

# Grand Valley State University

## Executive Committee of the Senate

### Minutes of January 21, 2011

**Present:** Yatin Bhagwat, Maria Cimitile (ex officio), Gayle Davis (ex officio), Roger Ferguson, Joe Godwin (ex officio), Cynthia Grapzynski, Brian Hatzel, Robert Hendersen, Sharon Leder, Nancy Levenburg (Vice Chair), Jarrett Martus (Student Senate President), Figen Mekik, Kristine Mullendore (Chair), Mel Northup, Chuck Pazdernik, Ellen Schendel, Lynn Sheehan, Kathleen Underwood, Roger Wilson

**Guests:** Susan Mendoza, Stephen Schlicker, Robert Smart, Brad Wallar

The meeting was Called to Order at 3:03 p.m.

Agenda Items	Discussion	Action / Decisions	
1. Approval of Agenda	The Agenda of January 21, 2011 was reviewed.	The Agenda of January 21, 2011 was Approved as submitted.	
2. Approval of Minutes	The Minutes of January 14, 2011 were reviewed.	The Minutes of January 14, 2011 were approved as submitted.	
3. Report of Chair	a) The Chair circulated a Winter 2011 (W2011) term enrollment data report for review.		
4. Report of Provost	<p>a) Provost Davis commented on the enrollment data that was being circulated. The data shows a drop in W2011 enrollment compared to last winter and is at its lowest point since 2004, with a variety of factors, including the economy, contributing to the decline. There are 200 fewer freshman, 100 fewer sophomores, 150 more juniors, and 200 more seniors than the same time last year.</p> <p>Provost Davis further reported that academic officers are watching enrollments carefully, and that there are numerous initiatives in place to improve retention rates, including the Laker Grant. This grant is available to those who don't qualify for a Pell Grant or Merit Award, and is used as a recruitment tool. She also emphasized the important role faculty play in fostering students' positive experiences at GVSU.</p> <p>Provost Davis reported that she is encouraged by Governor Snyder's forthright manner when addressing higher education issues.</p> <p>b) Provost Davis thanked Kathleen Underwood and all the others who worked on the weeklong Martin Luther King, Jr. events.</p>		

	<p>Provost Davis answered questions raised from the floor regarding enrollment, availability of classes, and room assignments and scheduling.</p>		
<p>5. Report of the Student Senate President</p>	<p>a) Student Senate President Martus thanked Kathleen Underwood for her work on the Martin Luther King, Jr. events of the past week.</p> <p>b) Student Senate President Martus reported that Dean Antczak attended the Student Senate meeting and discussed the implications of a mid-semester Fall Break. Material will be distributed to all ECS members.</p> <p>c) Student Senate President Martus reported that the Student Senate is discussing the issue of Michigan community colleges receiving permission to offer four-year degrees.</p> <p>d) Student Senate President Martus reported that some students have developed software that allows students to build their schedule based on class availability. Mr. Martus will send specific information to Joe Godwin and Chick Blue for their review.</p> <p>e) Student Senate President Martus reported that during a discussion of general education and themes, the possibility to include a physical education component into the requirements for graduation was raised.</p> <p>The Student Senate was thanked for their support of the Martin Luther King, Jr. events.</p>	<p>Material on a proposed Fall Break will be distributed to ECS members.</p>	
<p>6. Report from the Standing Committee Chairs / Task Forces / Committee Representatives</p>	<p>a) The <u>Faculty Handbook</u> language revisions accompanying the proposed revisions to the General Education Program Basic Skills requirements that were distributed earlier were discussed. By CONSENSUS, it was agreed to forward the documents to UAS for the January 28, 2011 meeting.</p> <p>b) Prof. Stephen Schlicker presented an overview of the proposal for structural changes to the roles of the Undergraduate Research Council that was distributed earlier. Discussion.</p> <p>A Motion was made and seconded to approve the structural changes to the roles of the Undergraduate Research Council, as amended at this meeting, and to forward the proposal to UAS with a recommendation to support with some revisions as to the term of the Chair and the number of representatives.</p>	<p>By CONSENSUS, the Executive Committee of the Senate agrees to forward the <u>Faculty Handbook</u> language revisions that accompanied the proposed revisions to the General Education Program Basic Skills requirements to the University Academic Senate for deliberation at their January 28, 2011, meeting.</p> <p><b>MOTION:</b> The Executive Committee of the Senate approves the structural changes to the roles of the Undergraduate Research Council, as amended at this meeting, and forwards the proposal to UAS with a recommendation to support the proposed revisions.</p>	

	<p>c) Prof. Brad Wallar presented an overview of the changes to the Research and Development Committee for inclusion in the <u>Faculty Handbook</u> that were distributed earlier.</p> <p>During discussion, several clarifications were requested including a recommendation made to change the term of of the chair from a two-year to term to a one-year term.</p> <p>A <u>Motion was made and seconded</u> to refer the document back to the committee to discuss the recommendations to change the term of director to one-year instead of two-years.</p>	<p><b>APPROVED Unanimously</b></p> <p><b>MOTION:</b> The Executive Committee of the Senate refers the proposed changes back to the Research and Development Committee for further clarification based on recommendations made at this meeting.  <b>APPROVED Unanimously</b></p>	
7. Old Business	None		
8. New Business	<p>a) The 2010 <u>Faculty Handbook</u> Task Force report on proposed <u>Faculty Handbook</u> revisions involving policy changes that were distributed earlier were discussed.</p> <p>By CONSENSUS it was agreed to accept the recommended changes by the University Counsel to some of the proposed editing changes previously presented by the Faculty Handbook Task Force, except for continuing the discussion as to the use of the term “vital” in the personnel policies as discussed at the December 3, 2010 UAS meeting.</p> <p>b) Establishing system to gather ideas from faculty for more efficient use of university resources</p>	<p>By CONSENSUS , the Executive Committee of the Senate accepts the recommended changes identified by University Counsel to some of the editing changes previously proposed by the Faculty Handbook Task Force, except for the use of the term “vital” In the personnel policies as discussed at the December 3, 2010 UAS meeting.</p> <p>No discussion</p>	
9. Adjournment	The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.		