

Grand Valley State University

Executive Committee of the Senate

Minutes of December 10, 2010

Present: Yatin Bhagwat, Maria Cimittle (ex officio), Gayle Davis (ex officio), Roger Ferguson, Joe Godwin (ex officio), Cynthia Grapczynski, Robert Henderson, Jon Jellema (ex officio), Sharon Leder, Nancy Levenburg (Vice Chair), Jarrett Martus (Student Senate President), Figen Mekik, Kristine Mullendore (Chair), Mel Northup, Chuck Pazdernk, Ellen Schendel, Lynn Sheehan, Kathleen Underwood

Guests: Lawrence Beery, Roger Gilles, Carol Griffin

The meeting was called to order at 3:07p.m.

Agenda Items	Discussion	Action / Decisions
1. Approval of Agenda	The Agenda of December 10, 2010 was reviewed.	The Agenda of December 10, 2010 was approved.
2. Approval of Minutes	The Minutes of November 12, 2010 were reviewed.	The Minutes of November 12, 2010 were approved as submitted.
3. Report of Chair	The Chair reported the Faculty Survey will be conducted at a later date.	
4. Report of Provost	Provost Davis reported that the capital outlay budget request was approved, and she remains optimistic the funding for a new academic building will be approved.	
5. Report of the Student Senate President	<p>a) Student Senate President Martus reported that the Student Senate Vice President of Political Affairs resigned. Consequently, the Senate suspended its rules in order to immediately elect a new officer.</p> <p>b) Student Senate President Martus reported that the Student Senate Finance Committee is examining funding for committees, including establishing a maximum on food expenditures. Further discussion will be held with various constituent groups.</p>	
6. Report from the Standing Committee Chairs / Task Forces / Committee Representatives	<p>a) Roger Gilles presented an overview of the draft proposal from the General Education Committee (GEC) and presented its recommended revisions to the general education program that was distributed earlier.</p> <p>The General Education Committee is asking for support from Faculty Governance while continuing this initiative. A campus-wide discussion on item #1 <i>"Drop the 'Basic Skills' designation under 'University Requirements' and instead achieve those proficiencies within the General Education Program itself"</i> is intended for January or February.</p> <p>Chair Mullendore reminded everyone that one consideration is that the final date for text changes to the Grand Valley catalog is March 1, 2011.</p>	

	<p>Chair Mullendore presented a brief history of how the charges to the various standing committees are assigned and how the GEC charges were crafted. Discussion.</p> <p>During discussion, a recommendation was made to prepare rationale and/or Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) to assist in campus-wide discussion.</p> <p>An option was presented by the Chair to hold the UAS meeting on January 28, 2011, instead of February 4, 2011, to allow time for discussion with colleagues, but still permit UAS consideration that would allow inclusion of the revisions in the catalog, if approved.</p> <p>It was agreed by consensus to have a UAS meeting on January 28, 2011.</p> <p>Provost Davis stated that she will present this GEC recommendation to the Deans Council at their next meeting, Tuesday, December 14, 2010.</p> <p>The recommendations can also be a topic for discussion at the University Assessment Conference on January 7, 2011.</p> <p>Item #2 of the GEC recommendation, <i>“Add three new skills goals – teamwork, problem-solving, and civic responsibility – to the GE program and change our assessment plan to reduce the number of goals each GE course is responsible for teaching and assessing.”</i> was briefly discussed.</p> <p>Item #3 of the GEC recommendation, <i>“Eliminate the 22 Themes categories, create an upper-level requirement featuring problem-solving courses focused on big issues, and reduce the requirement from three courses to two”</i> was briefly discussed.</p>	<p>A meeting of the University Academic Senate is scheduled for January 28, 2011.</p>	
<p>7. Old Business</p>	<p>No Items for Discussion</p>		
<p>8. New Business</p>	<p>a) <u>Lantern Advertisement Policy Discussion.</u> The Chair presented an overview of the concerns raised from the full-page ad for Parkway Tropics. Lawrence Beery, faculty advisor for <u>The Lantern</u>, presented information on the top 10 Frequently Asked Questions and the general advertising policy. Professor Beery noted that ads are regularly rejected or amended, and self-censure regularly occurs. Professor</p>		

	<p>Beery answered a variety of questions raised from the floor, and noted that free speech trumps other principles, but there is always caution used to prevent embarrassment to the University.</p> <p>b) The University Counsel concerns about some revisions recommended by last year's Faculty Handbook Task Force Report, which Chair Mullendore has condensed into a more readable version, was briefly discussed and will be carried over to another meeting.</p> <p>c) Establishing a system to gather ideas from faculty for more efficient use of university resources was briefly discussed.</p> <p>The Chair reported that items for Winter Term 2011 discussion will include consideration of Final Plans for Religious Studies major and minor ; Philanthropy and Non-Profit Leadership Masters, and also a proposal regarding Speech Language Pathology.</p>		
9. Adjournment	The meeting was adjourned at 5:04pm		