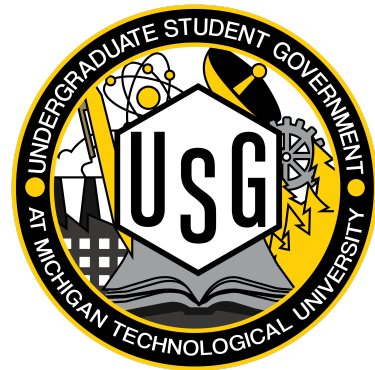


**Michigan Technological University**  
**Undergraduate Student Government**



*A resolution to reaffirm USG Resolution No. 2021-2022 #002, in support of Fall Break*

Introduced on October 11, 2022

Adopted on October 11, 2022

**RESOLUTION NO.** 2022-2023, #001

**INTRODUCED BY:** Isobel Bowker

**WHEREAS,** On February 17, 2021, the Undergraduate Student Government (USG) adopted *USG Resolution No. 2020-2021 #006*, introduced by Zofia Freiberg, that expressed support for a mid-semester recess during the fall (henceforth referred to as “Fall Break” for the purpose of this resolution) and outlined changes to the academic calendar to accommodate such a recess;

**WHEREAS,** On February 16, 2022, the USG adopted *USG Resolution No. 2021-2022 #002*, introduced by Zack Olson and the Student Affairs committee, reaffirmed support for a fall break and re-outlined changes to the academic calendar to accommodate such a recess;

**WHEREAS,** A Fall Break is intended to provide faculty, staff, and students with an opportunity to focus on personal mental health and wellness as an institutional strategy for promoting long-term success for the remainder of the academic year;

**WHEREAS,** The USG, led by Zofia Freiberg, undertook a robust campaign of advocacy in order to achieve the goal of Fall Break, but was unable to secure a vote for the proposed policy in the University Senate;

**WHEREAS,** Discussions regarding fall break date back to at least 2015 among representatives of the USG, Graduate Student Government (GSG), University Senate, Registrar’s office, and the Office of the Dean of Students;

**WHEREAS,** Over the past several years, student leaders, senate supporters, and others have addressed questions and concerns related to the implications of a fall break, primarily on academic instruction;

**WHEREAS,** On April 20, 2022, the University Senate passed Proposal 50-22: “Proposal to Create an ‘October Recess,’” which established a Fall Break for the 2023 fall semester and required the semester to begin on the Thursday prior to the last Monday in the month of August;

**WHEREAS,** The University President approved University Senate Proposal 50-22 on September 23rd “with the requirement that the Senate create an amended proposal defining whether the start of the academic year will be the last Monday in August, shortening the number of instruction days in fall semester, or the Thursday prior to the last Monday in August, allowing for the number of instruction days to remain unchanged”;

**WHEREAS,** On September 28, 2022, however, the University Senate passed Proposal 37-22: “2023-24 Academic Calendar and Provisional Calendar for 2024-25,” which removed Fall Break from the 2023-2024 academic calendar and revised the 2023 fall semester start date to the last Monday in the month of August; while maintaining Fall Break on the provisional calendar for 2024-2025;

**RECOGNIZING,** The idea of a fall break for the Michigan Technological University community is rooted in the reality of increased mental health needs on our campus which reflect national mental health crises on other U.S. campuses and in the workplace in general;

**RECOGNIZING,** The exclusion of a fall break in fall 2023 appears to conflict with Michigan Tech’s long-standing history and tradition of shared governance and respecting the outcomes of legitimate Senate votes;

**RECOGNIZING,** The efforts and dedication of the students, faculty, and staff of Michigan Tech;

**RECOGNIZING,** The students, faculty, and staff’s personal wellbeing and mental health needs;

**RECOGNIZING,** The need for the establishment of a Fall Break as evidenced by the persistent mental health crisis on US college campuses;

**RECOGNIZING,** The large number of institutional peers to Michigan Technological University that have already adopted a Fall Break, including Colorado School of Mines, Missouri University of Science and Technology, Grand Valley State University, Michigan State

University, University of Michigan Ann-Arbor, Purdue University, University of Illinois (two-day mid-semester recess during November), and University of Minnesota Duluth;

**URGING,** Establishment of a Fall Break to promote a safe, healthy, and well campus as supported by institutional stakeholders such as university administrators, academic leaders, student service experts, leaders of registered student organizations; and, anecdotally, individual faculty members and individual staff; and

**URGING,** The University Senate of Michigan Technological University, to propose policy changes to the administration regarding the Academic Calendar, using their ability to support and facilitate mental health and wellness for employees and students which, ultimately, promotes a safe and healthy campus environment for all.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Undergraduate Student Government at Michigan Technological University, a shared governance entity, urges the reinstatement of the fall break (a/k/a “October Recess”) for academic year 2023-2024 while the University Senate also proceeds, as appropriate, with reconciling University Senate Proposal 50-22 (approval of fall break beginning fall 2023) with University Senate Proposal 37-22 (academic year calendar that eliminated fall break dates);

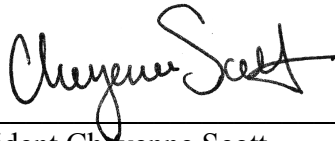
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that, ideally, Fall Break occurs on the Thursday and Friday of Week 8 of each Fall Semester;


**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that the University Senate Liaison and the President of the Undergraduate Student Government at Michigan Technological University present this resolution at the first University Senate meeting after its adoption;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that the President of the Undergraduate Student Government at Michigan Technological University sends a copy of this resolution to Michigan Technological University President Rick Koubek, University Senate President Michael Mullins, University Senate Academic and Instructional Policy Committee Jeremy Shannon, Interim Provost Andrew Storer, Center for Teaching and Learning Director Michael Meyer, Vice President of Student Affairs and Dean of Students Wallace Southerland III, General Counsel and Secretary to the Board of Trustees Sarah Schulte, *The Lode* Editor-In-Chief Rachel Dick, and other individuals subject to the approval of the Executive Board of the USG;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that a copy of this resolution appears in the official minutes of the first Undergraduate Student Government General Body Meeting after its adoption, and will be circulated to the student body via publication on the USG website and USG social media accounts by the USG Public Relations Committee; and

**FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Undergraduate Student Government at Michigan Technological University honors former USG Student Affairs Committee Chair and MTU alumna Zofia Freiberg, who worked tirelessly towards the goal of a Fall Break during the 2020-2021 Academic Year, for her contributions to the proposed calendar change, her dedication to students, and her role as an exemplar for passionate and ethical leadership.

X   
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President Cheyenne Scott

X   
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Secretary Isobel Bowker