

Grand Valley State University
University Academic Senate
Minutes of August 14, 2020 Special Meeting

- Present:** Majd Al-Mallah, Christine Beaudoin, Richard Bezel (for Adrienne Wallace), Shawn Bultsma (Vice Chair), Adrian Copeland, Tara Cornelius, Alisha Davis, Nancy DeFrance, Brian Deyo, Kelly Dowker (Student Senate), Shirley Fleischmann, John Gabrosek, Gary Greer, Christopher Haven, Kyle Holcomb (Student Senate), Barb Hooper, Courtney Karasinski, Salvador Lopez-Arias, Hazel McClure, Amy McFarland, Jared Moore, Oindrila Mukerjee, Felix Ngassa (Chair), Tonya Parker, Charles Pazdernik, Elizabeth Psyck, Nicholas Raak (Student Senate), Karyn Rouborn, Wil Rankinen, Kathryn Remlinger, Mary Bower Russa, Georgette Sass, Ashley Shannon, Melanie Shell-Weiss, Paul Sicilian, Kevin Strychar, Agnieszka Szarecka, Eric-John Szczepaniak (Student Senate President), Melissa Tallman, Joshua Veazey, Jody Vogelzang, Joy Washburn, Deana Weibel, Andrew Wilson, Michelle Wooddell (for Naoki Kanaboshi)
- Absent:** Yatin Bhagwat, Matthew Boelkins, Dave Huizen, Marie McKendall, Dawn Richiert, Anne Sergeant, Patrick Shan, Jeff Ward
- Ex Officio:** Maria Cimitile, Ed Aboufadel, Annie Béllanger, Suzanne Benet, Jennifer Drake, Diana Lawson, Cynthia McCurren, Paul Plotkowski, Christine Rener, Mark Schaub, Ellen Schendel, Robert Smart, Sherril Soman
- Guests:** Mary Albrecht, Jae Basiliere, Craig Benjamin, Krista Benson, Amanda Buday, Meghan Cai, Aubrey Dull, Aaron Eddens, Karen Gipson, Jennifer Jameslyn, Laurencé Jose, Cael Keegen, Justine Kibet, Vinicius Lima, Haixla Liu, Josita Maouene-Cavin, Deborah Morrow, Paola Leon, Lisa Perhamus, Rachel Peterson, Susan Ponischi, Dawn Ruteki, Mark Schwartz, Elena Selezneva, Brent Smith, Amy Ferdinandt Stolley, Christopher Toth, Joel Wendland, Judy Williams, Maureen Wolverton

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 Noon. The Chair thanked everyone for their work over the spring/summer.

Agenda Items	Discussion	Action / Decisions
1. Approval of Agenda	<p>The Agenda of August 14, 2020 was reviewed.</p> <p>A <u>motion was made and seconded</u> to adopt the guidelines for the meeting as distributed earlier, which reads:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>During the Special Meeting of the UAS on August 14, 2020, the following guidelines will be followed:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. Due to the press of other commitments, a two-hour time limit (noon-2 PM) will be strictly observed.</i> <i>2. During questions, discussion, and debate, the Chair will keep a speakers' list and give priority to members who have not yet spoken about a particular topic or motion.</i> <i>3. Comments and questions will be limited to no more than three minutes.</i> <i>4. Following the Report from the Provost (item 4--see APPENDIX), no more than thirty minutes is allowed for follow-up questions, in order to reserve time for deliberation.</i> <i>5. Under New Business (item 6), the Chair will immediately invite motions from the floor. The body is reminded:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>a. Any member may be recognized to offer a motion.</i> <i>b. Discussion must be germane to the motion on the floor.</i> 	<p>The Agenda of August 14, 2020 was approved, with <u>a motion, second and approval by consensus</u> to follow the guidelines for the meeting as previously distributed, and noted in "Discussion".</p>

	<i>c. Any member may move to amend the motion on the floor or to substitute that motion with a different motion</i>	
2. Approval of Minutes	<p>The minutes of UAS Special Meeting of July 31, 2020 were reviewed.</p> <p>The minutes of UAS Special Meeting of August 7, 2020 were reviewed.</p>	<p>The minutes of UAS Special Meeting of July 31, 2020 were approved.</p> <p>The minutes of UAS Special Meeting of August 7, 2020 were approved.</p>
3. Report from the Chair	Chair Ngassa reported that ECS acted on behalf of UAS to support the OEMC recommendations related to Winter 2021 Faculty Training and Online/Hybrid Course Offerings. Additional information is posted on Shore and the Faculty Governance website.	
4. Report from the Provost	Provost Cimitile thanked everyone for their work, and provided additional information on the daily self-assessment requirement, with Ed Aboufadel adding specifics on plans for implementation. The Provost further responded to questions related to data collection/privacy, COVID-19 Communication, and faculty support. Additional questions were addressed from the floor.	
5. Report from the Student Senate	Student Senate President Szczepaniak reported that more communication to students regarding the attendance policy is needed. He further suggested that reaching out to students who have opted out of attending GVSU during fall semester would be beneficial. Provost Cimitile noted that the Dean of Students Office will be contacting students and distributing additional information to them next week.	

