

Grand Valley State University

Executive Committee of the Senate

Minutes of October 8, 2010

Present: Yatin Bhagwat, Roger Ferguson, Joe Godwin (ex officio), Bob Hendersen, Jon Jellema (ex officio), 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, Roy Winegar

Guests: Robert Adams, Kurt Ellenberger

The meeting was called to order at 3:04 pm. The Chair noted that Provost Davis is not able to attend the meeting today.

Agenda Items	Discussion	Action / Decisions
1. Approval of Agenda	The Agenda of October 8, 2010 was reviewed.	The agenda of October 8, 2010 was approved.
2. Approval of Minutes	The Minutes of September 24, 2010 were reviewed.	The Minutes of September 24, 2010 were approved as submitted.
3. Report of Chair	<p>a) The Chair reported that following up on a faculty recognition request made by ECS during the 2009-10 Academic Year, she will be sending a memo to Provost Davis regarding establishing a faculty honor recognition space, and will be recommending that an ideal space would be within the Mary Idema Pew Library Learning and Information Commons.</p> <p>b) The Chair reported that she attended an information session held by Robert Adams, UCC Chair, and Maria Cimitile, Officer for Academic Program and Curriculum Development, regarding guidelines for online and hybrid programming.</p>	
4. Report of Provost	<p>No Report</p> <p>ECS members raised questions from the floor regarding administrative costs at the university, following up on the information presented at an earlier meeting.</p>	
5. Report of the Student Senate President	<p>a) Student Senate President Martus reported that Themes were discussed at the Student Senate.</p> <p>b) Student Senate President Martus reported that Last Lecture series is scheduled for November 11, 2010, and the nomination process will begin next week for speakers.</p> <p>c) Student Senate President Martus reported that he attended the Pioneer celebration commending the pioneer class of Grand Valley.</p>	
6. Report from the Standing Committee Chairs / Task Forces / Committee	a) Robert Adams, Chair of the University Curriculum Committee, presented an overview of the proposed special topics course policy that was distributed earlier, and answered questions raised from the floor.	

Representatives	<p>A <u>Motion was made and seconded</u> to add the following language to the <u>Faculty Handbook</u> as item 11 under Section 2.04.A:</p> <p><u>Special Topics Course Policies</u></p> <p>a. A special topics course is intended to allow a unit to offer a course on a topic that is not covered in a regular course in any program at GVSU.</p> <p>b. A special topics course may be offered for various reasons. For example a new visiting faculty bringing new expertise to a unit, student interest in a topic increasing enough to temporarily offer a course on a topic, a unit wishing to pilot test a reconfiguration of an existing course, a unit wanting to judge the potential interest in a given topic before proposing a new course.</p> <p>c. A unit may offer a given special topic a maximum of three times. If a unit wishes to schedule the topic for the third time, then it must create and submit a New Course Proposal in the online curriculum development system concurrent with the third offering.</p> <p>b) Ellen Schendel reported that the next Faculty Governance Newsletter will be distributed on or about October 15, 2010.</p> <p>Discussion on Faculty Governance coverage in <u>The Forum</u> will be held at a future ECS meeting.</p>	<p>MOTION: The Executive Committee of the Senate forwards the proposed special topics course policy to the University Academic Senate as presented at this meeting, with a recommendation to approve.</p> <p>APPROVED Unanimously</p>	
7. Old Business	a) Faculty Survey on Governance Planning	No Discussion	
8. New Business	<p>a) A discussion was held on what the next steps should be regarding the FPPC and FTLCAC proposal to revise faculty personnel policy regarding the proposed revisions adopted by UAS at its March 26, 2010 meeting regarding the Effective Teaching language in the <u>Administrative Manual</u>, Chapter 4, Section 2.9.1.A (replicated in Chapter 4 of the <u>Faculty Handbook</u>) as edited by ECS at its September 17, 2010 meeting (Tabled at UAS October 1, 2010 meeting) and how this information should be re-presented to the UAS on October 29, 2010.</p> <p>It was noted that there are differences in what is in the <u>Administrative Manual</u> and what is in the <u>Faculty Handbook</u>. Chapter 4, however, is the same.</p> <p>It was further noted that when dealing with standing committee recommendations, the past practice has been to send the material back to the standing committee when further clarification is needed. However, it was also noted that this is not always the practice.</p>		

Since this item was Tabled at the last UAS meeting, a Motion will be needed to Untable the Item for further discussion at the October 29, 2010 meeting.

- b) The Chair presented an overview of the process for proposing revisions to the Faculty Handbook language regarding referendums that was distributed earlier. Discussion.

It was agreed by consensus to form a Referendum Policy Committee. Chair Mullendore agreed to chair this committee, and reported that: John Bender expressed his willingness to serve on the committee; Jarrett Martus, Student Senate President, would be invited to serve; and Provost Davis will be asked to nominate someone from her office.

During discussion, Figen Mikek also volunteered to serve on this committee.

A recommendation was made from the floor to also have a representative from the original Referendum Task Force serve on the committee.

Another recommendation was made to have an additional member on this committee who is not an ECS/UAS member.

ECS Members were asked to send names of any nominees to serve on this committee to Chair Mullendore by Friday, October 15, 2010.

Several questions were raised from the floor for this group's consideration, including:

- how the Referendum process would be handled if there were concerns about the President and his performance, especially since the Referendum Task Force was appointed by the President.
- whether a referendum can be held if the Faculty Senate is dysfunctional, as in the instance of a recall petition.
- whether the process used will result in inappropriate pressure placed on the Student Senate members, and concerns about involving them in what may be a purely faculty matter.
- whether the Referendum process is a legislative process with a defined procedures/outcomes or a political instrument to further specific agendas.

MOTION: The Executive Committee of the Senate agrees to form a Referendum Policy Committee comprised of members as noted at this meeting.

APPROVED by Consensus.

ECS Members were asked to send names of any nominees to serve on this committee to Chair Mullendore by Friday, October 15, 2010.

	<p>c) Discussion was heard on the language at Section 2.01.2.a.viii in the <u>Faculty Handbook</u>, stating that “at least twice each year the ECS will arrange a faculty forum.</p> <p>A Motion was made and seconded to amend this language to read, to permit ECS to arrange a Faculty Forum as needed.”</p> <p>d) Discussion was heard regarding updating the faculty governance strategic planning document and how it can be integrated into the University Strategic Plan.</p> <p>A <u>Motion was made and Seconded</u> to further develop the Faculty Governance Strategic Plan and integrate it into the University Strategic Plan.</p> <p>A recommendation was made to create a small working group to review the alignment of the Faculty Governance Strategic Plan with the University Strategic Plan. Members working on this initiative include Bob Hendersen, Kristine Mullendore, and Ellen Schendel. UAS members will be queried if they are interested in serving on this working group.</p>	<p>MOTION: The Executive Committee of the Senate approves the recommended change to the <u>Faculty Handbook</u> language at Section 2.01.2.a.viii as discussed at this meeting. APPROVED Unanimously.</p> <p>MOTION: The Executive Committee of the Senate supports further development of the Faculty Governance Strategic Plan and integrating it into the University Strategic Plan. APPROVED Unanimously.</p>	
9. Adjournment	The meeting was adjourned at 5:00pm.	Senators were reminded there is not a meeting on October 15, 2010 or October 22, 2010.	