship, and service at a level consistent with this senior academic rank. Student evaluations consistently place him in the highest performance tiers across both lower- and upper-division courses, reflecting a sustained record of instructional excellence and strong alignment between course design and learning outcomes. He is known for engaging instruction in exercise physiology and for innovative practices such as utilizing AI-assisted assessment tools that support real-time instructional refinement and provide personalized student feedback.

His scholarship emphasizes undergraduate research and applied inquiry. Dr. Statt has mentored multiple student research projects in athletic performance, including recent work examining off-ice fitness parameters in collegiate club-level hockey players. He has led HSIIRB-approved empirical research resulting in six formal student presentations and has strengthened undergraduate research engagement while actively guiding students toward future publication.

Dr. Statt also provides significant service and leadership. As Exercise Physiology Lab Coordinator, he has overseen equipment and system upgrades and supported the effective operation of laboratory facilities that enhance student learning. He is also deeply engaged in student mentorship through advising and long-standing roles with Women's Club Soccer and ACHA Hockey. His advising is highly personalized and developmental, with students consistently describing him as deeply invested in both their academic progress and professional growth.

Suggested Action/Motion:

Move to approve tenure and/or promotion to the following faculty members:

- Dr. Chad Barbour, promotion to Professor,
- Dr. Paul Bartus, promotion to Associate Professor and Tenure,

- Prof. Koral Brady, promotion to Associate Professor and Tenure,
- Dr. Jennifer Gorman, promotion to Associate Professor and Tenure, and,
- Dr. Eric Statt, promotion to Professor.

President's Recommendation:

Approval of the motion, as presented.



Academic Affairs Report February 13, 2026

Agenda Item #3: Course and Program Fee Changes

☐ Information

☒ Action

☐ Discussion

Purpose:

The purpose of this action is to approve course and program fee changes.

Background:

In cases where specialized equipment, facilities, personnel, operational, and maintenance costs have primary use by a single program or group of programs, program fees are applied to defray the higher costs of instruction and support. These per credit fees are assessed to any student enrolled in a course with a given prefix.

Special course fees are charged to cover costs over and above the normal costs for all courses such as, but not limited to, supplies, equipment, and student transportation. These course fees are assessed per course and not per credit.

The proposed course fee and program fee changes below, if approved, would be implemented in Fall 2026 for all courses except *EMED 188 Wilderness First Responder*. For that course we are requesting an effective date of Summer 2026.

College of Arts and Sciences

The proposed adjustment to allocate 100% of program fee revenues to the schools is intended to fully support the existing Science Laboratory Coordinator position, which is critical to the daily operation, safety, and instructional effectiveness of laboratory-based science programs. The coordinator provides essential support across multiple disciplines, including laboratory preparation and teardown, equipment and computer system oversight, safety and regulatory compliance, inventory and chemical management, and direct instructional support for faculty and students. This request does not create a new position or expand staffing; rather, it aligns program fee revenue with the actual operational demands and usage of laboratory facilities. Directing the full program fee allocation to the schools ensures sustainable support for core instructional infrastructure, maintains compliance and safety standards, and preserves the quality of hands-on laboratory experiences that are central to student learning outcomes.

Proposed Program Fee Allocation Changes			
Program	Current Allocation	Proposed AY 2026-2027	Amount Change
Biology (BIOL)	50% of program fees	100% of program fees	50%
Chemistry (CHEM)	50% of program fees	100% of program fees	50%
Environmental Science (EVRN)	50% of program fees	100% of program fees	50%
Geology (GEOL)	50% of program fees	100% of program fees	50%
Natural Science (NSCI)	50% of program fees	100% of program fees	50%
Physics (PHYS)	50% of program fees	100% of program fees	50%

Additionally, the proposed adjustments below will directly support the maintenance, replacement, and modernization of instructional equipment, analytical instrumentation, and computer resources essential to student learning in laboratory-based science courses. These funds will also support student workers who assist with laboratory preparation, operations, and instructional support, improving efficiency while enhancing hands-on and peer-supported learning experiences. Overall, the adjustment represents a direct reinvestment in the program, supporting instructional infrastructure, safe and effective laboratory environments, and the experiential learning central to student success.