<p>6. New Business</p>	<p>a. The report of the working group on recommendations for the UASUAS Assessment of GVSU Fall 2020 preparation that was distributed earlier was presented. The following motion was read into the record and seconded.</p> <p><i>The University Academic Senate, pursuant to its responsibility "to deal with any academic issue or faculty concern" (BOT 3.1.4), respectfully offers the following acknowledgements and recommendations to the President and the Provost.</i></p> <p><i>a. We recognize the gravity of the public health emergency presented by the COVID-19 pandemic and the dilemma facing university leaders of mitigating risk while balancing an array of threats to lives and livelihoods as well as to the integrity of the university as an institution.</i></p> <p><i>b. We express gratitude for the extraordinary efforts of administrators and members of the faculty and staff in working throughout the summer to plan and to provide for the resumption of socially-distanced face-to-face instruction in the Fall 2020 semester.</i></p> <p><i>c. We trust that decisions are being made on the basis of emerging scientific data, and we call upon decision-makers at every level to guard against the "sunk cost fallacy," lest decisions to pursue a course of action--in particular, the implementation of socially-distanced face-to-face instruction--are driven by resources, time, and energy that have already been expended.</i></p> <p><i>d. We emphasize that many of the plans we made in May and June about conditions in the Fall, based on the hope that the pandemic would be better contained, need to be continuously reevaluated and revised in light of facts on the ground and new information about contagion and risk mitigation.</i></p> <p><i>e. We believe that "Pulse" survey data substantiates our impression that a significant proportion of the faculty believes that the threshold has already been reached at which it is necessary to accelerate retrenchment and to transition more face-to-face classes to fully online modalities, to the point that only those face-to-face classes that cannot be delivered online should go forward.</i></p> <p><i>f. We insist that deference is due to the independent judgment of instructors about whether socially-distanced face-to-face instruction is sustainable with respect not only to health and safety but also to pedagogical effectiveness and student success.</i></p> <p><i>g. We suggest that there is an advantage in communicating to the public that GVSU faculty have undertaken significant professional development in preparation for effective online teaching during the pandemic and that in many respects the pedagogical merits of online teaching compare favorably with those of socially-distanced face-to-face alternatives.</i></p> <p><i>h. With respect to pandemic response, we call for (i) collection</i></p>	<p>MOTION: The University Academic Senate, pursuant to its responsibility "to deal with any academic issue or faculty concern" (BOT 3.1.4), [p]lanning in the event of various foreseeable outcomes, including enrollment shortfalls, the collapse of state funding, or the reimposition of lockdown conditions.</p> <p>APPROVED 43 Yes; 5 No; 3 Abstain</p>
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protocols and follow-up procedures related to personal data to have clear and convincing rationales and (ii) evidence that robust safeguards are in place to protect and limit the use of that data, especially where compliance with health information privacy under HIPAA is concerned.

i. We seek not only transparency but also specificity with regard to past and ongoing budget expenditures related to the pandemic, burden-sharing across Divisions, and contingency planning in the event of various foreseeable outcomes, including enrollment shortfalls, the collapse of state funding, or the reimposition of lockdown conditions.

Discussion.

A point of order was called. More votes were cast than the number of eligible voting representatives at the meeting.

A motion was made and seconded calling for a re-vote of the original motion.

Upon further discussion, a motion was made and seconded to strike the last phrase in point e, removing *“to the point that only those face-to-face classes that cannot be delivered online should go forward.”*

MOTION: The University Academic Senate, pursuant to its responsibility "to deal with any academic issue or faculty concern" (BOT 3.1.4), [p]lanning in the event of various foreseeable outcomes, including enrollment shortfalls, the collapse of state funding, or the reimposition of lockdown conditions.
APPROVED 30 Yes; 11 No; 4 Abstain

MOTION: The University Academic Senate strikes the last phrase in point e, removing “to the point that only those face-to-face classes that cannot be delivered online should go forward.”
APPROVED 34 Yes; 4 No; 2Abstain

7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:06pm