

Grand Valley State University

University Academic Senate

Minutes of November 22, 2019

- Present:** Christine Beaudoin, Hannah Benoit (Student Senate), Yatin Bhagwat, Matthew Boelkins, Shawn Bultsma (Vice Chair), Alisha Davis, Denise de la Rosa, Kelly Dowker (Student Senate), Brian Deyo, Kurt Fanning, Shirley Fleischmann, Regis Fox (for Kathryn Remlinger), Ryan Fritz (Student Senate), Gary Greer, Raymond Higbea (for Michelle Wooddell), Barbara Hooper, David Huizen, Naoki Kanaboshi, Courtney Karasinski, Brian Kipp, Tara Kneeshaw, Brian Lakey, Laura Lenkey (for Jody Vogelzang), Salvador Lopez-Arias, George Lundskow, Hazel McClure, Amy McFarland, Jared Moore, Felix Ngassa (Chair), Charles Pazdernik, Karyn Rabourn, Wil Rankinen, Dawn Richiert, Ashley Rosener (for Elizabeth Psyck), Madeleine Samuels (Student Senate), Georgette Sass, Patrick Shan, Melanie Shell-Weiss, Paul Sicilian, Kevin Strychar, Eric-John Szczepaniak (Student Senate President), Melissa Tallman, Christopher Toth, Joshua Veazey, Adrienne Wallace, Jeff Ward, Joy Washburn, Deana Weibel, Alexander Wilson, Michelle Wooddell
- Absent:** Sean Lancaster, William Morison, Donald Paszek, Christopher Shaffer, Adrienne Wallace, Megan Woller-Skar
- Ex Officio:** Maria Cimitile, Ed Aboufadel
- Guests:** Annie Bélanger, Andrea Bostrom, Jeff Daniels, Bob Hollister, Anne Jbara, Mark Luttenton, Gavin Marlowe, Louis Moore, Marla Wick

The meeting was called to order at 3:00pm

Agenda Items	Discussion	Action / Decisions
1. Approval of Agenda	The Agenda of November 22, 2019 was reviewed.	The Agenda of November 22, 2019 was approved.
2. Approval of Minutes	The Minutes of October 25, 2019 were reviewed.	The Minutes of October 25, 2019 were approved.
3. Report from Chair	The Chair reported that the 7 th Teach-In held November 6 and 7 had increased participation from last year. He further reported that the next Fireside Chat is scheduled for December 6 at Holton-Hooker. He gave an update on ECS activity since the last meeting including a proposed change of charge from FTLCAC to FPPC and distribution of LIFT-MC. He announced that the third annual Senate Newsletter will be themed "Liberal Education for the 21 st Century" with additional information distributed later. He further noted that the Climate Survey deadline was extended. He provided a proposed schedule and future agenda items.	
4. Report from Provost	Provost Cimitile reported on the various university initiatives underway and noted that the material will be posted on the Provost's Office website. She further reported that she has convened a Digital Learning group and her office is developing Key Performance Metrics for each of the colleges, and has established a committee to identify ways to reduce the amount of paper distributed on campus. Questions were addressed from the floor.	
5. Report from Student Senate	Student Senate President Szczepaniak introduced student senators at	