Proposed Course and Program Fee Changes			
Program	Current Fee	Proposed AY 2026-2027	Amount Change
Biology (BIOL)	\$30	\$40	\$10
Chemistry (CHEM)	\$20	\$40	\$20
Environmental Science (EVRN)	\$30	\$40	\$10
Geology (GEOL)	\$30	\$40	\$10
Microscopy (MICR)	\$20	\$40	\$20
Natural Sciences (NSCI)	\$20	\$40	\$20
Physics (PHYS)	\$30	\$40	\$10

College of Business, Engineering, Computer Science, and Mathematics

The Lukenda School of Business is requesting their new course, Career Readiness have a course fee to cover the cost of printing business cards for the students as part of the curriculum. The business cards will be used at mock interviews and networking events.

Proposed Course Fee Change			
Course	Current Fee	Proposed AY 2026-2027	Amount Change
BUSN 301: Career Readiness	\$0	\$20	\$20

The School of Engineering and Technology has restructured its manufacturing and robotics lecture and lab courses, resulting in greater utilization of the lab courses. As a result, the School is requesting a

reduction in lecture course fees and an increase in lab course fees to cover the higher costs of lab supplies.

Proposed Course Fee Changes			
Course	Current Fee	Proposed AY 2026-2027	Amount Change
EGRS 381: Robotics Technology Lab	\$70	\$90	\$20
EGRS 385: Robotics Engineering	\$90	\$40	(\$50)
EGRS 435: Automated Manufacturing System	\$85	\$40	(\$45)
EGRS 481: Manufacturing Automation Lab	\$85	\$90	\$5

They are also proposing adjustment to allocate 100% of program fee revenues to the school. This change is intended to support the existing laboratory engineers, lab support, program coordination, and accreditation costs.

Proposed Course and Program Allocation Changes			
Program	Current Allocation	Proposed AY 2026-2027	Amount Change
Electrical Engineering (EGEE)	75% of program fees	100% of program fees	25%
Engineering Mechanics (EGEM)	75% of program fees	100% of program fees	25%
Electrical Engineering Technology (EGET)	75% of program fees	100% of program fees	25%
Mechanical Engineering (EGME)	75% of program fees	100% of program fees	25%
Manufacturing Engineering (EGMF)	75% of program fees	100% of program fees	25%
Manufacturing Engineering Technology (EGMT)	75% of program fees	100% of program fees	25%
General Engineering (EGNR)	75% of program fees	100% of program fees	25%
Robotics Engineering (EGRS)	75% of program fees	100% of program fees	25%

The School of Computer Science and Mathematics has worked on restructuring the developmental and general education mathematics curriculum, resulting in new courses that have been approved by the curriculum committee. Course fees are being requested to provide consumables and supports, such as embedded tutors.

Proposed Course Fee Changes			
Course	Current Fee	Proposed AY 2026-2027	Amount Change
MATC 107: Principles of Statistical Methods Support	\$0	\$50	\$50
MATC 110: Explorations in Mathematics Support	\$0	\$50	\$50
MATC 111: College Algebra Support	\$0	\$50	\$50
MATC 140: Precalculus for STEM Support	\$0	\$50	\$50
MATH 140: Precalculus for STEM	\$0	\$20	\$20

College of Great Lakes Ecology and Education

The School of Natural Resources is requesting a decrease in their course fee for Expedition Management (RECS 365) due to a change in the extent of the field trips. They are also requesting an increase in two of their recreation activity course fees due to the increase of replacement costs for the equipment and consumables.

In addition, the School of Natural Resources is proposing to the Curriculum Committee at an upcoming meeting that their current geospatial technology courses, which have an EVRN prefix, be replaced with equivalent courses that have a new geospatial technology (GIST) prefix. This change is due to differing program fee needs between EVRN and GIST. We request that all proposed changes designated as GIST below be dependent on Curriculum Committee approval on February 19, 2026. The fees would then transfer from the current EVRN courses to the new GIST courses. The School is not requesting a change in the course fee levels.

