



University Academic Senate Strategic Goals 2011-2015

MISSION: The University Academic Senate is a voice for faculty in the work and life of the university.

GOAL:

The University Academic Senate will be transparent and effective in representing faculty in the work and life of the university.

Visioning

OBJECTIVE 1: UAS members will engage and inform themselves as to future trends in higher education, and UAS will act prospectively to ensure GVSU is positioned in an appropriate niche within national trends.

STRATEGY 1: UAS will engage its members in discussions that provide cutting-edge knowledge of, and approaches to resolving, issues of importance to the university and higher education.

STRATEGY 2: UAS will actively engage in the work of the Shared Governance Task Force and faculty governance will employ the values contained in any statement of principles that is jointly endorsed by faculty governance and the administration.

STRATEGY 3: The Chair and Vice Chair will meet regularly with members of the administration to identify and communicate issues wherever faculty governance can contribute to strengthening and enhancing the university.

STRATEGY 4: UAS will provide a faculty voice in the university's ongoing strategic planning and policy initiatives informed by reports and information provided by its standing committees.

Leadership

OBJECTIVE 2: UAS will provide a supportive environment facilitating faculty members development of leadership skills.

STRATEGY 1: UAS will obtain funding for university governance representatives to attend conferences related to curricular, personnel, and leadership issues in higher education (such as AAC&U, AAUP, AAUW, etc).

STRATEGY 2: UAS will obtain the resources it needs to support faculty governance activities.

STRATEGY 3: ECS will regularly examine its By Laws and propose changes to support smoother leadership transition as appropriate.

STRATEGY 4: In consultation with current and past Chairs & Vice Chairs, ECS will develop a responsibility list for those leadership roles to determine what other leadership roles might be appropriate for UAS.

Personnel

OBJECTIVE 3: Through 2015, ECS/UAS, FPPC, and FSBC will review, revise, and develop policies that describe and help ensure fair and equitable workloads and compensation for faculty members, and that ensure strong review processes in contract renewal, tenure, and promotion decisions.

STRATEGY 1: UAS will monitor faculty workload by requesting an annual report from the Provost's Office regarding the impact of the Faculty Workload and Rewards Policy; assessing and reporting annually to faculty regarding the progress toward equitable workloads; and monitoring and reviewing the frequency, nature, and use of reassigned time.

STRATEGY 2: At the start of each academic year, ECS will, in consultation with the chairs of standing governance committees, identify and prioritize matters that relate to personnel that need to be addressed.

STRATEGY 3: UAS will bring a university-wide academic perspective to its consideration of and action on matters related to personnel.

STRATEGY 4: Faculty governance will identify and encourage best practices in peer evaluations of teaching.

Curriculum

OBJECTIVE 4: Through 2015, ECS/UAS, UCC, GC, GEC, APSC and FSBC will develop policies, programs and courses that provide increasingly high-quality, relevant curricula in a challenging intellectual environment, which is both inclusive and diverse, at both the undergraduate and graduate levels.

STRATEGY 1: At the start of each academic year, ECS will, in consultation with the chairs of standing governance committees, identify and prioritize curriculum initiatives to be addressed. ECS will support the work of its standing governance committees to ensure timely consideration of proposed changes and implementation of approved changes.

STRATEGY 2: UAS will bring a university-wide perspective to its consideration of and action on matters related to curriculum.

STRATEGY 3: UAS will bring a university-wide perspective to actions that ensure academic integrity and appropriate rigor of its curricula and course.

Teaching and Learning

OBJECTIVE 5: Through 2015, ECS/UAS, UCC, GC, GEC, UAC, Online Education Committee, FTLCAC, APSC and FFPAC will create policies and offer programs/courses that contribute to excellence in teaching and learning, the advancement of knowledge, and a supportive academic environment.

STRATEGY 1: At the start of each academic year, ECS will, in consultation with the chairs of standing governance committees, identify and prioritize matters that relate to teaching and learning that need to be addressed. ECS will support the work of its standing governance committees to ensure timely consideration of proposed changes and implementation of approved changes.

STRATEGY 2: UAS will bring a university-wide perspective to its consideration of and action on matters related to teaching and learning.

Creative and Scholarly Excellence

OBJECTIVE 6: Through 2015, ECS/UAS, GC, and R&D Committee will develop policies that support the faculty's creative and scholarly work, ensuring the advancement of teaching excellence and disciplinary knowledge.

STRATEGY 1: At the start of each academic year, ECS will, in consultation with the chairs of standing governance committees, identify and prioritize matters that relate to creative and scholarly excellence that need to be addressed.

STRATEGY 2: UAS will bring a university-wide perspective to its consideration of and action on matters related to creative and scholarly excellence.

Advocacy/Communication/Integration

OBJECTIVE 7: ECS and UAS representatives will ensure faculty governance is timely and responsive to the needs of faculty.

STRATEGY 1: By 2012, ECS will solicit ideas and comments from faculty to identify and generate possible governance initiatives.

STRATEGY 2: By 2012, UAS and ECS will review data from the 2011 My GVSU survey to identify and generate governance initiatives.

STRATEGY 3: Annually, senators will use the last UAS meeting before changing membership to identify issues to take up in the upcoming academic year. (2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015)

STRATEGY 4: On a regular basis, the UAS Chair or ECS as a body will email governance updates to all tenure-line faculty. Among other topics, the content of these updates can be to direct faculty to public fora sponsored by governance committees, inform faculty of a recent governance decision and its impact on faculty life, alert faculty to upcoming UAS votes, and/or solicit input on issues under consideration. (2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015)

STRATEGY 5: Annually, each standing committee will be appointed a liaison to ECS. Normally the Chair and Vice Chair of ECS will serve as liaisons, assisting standing committees and ECS in identifying recommended modifications to existing policies, procedures, charges, and Faculty Handbook language.

STRATEGY 6: ECS and UAS Members will communicate with college and library faculty governance bodies to promote cooperation and coordination of their activities.