	<p>the meeting. He noted various initiatives underway in Student Senate including hosting West Shore Community College, co-hosting a food drive, and encouraged all to send in nominations for IAmGV. He further reported that the State of the Student Senate is scheduled for January 16, 2020 at 4:30pm.</p>	
<p>6. New Business</p>	<p>a. Louis Moore presented a request for Senate endorsement of MLK Jr. commemoration week. #NowIsTheTime</p> <p>The <u>motion</u> forwarded by the Executive Committee of the Senate to endorse the MLK Jr. Commemoration week was voted on.</p> <p>b. Annie Bélanger and Jeff Daniels led discussion on University Library Changes to Open Access Fund. Questions were addressed from the floor.</p> <p>c. Andrea Bostrom presented an overview of the Graduate Council memo on Policy for Culminating Experience Projects (CEP) that was distributed earlier.</p> <p>The <u>motion</u> forwarded by the Executive Committee of the Senate to support the Graduate Council recommendation on the Policy for Culminating Experience Projects (CEP) was voted on.</p> <p>d. Bob Hollister presented an overview of the Faculty Salary and Benefit Committee’s Annual Salary Adjustment Request for 2020-21 that was distributed earlier.</p> <p>The <u>motion</u> forwarded by the Executive Committee of the Senate to support the Faculty Salary and Budget Committee Annual Salary Adjustment Request for 2020-21 was voted on. Questions were addressed from the floor.</p> <p>e. The Chair presented an overview of the Student Senate Resolution on Creation of Prayer/Meditation Center at the CHS that was distributed earlier and provided a modified version for consideration which reads: <i>“The Executive Committee of the Senate supports the ongoing use of university resources to provide a prayer/meditation center on each of the three campuses”.</i> Discussion.</p>	<p>MOTION: The University Academic Senate endorses the MLK Jr. Commemoration Week. APPROVED Unanimously</p> <p>MOTION: The University Academic Senate supports the Graduate Council recommendation on the Policy for Culminating Experience Projects (CEP). APPROVED Unanimously</p> <p>MOTION: The University Academic Senate supports the Faculty Salary and Budget Committee Annual Salary Adjustment Request for 2020-21. APPROVED with 1 Abstention</p> <p>MOTION: The University Academic Senate supports the ongoing use of university resources to provide a prayer/meditation center on each of the three campuses.” APPROVED Unanimously</p>

	<p>A <u>motion</u> forwarded by the Executive Committee of the Senate to with a modified resolution of “The Executive Committee of the Senate supports the ongoing use of university resources to provide a prayer/meditation center on each of the three campuses.” was voted on.</p> <p>f. The Chair presented an overview of the Student Senate Resolution Opposing the Grand River Water Project that was distributed earlier and provided the Faculty Senate motion for consideration which reads:</p> <p><i>The Grand Valley State University Academic Senate, on behalf of the Faculty, formally state our opposition to the Grand River Waterway Project that proposes to extensively dredge portions of the lower Grand River, based on potential to harm the student learning and living experience, and substantial scientific evidence (for a review, see O’Keefe 2019) that dredging would harm the river ecosystem. With over two kilometers of river frontage adjacent to the Allendale Campus and over ten square kilometers of woodland along the river, the Grand River is a tremendous living laboratory for many departments and programs including but not limited to Biology, Geology, Anthropology, Natural Resources Management, and the Honors College. Faculty regularly engage students in immersive classroom and research experiences and many classes are involved in long-term studies in the river floodplain and ravines. Alteration of the river and riparian zone as a result of dredging and subsequent erosion could negatively impact student learning outcomes. The proposed dredging would alter the riverbed, dewater important riparian wetlands and habitat adjacent to the river, potentially release contaminants stored in the sediments, destroy historic structures and archeological sites, and increase shoreline erosion caused by large boat traffic. The University’s oldest sport, rowing, established in 1964 uses the Grand River as an athletic training and competitive venue. Under the proposed dredging project, the river would be unsafe as a venue as the racing shells can be capsized by swells of only 6 inches. Due to the significant harm to academic, athletic, and recreational student life at GVSU, the Faculty oppose the dredging proposal known as the Grand River Waterway Project. Discussion.</i></p> <p>The <u>motion</u> from the Executive Committee of the Senate Opposing the Grand River Water Project was voted on.</p>	<p>MOTION: The University Academic Senate supports formally opposing the Grand River Water Project as presented at the meeting. APPROVED with 1 Abstention</p>
7. Open Comment	Some endangered species in the Grand River were identified.	
8. Adjournment	The meeting adjourned at 4:44pm	