Proposed Course Fee Changes			
Course	Current Fee	Proposed AY 2026-2027	Amount Change
RECS 365: Expedition Management	\$365	\$300	(\$65)
RECA 106: Backpacking	\$50	\$85	\$35
RECA 119: XC-Skiing	\$20	\$40	\$20
GIST 131: Introduction to GIS and GPS *	\$100	\$100	\$0
GIST 225: Intermediate GIS *	\$100	\$100	\$0
GIST 325: Geospatial Analysis *	\$100	\$100	\$0
GIST 355: GIS Programming & Applications *	\$100	\$100	\$0
GIST 365: App Geospatial Technologies *	\$100	\$100	\$0
GIST 445: Remote Sensing & Spatial Stats*	\$100	\$100	\$0
* Pending Curriculum Committee meeting on February 19, 2026			

Additionally, the School of Natural Resources is proposing an adjustment to allocate 100% of program fee revenues to the school. This change is intended to fully support the existing Science Laboratory Coordinator position, shared with the College of Arts and Sciences, and other instructional program needs. Directing the full program fee allocation to the schools ensures sustainable support for core instructional infrastructure, maintains compliance and safety standards, and preserves the quality of hands-on laboratory experiences that are central to student learning outcomes.

Proposed Program Allocation Changes			
Program	Current Allocation	Proposed AY 2026-2027	Amount Change
Geospatial Technology (GIST)*	50% of program fees	100% of program fees	50%
Natural Resource (NRES	50% of program fees	100% of program fees	50%

The School of Natural Resources is requesting to transfer the current environmental program fee to the new program fee for the Geospatial Technology (GIST) program pending approval at the Curriculum Committee meeting on February 19, 2026. They are not a changing in fee.

Proposed Fee Change			
Program	Current Fee	Proposed AY 2026-2027	Amount Change
Geospatial Technology (GIST)*	\$30	\$30	\$0
* Pending Curriculum Committee meeting on February 19, 2026			

College of Heath and Emergency Responders

The School Criminal Justice, Fire Science, and Emergency Services is proposing fee increases for various criminal justice courses due to rising costs. Most courses saw increases ranging from \$25 to \$75, primarily due to higher fuel, ammunition, and supply expenses. The largest increase was for the Skills Academy (CJUS450), which went from \$4,500 to \$5,000 to cover increases in fuel, equipment, and supplies for the Academy.

Proposed Course Fee Changes			
Course	Current Fee	Proposed AY 2026-2027	Amount Change
CJUS 197: Physical Fitness Public Safety	\$25	\$100	\$75
CJUS 201: Firearms Training	\$450	\$500	\$50
CJUS 301: Advanced Firearms	\$475	\$500	\$25
CJUS 411: Police Operations	\$25	\$50	\$25
CJUS 450: Skills Academy	\$4,500	\$5,000	\$500

They are also proposing adjustment to allocate 100% of program fee revenues to the school. This change is intended to fully support warranty and maintenance on the simulation ambulance and other equipment.

Proposed Course and Program Allocation Changes			
Program	Current Allocation	Proposed AY 2026-2027	Amount Change
Emergency Management (EMED)	75% of program fees	100% of program fees	25%

The School of Criminal Justice, Fire Science, and Emergency Services is proposing a fee increase for Wilderness First Responder (EMED188), which leads to an external certification, due to the course requiring a specialty contractor who can award certification. This increase will cover the cost of contracting with a Wildfire Responder education company.

Proposed Course Fee Change			
Course	Current Fee	Proposed AY 2026-2027	Amount Change
EMED 188 Wilderness First Responder	\$70	\$800	\$730

The School of Nursing is integrating required CPR certification into the curriculum for Health Appraisal (NURS 212) to decrease student's overall costs and ensure access.

Proposed Course Fee Change			
Course	Current Fee	Proposed AY 2026-2027	Amount Change
NURS 212: Health Appraisal	\$598	\$638	\$40

The School of Kinesiology and Psychology is requesting an increase in the fee for Senior Research I (PSYC 498) to cover the cost for students' conference fees and travel to a Michigan Undergraduate Psychology Research Conference (MUPRC) to present their research.

Proposed Course Fee Change			
Course	Current Fee	Proposed AY 2026-2027	Amount Change
PSYC 498: Senior Research I	\$0	\$225	\$225

Suggested Action/Motion:

Motion to approve the presented course and program fee changes as presented.

President's Recommendation:

Approval of the presented course and program fee changes.



Academic Affairs Report

February 13, 2026

Agenda Item #4: Bachelor of Science in Chemistry, Secondary Teaching Program Deletion

☐ Information

☒ Action

☐ Discussion

Purpose:

The purpose of this action item is deletion the Bachelor of Science in Chemistry, Secondary Teaching Degree.

