

## **2010-11 University Academic Senate Report**

**May 11, 2011**

At its April 22, 2011, meeting, the Executive Committee of the University Academic Senate elected from the new candidates: Figen Mekik to serve as Chair and Cory DicCarlo to serve as Vice Chair. Figen and Cory will bring a fresh perspective and new energy to the shared governance approach employed here at Grand Valley and will serve well as the effective voice of faculty governance on behalf of Grand Valley faculty. They will continue working toward our shared goal of enhancing the already high quality educational experience of our students at Grand Valley through an increasingly efficient and effective shared governance processes.

The 2010-11 Academic Year was a busy and productive one for faculty governance, with either ECS or UAS, and sometimes both, meeting nearly every Friday. However, it is important to also remember that faculty governance includes the members of the 2010-11 UAS Standing Committees as well as the other academic and university committees – representing the wide range and individual faculty member commitment to service necessary to successfully achieve Grand Valley’s mission. This high level of faculty commitment is essential to developing, evaluating, and fostering the initiatives of Grand Valley faculty and staff. These committee members are the people who do the daily work of governance – stepping up as needed to serve the best interests of Grand Valley and its students – and their service should be acknowledged and highly valued. The work of the 2010-11 standing committees of UAS was reported in their annual reports and those are posted to the faculty governance web site and available for your review at: <http://www.gvsu.edu/facultygov/year-end-reports-from-standing-committees-39.htm> .

The UAS work completed this year that will most likely have the longest and most widely felt impact on Grand Valley is its approval of language proposed by the FPPC and FTLCAC updating the Administrative Manual policies regarding “effective teaching,” which language is also replicated in Chapter 4 of the Faculty Handbook. This language has been approved by the Board of Trustees. It updates Grand Valley’s statement of its expectations of faculty in the aspect of their work lives upon which Grand Valley places the highest value – teaching. The approved language provides greater clarity as to the expectations for faculty performance and evaluation in personnel actions, and aligns it with the current university strategic plan.

Other major governance activities for the 2010-11 Academic Year include:

- Continued development of updates to our Academic Integrity policies and procedures by the Academic Standards and Policies Committee – following up the work of a task force report made during the 2009-10 Academic Year. That work has been reported out to, and accepted by, ECS, and APSC has been charged, in coordination with the Dean of Student’s Office, University Counsel and the Student Senate, with developing language that would implement the policies proposed in the APSC report
- Development and UAS approval of a strategic plan for faculty governance aligned with the university’s strategic plan – which is available on the faculty governance web site
- Faculty Personnel Issues
  - Revision of the policy regarding promotions to Full Professor and Senior Librarian to change the timing of reviews to the fall semester and change the eligibility to six years (from seven),
  - Revisions to the Grievance process, moving the Provost’s review until the end of the process.
- Curriculum

- UCC review of remedial course offerings. Offering developmental courses was found to be helpful in influencing students' academic success, and persistence.
- Restatement and revision of the Special Topics Course policy,
- Implementing the new online review process and New Program/Academic Unit Council and that Council took the following actions:
  - Approved Plans
    - Changing engineering emphases to majors
    - Juvenile Justice minor
  - Approved Proposals for development
    - Arabic Minor
    - Masters in S-L Pathology
    - College of Education Ed.D Professional doctorate
- Faculty Salary and Budget Actions
  - Annual Salary recommendation.
  - Reviewed Faculty Workload Plan review regarding course reassignment time practices within units/college, including the Honors College and Graduate programs.
- General Education Committee
  - Approved moving Basic Skills requirements into the General Education program.
  - Junior level course writing requirement of WRT 305 removed.
  - Approved reduction in the number of Themes courses from three to two.
  - Continued discussion of other General Education program revisions.
- Graduate Council Proposals
  - Approved proposed Graduate Faculty policy and policies related to student work including standards for projects and dissertations/theses.

Additional ECS/UAS Actions include:

- Supporting faculty participation in the University Climate study and HERI survey.
- Faculty Handbook language revisions, including removal of the requirement to hold faculty governance forums each term and revisions to the roles of the URC and R & D Committees.
- Approval of BCoIS unit level personnel processes.

- Acting as a focus group for the University Development Office's Faculty/Staff Campaign.

Some of the items that are carried over to the 2011-12 Academic Year are:

- Completing the work in collaboration with Human Resource Office and the Office for Inclusion and Equity on inclusion systems that will be incorporated into faculty personnel decisions.
- Supporting the implementation of the newly adopted revisions to the personnel policies, new program/academic unit review process and changes under the new effective teaching language, including the consideration of the role of Student Evaluation of Teaching in these reviews and other aspects of faculty personnel.
- Completing the consideration of final plans for new program initiatives, such as the proposed Master of Arts in Philanthropy and Nonprofit Leadership, a Master of Arts in History, and the Final Plan for a Religious Studies major and minor.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristine Botsford Mullendore,  
2010-11 ECS/UAS Chair

Nancy Levenburg  
2010-11 ECS/UAS Vice Chair