Background:

The purpose of this action item is to provide an overview of the Bachelor of Science Chemistry, Secondary Teaching Degree.

1. On November 6, the Curriculum Committee voted to approve a proposal from the School of Chemistry, Environmental and Geosciences to delete the Bachelor of Science in Chemistry, Secondary Teaching program.
2. There are no students in the Bachelor of Science in Chemistry, Secondary Teaching program.
3. The Bachelor of Science in Chemistry, Secondary Teaching program is no longer authorized by the Michigan Department of Education.

Suggested Action/Motion:

The President recommends to the Board of Trustees deletion of the Bachelor of Science in Chemistry, Secondary Teaching program.

President's Recommendation:

Approval of the motion, as presented.



Academic Affairs Report February 13, 2026

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 Academic Affairs

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 since the last board meeting. These reports also include upcoming events. For your reference, you can find archived copies of the monthly report for [November](#) and [December](#) by clicking on the link. These reports are full of powerful examples of experiential learning, faculty and students collaborating on important scholarly activities, recruitment and outreach efforts, and ways in which they engage with and contribute to our community.

To provide three additional highlights related to current initiatives:

1. On January 15, 2026, the Curriculum Committee approved significant curriculum changes proposed by faculty in the School of Computer Science and Mathematics. These changes shift the institution from a traditional developmental mathematics sequence to a corequisite mathematics model, with multiple pathways aligned to students' program and course requirements. This redesign was supported by a Michigan College Access Network grant to participate in the Gateway Course Redesign Faculty Academy. This grant provided the department with an external consultant from Almy Educational Consulting and reflects national best practices shown to improve student progression and completion. The team working on this grant is made up of mathematics faculty, Academic Services staff, and an administrator. The University extends its appreciation to this team for their leadership and thoughtful curricular work, and to the broader academic community for the collective adjustments required to support this important change. Together, these efforts represent a meaningful step toward removing barriers to student success.
2. On January 9, 2026, the Center for Engaged Teaching and Learning held its Spring Professional Development Day in the Kenneth J. Shouldice Library. The plenary speaker was Dr. Jared Tippets,

Vice President for Student Affairs at Southern Utah University, and co-author of the book *Ascend to Higher Retention Rates: Practical Strategies for Increasing Student Retention, Completion, and Student Success*. Dr. Tippetts offered strategies for advancing student retention and increasing student success. While here, he also met with LSSU's Retention Committee to field questions regarding the implementation of the strategies he had presented.

- On January 20, 2026, LSSU submitted a monitoring report to the Higher Learning Commission addressing enrollment, financial sustainability, and transparency. The report documented improvements made since the 2023 Focus Visit, presented data on ongoing enrollment and financial challenges, and outlined forward-looking strategies, including changes to recruitment approaches, scholarship models, and the development of a Strategic Enrollment Management Plan. HLC commended LSSU for its comprehensive response to the identified concerns and noted progress in shared governance and institutional planning, while also affirming that continued organizational focus is needed to address enrollment trends and financial stability. LSSU will report on continued progress in its next Comprehensive Report, due August 31, 2026.

Office of Sponsored Programs

New Grants since November Board Meeting

- Michigan Department of Corrections (DOC)

External Grant Awards				
Sponsor	Amount	Award Period	Budget Highlights	PI
Michigan Department of Corrections	\$210,000	10/01/2025-09/30/2026	Salary/Fringe: N/A Indirect Costs: N/A	Marc Boucher

Lake Superior State University received a new grant award from the Michigan Department of Corrections Baccalaureate Prisoner Education Program to support the LSSU Step Up Program. The STEP Up Program provides a Bachelor of Science degree in Small Business Administration - Entrepreneurship at the Chippewa Correctional Facility in Kincheloe, Michigan. In-person instruction is offered to students at the Chippewa Correctional Facility. Students are accepted in a cohort model with full-time academic schedules running in the Fall, Spring and Summer semesters.

- Central Michigan University

External Grant Awards				
Sponsor	Amount	Award Period	Budget Highlights	PI
Subaward from Central Michigan University (EPA pass-through funded program)	\$577,956	10/01/2025-09/30/2026	Salary/Fringe: \$357,496 Indirect Costs: \$79,057	Ashley Moerke

The Center for Freshwater Research (CFRE) will participate in a 5-year, EPA funded project titled, *Assessment of Coastal Wetlands across the Entire Great Lakes Basin*. Dr. Ashley Moerke and Dr. Dustin Brewer will work with Central Michigan University and other project partners to sample fish, invertebrate, and chemical/physical variables at 10-12 coastal wetland sites, and to sample birds and

anurans at approximately 26 coastal wetland sites annually. Work will take place on the northern shore of Lake Huron, the St. Marys River, and eastern Lake Superior, in the U.S. and Canada. Expected outcomes include an increased understanding of coastal wetland structure and function, and the promotion of data-informed restoration and protection decisions for Great Lakes coastal wetlands.

3. Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians 2% Fund

External Grant Awards				
Sponsor	Amount	Award Period	Budget Highlights	PI
Sault Tribe 2% Fund	\$10K	01/01/2026- 12/31/2026	Salary/Fringe: N/A Indirect Costs: N/A	Edoardo Sarda

The LSSU Mobile Robotics Project aims to create a comprehensive Mobile Robotics Laboratory at Lake Superior State University, bridging classroom learning with hands-on research and international competition readiness. The initiative will be executed over two and a half years through five funding cycles of approximately \$10,000 each, starting in Fall 2025, allowing for phased procurement of mobile robots, lab development, and integration of advanced sensors. This staged approach ensures immediate educational impact while progressively expanding research capabilities and Team AMORE's participation in global RoboNation events. Project efforts will not only prepare graduates to meet the growing demand for skilled professionals in robotics and automation, but also generate valuable data and solutions that advance environmental stewardship.

Suggested Action/Motion:

None

President's Recommendation:

N/A



Academic Affairs Report February 13, 2026

Agenda Item #6: Approval of Honorary Doctorate

☐ Information

☒ Action

☐ Discussion

Purpose:

The purpose of this action is to recommend Thomas C. Bailey for conferral of an honorary doctorate, Doctor of Humane Letters degree.

Background:

Upon nomination, the Board of Trustees may confer an honorary doctoral degree in recognition of distinguished accomplishments or service.

Mr. Thomas C. Bailey was appointed to the Lake Superior State University Board of Trustees in February 2016, with a term ending January 27, 2024, serving as first vice chair and Chair. Tom was the former Executive Director of the Little Traverse Conservancy from 1984 through 2018. Before joining the Conservancy, he spent six years with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and several seasons as a Ranger with the US National Park Service. He previously served on Governor Rick Snyder's Blue Ribbon Panel on Michigan State Parks and Outdoor Recreation; the National Land Trust Council; the Michigan Water Resources Commission; the Michigan Great Lakes Protection Fund Technical Advisory Board, and boards of several other non-profit organizations. He was co-founder of the Top of Michigan Trails Council and also co-founder of Heart of the Lakes Center for Land Conservation Policy, Michigan's state association of land conservancies. He received his Bachelor's degree in Park and Recreation Resources from Michigan State University, where he also pursued graduate studies in land use, resource economics, and environmental law.

Mr. Bailey will be the 2026 Commencement Speaker.

Please see the nomination letter below, written by Kenneth Winter.

Dear Dr. Travis and Board of Trustees,

I am writing at the suggestion of NCMC President Dr. David Finley after asking him who to contact about LSSU recognizing its former Board Chair and trustee, Tom Bailey, with awarding him an honorary LSSU Doctorate.

Beyond his years of service to LSSU, he is most known for his many contributions to environmental protection serving some 35 years as executive director of the Little Traverse Conservancy (LTC), serves Chippewa County and Northern Michigan.

The son of a late DNR biologist, who was Team Leader of the Eastern Grey Wolf Recovery team established by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Tom followed his father's footsteps early on in his life. He testified before Congress as a Marquette High School student flying for the first time to block commercial development on the National Park island.

Tom's contributions to the land conservation movement goes well beyond our area. He's known statewide and nationally for his work with land conservancies. For years, he drove to Lansing to monitor the monthly Michigan Land Trust meeting to make sure Northern Michigan received its share of grants.

Tom has spent years speaking and running workshops for many conservation organizations wanting know how the Little Traverse Conservancy became so successful.

I was fortunate to be part of the committee to hire Tom and then work with him on the LTC board, when served for two years as its Chairman.

Besides working with LSSU water education program, he was recognized by Central Michigan University for his help establishing CMU's Beaver Island Biology Station. Even since his retirement, he continues to serve on a statewide trail committee as well, working with the Michigan DNR after it took it over management of Detroit's Belle Isle park.

Internationally, he was recruited to work in establishing Kenya's first land conservancy to protect 10,000-acre game ranch, which also required him to work with government leaders to create the necessary land protection laws.

LSSU awarding Tom an honorary doctorate would be the culmination of recognition to a person who has done so much to preserve our land, as well as educate the public and future generations. He continues to speak to sustainable living classes on our campus.

As an aside, when LSSU Board Chair Tom arranged for Petoskey's Great Lakes Chamber Orchestra to perform yearly in your campus auditorium.

Ken Winter

Part-Time Faculty, North Central Michigan College and MSU College of Communication Arts and Sciences. Former Editor & Publisher, Petoskey News-Review

Suggested Action/Motion:

The President recommends the approval of recommendation for an honorary doctorate degree to Thomas C. Bailey.

President's Recommendation:

Approval of the presented recommendation for an honorary doctorate degree to Thomas C. Bailey.



Academic Affairs Report
February 13, 2026

Appendix A: Candidates for Degrees for the Fall 2025 and Winter 2025/2026 Semesters

Registrar's Office

TO: Dr. Kimberly Muller
FROM: Katie Kelsey
DATE: January 28, 2026
SUBJECT: Candidates for Degrees for the Fall 2025 and Winter 2025/2026 Semesters

The attached list of candidates is submitted to the Board of Trustees for the granting of the appropriate degrees. The respective chairs certify these candidates have completed all major departmental requirements and I, as the Registrar, certify these candidates have completed all University requirements.



**Fall 2025 and Winter 2025/2026
Graduates**

Regan Michelle Ackroyd	Bachelor of Science	Social Science
Joseph Lee Allen	Bachelor of Science	Business Admin-Management
Joseph Lee Allen	Associate	Small Business Administration
Joseph Lee Allen	Associate	Technical Accounting
David Jerome Anderson	Associate	General Studies
David Jerome Anderson	Associate of Applied Science	Paramedic Technology
David Jerome Anderson	Bachelor of Science	Nursing
Brooke Baker	Bachelor of Science	Teacher Education
Gleb Davidovich Baumann	Bachelor of Science	Accounting
Jayna Bearss	Bachelor of Science	Teacher Education
Dominic Betke	Bachelor of Science	Fisheries Wildlife Management
Patrick Tucker Bickings	Bachelor of Science	Parks and Recreation
Ila Bisson	Bachelor of Science	Teacher Education
Christopher A Bohm	Bachelor of Science	Robotics Engineering
Roy Bowman	Associate	Natural Resources Technology
Kylah M Buikema	Bachelor of Science	Fisheries Wildlife Management
Susan Hannah Bullington	Bachelor of Science	Environmental Science
Sangeeta Chaudhuri	Bachelor of Science	Teacher Education
Elxandrya Marie Cottle	Bachelor of Science	Teacher Education
Shane Patrick Coykendall	Associate	Chemistry
Shane Patrick Coykendall	Certificate	Microscopy and Microanalysis
Shane Patrick Coykendall	Bachelor of Science	Environmental Science
Toni Cross-Smith	Bachelor of Science	Nursing
Benjamin Michael Davis	Bachelor of Science	Computer Science
Rebecca Ann Delacruz	Certificate	E-Marketing
Rebecca Ann Delacruz	Bachelor of Science	Business Administration
Rebecca Ann Delacruz	Bachelor of Science	Cannabis Business
Alisha Denué	Bachelor of Science	Fisheries Wildlife Management
Hannah Nora Dutz	Associate	General Studies
Hannah Nora Dutz	Bachelor of Science	Nursing
Shelby Dawn Eavou	Bachelor of Arts	Language Arts
Robert Edwards	Bachelor of Science	Business Administration
Mindi Espinosa	Bachelor of Science	Social Science
Rachel Grace Faust	Bachelor of Science	Fisheries Wildlife Management
Audrey George	Bachelor of Science	Fisheries Wildlife Management

Cassidy Rae Gough	Bachelor of Science	Nursing
Sarah Lynn Gremmer	Bachelor of Science	Fisheries Wildlife Management
Brendan Gross	Bachelor of Science	Business Administration
Brendan Gross	Certificate	E-Marketing
Taylor Gustafson	Bachelor of Science	Cannabis Chemistry
Marissa Huffman	Bachelor of Science	Teacher Education
Alaina Kecskes	Bachelor of Science	Fisheries Wildlife Management
Pascal Milan Klimes	Bachelor of Science	Electrical Engineering
Adam Klimsza	Bachelor of Science	Criminal Justice
		Mechanical Engineering & Robotics Engineering
Lydia Renne Knapp	Bachelor of Science	General Studies
Paige Lauren Labre	Associate	Business Admin-Management
Paige Lauren Labre	Bachelor of Science	Accounting
Allyson Lancour	Bachelor of Science	Accounting
Amy Lehigh	Bachelor of Science	Business Administration
Delaney Joyce MacDowell	Bachelor of Science	Fisheries Wildlife Management
Cavan McIntyre	Bachelor of Science	Fisheries Wildlife Management
Elizabeth Christine McLean	Bachelor of Science	Teacher Education
Makayla Linn Mcdaniels	Bachelor of Science	Teacher Education
Shaylee Michael	Bachelor of Science	Psychology
Kara Abegaile Mosher	Bachelor of Science	General Studies
Kara Abegaile Mosher	Associate	Business Admin-Management
Colin Mueller	Bachelor of Science	Business Admin-Marketing
Christian S Murphy	Bachelor of Science	Teacher Education
Mercedes LeeAnn Myers	Bachelor of Science	Mechatronics
Hunter Aaron Nowakowski	Bachelor of Science	Mechatronics
Hunter Aaron Nowakowski	Associate	General Studies
Rebekah Olds	Bachelor of Science	Natural Resources Technology
Alaina Ilene Ormsbee	Associate	Geographic Information Systems
Alaina Ilene Ormsbee	Certificate	Environmental Science
Alaina Ilene Ormsbee	Bachelor of Science	Nursing
Maryssa Sarah Parish	Bachelor of Science	English Language Literature
Nathan Thomas Piche	Bachelors of Arts	Criminal Justice
Kanton N Piche-Belleau	Bachelor of Science	Biology
Sydney Quinones	Bachelor of Science	Cannabis Chemistry
Sydney Quinones	Bachelor of Science	Computer Networking
Kain Reinhardt	Associate	Computer Science
Kain Reinhardt	Bachelor of Science	Teacher Education
Megan Robinson	Bachelor of Science	Teacher Education
Allison Pauline Ross	Bachelor of Science	Kinesiology
Kennedy Rose Sabin	Bachelor of Science	Health/Fitness Specialist
Kennedy Rose Sabin	Associate	Nursing
Carlos Saints	Bachelor of Science	

Carlos Saints	Associate	General Studies
Erika G Silverstone	Bachelor of Science	Teacher Education
Lydia Nicole Slosar	Associate	General Studies
Lydia Nicole Slosar	Bachelor of Science	Nursing
Nicholas Smart	Bachelor of Science	Nursing
Gabriella J Smith	Bachelor of Science	Teacher Education
Nora Smoes	Associate of Arts	Liberal Arts
Kyle Cameron Stevens	Associate	General Engineering Technology
Tiffeney E Stratton	Associate	Criminal Justice Law Enforce
Donald Strazzinski	Bachelor of Science	Finance and Economics
Samantha Suhrcke	Bachelor of Science	Finance and Economics
Gerald Trinklein	Bachelor of Science	Fisheries Wildlife Management
Amber Trombley	Bachelor of Science	Teacher Education
Jessie Alyse Turner	Associate	General Studies
Jessie Alyse Turner	Bachelor of Science	Nursing
Joshua Westrate	Bachelor of Science	Kinesiology
		Mechanical Engineering &
Madeleine M Whip	Bachelor of Science	Robotics Engineering
Madeleine M Whip	Certificate	Space Mission and Operations
Gracie Wickham	Bachelor of Science	Teacher Education
Zoe Williams	Bachelor of Arts	English Language Literature
Eva Lynn Wilson	Bachelor of Science	Nursing