

# Grand Valley State University

## Executive Committee of the Senate

### Minutes of March 16, 2007

**Present:** David Bair, Charles Baker-Clark (for Kristine Mullendore), John Bender, Yatin Bhagwat, Gayle Davis (ex officio), Rob Franciosi (Chair), Joe Godwin (ex officio), Rita Grant, Joe Helgert, Paul Leidig, Jean Martin, Melissa Morison (for Robert Hendersen), Jean Nagelkerk (ex officio), John Peck, Robert Schoofs, Kathleen Underwood, Jeroen Wagendorp, Don Williams

**Guests:** Steve Glass, President Thomas Haas, Judy Whippis

Agenda Items	Discussion	Action / Decisions
1. Approval of Agenda	The agenda of March 16, 2007 was reviewed	The agenda of March 16, 2007 was approved.
2. Approval of Minutes	The Minutes of February 16, 2007 were reviewed.	The minutes of February 16, 2007 were approved.
3. Report of Chair	<p>a) The Chair reported that while ECS is not scheduled at this time to meet on Friday, March 30, there is a likelihood that a meeting will be called if the FPPC Recommendation on Tenure Standards are ready for review.</p> <p>b) The Chair reported that the Salary Newsletter was distributed to all faculty via email.</p> <p>c) The Chair reminded the Senators that the Faculty Governance elections will be held soon. Faculty interested in serving on committees should contact their Dean's office.</p> <p>d) The Student Senate has requested that the Chair urge faculty to encourage their students to run for Student Senate office.</p> <p>e) In response to a question from the floor on whether a person on sabbatical can serve on committees, the Chair responded that it depends on the specific college bylaws, but most faculty members give up their committee service when on sabbatical.</p>	
4. Report of Provost	<p>a) Provost Davis reported that state budget shortfall is getting larger with another 4% decline in revenue. She also reported that the governors proposed 2% tax on services is not expected to pass favorably through the state legislature.</p> <p>b) Provost Davis reported that the second of four interviews for the College of Health Professions Dean position was completed today. A successful search is expected as all candidates have exceptional credentials.</p> <p>c) Provost Davis reported that President Haas has responded to the recent editorials in <i>The Grand Rapids Press</i> about the Board of Trustee approval for certain building projects. Faculty are</p>	

	encouraged to submit letters to The Press since responses from individuals are restricted to having 1 published only every sixty days.	
5. Report of Student Senate President	No Report	
6. New Business	<p>a) A request to change the <u>University Assessment Committee Bylaws</u> was presented. It is the intention of the committee to bring more service unit representation to their committee since there are service areas that are regularly evaluated and assessed. Discussion.</p> <p>it was <u>moved and seconded to approve</u> the changes the University Assessment Committee Bylaws, as amended at this meeting, and forwarding them to the University Academic Senate.</p> <p>b) A request to change the <u>Pew Faculty Teaching and Learning Advisory Committee Bylaws</u> was discussed. The change requested is intended to eliminate the evaluation of the FTLC administrative staff, and their effectiveness, by the committee.</p> <p>A <u>motion was made and seconded to approve</u> the changes to the Pew Faculty Teaching and Learning Advisory Committee as presented at this meeting.</p> <p>c) The College of Interdisciplinary Studies Bylaws were presented, reviewed, and discussed. Recommendations were made to bring them more closely in line with other colleges, and the <u>Faculty Handbook</u>.</p> <p>d) The Prospectus for a Religious Studies Program was reviewed and discussed. Suggestions were made to strengthen and clarify the prospectus. The ECS Chair will send material on the Religious Studies Program to the UCC and FSBC for their information and review.</p> <p>e) The Prospectus for an Interdisciplinary Minor in Environmental Studies was reviewed and discussed. Suggestions were made to strengthen and clarify the prospectus. The ECS Chair will send material on the Prospectus for an Interdisciplinary Minor in Environmental Studies to the UCC and FSBC for their information</p>	<p><b>MOTION:</b> The Executive Committee of the Senate approves the proposed changes to the University Assessment Committee Bylaws, as amended at this meeting, and forwards them to the University Academic Senate for their action. <b>Approved Unanimously.</b></p> <p><b>MOTION:</b> The Executive Committee of the Senate approves the proposed changes to the Pew Faculty Teaching and Learning Advisory Committee Bylaws, as presented at this meeting, and forwards them to the University Academic Senate for their action. <b>Approved Unanimously.</b></p> <p>The recommended changes to the College of Interdisciplinary Studies will be incorporated into the document and resubmitted for review.</p> <p>The ECS Chair will send material on the Religious Studies Program to the UCC and FSBC for their information and review.</p> <p>The ECS Chair will send material on the Prospectus for an Interdisciplinary Minor in Environmental Studies to the UCC and FSBC for their information and review.</p>

	and review.	
8. Adjournment	The meeting adjourned at 4:27pm	

**From:** Rob Franciosi  
**To:** Haight, Lisa  
**Date:** 2/13/2007 12:28 PM  
**Subject:** Fwd: Larry Burns e-mail to FSBC

>>> Lawrence Burns 1/20/2007 11:10 AM >>>  
Good morning Colleagues--

I'm sitting here thinking that perhaps my Freudian slip in referring to the motion during our recent FSBC meeting as the "Emotion" Overload Motion might be quite apt.

ECS was appreciative of our efforts aimed at amending the motion. In particular they responded favorably to the "buffet" options. As best I can tell the following statements are probably very close to unanimous within the ECS group:

- 1) Faculty can, and are asked to teach Overload courses.
- 2) The existing policy facilitates unfair advantages in negotiated compensation for Overload compensation.
- 3) Seeking a solution to this circumstance is considered worthwhile.

At the same time, there were a large number contentions raised and at times these seemed contradictory:

- 1) The number of faculty teaching in an "emergency" overload situation is too few and the circumstances in each case are too idiosyncratic to warrant a set Emergency Overload Policy.
- 2) The motion as written is too restrictive of the Provost/Dean to respond on a case-by-case basis and to appropriately set compensation according to the circumstances (is it an easy course for the faculty member to pick up, is it an entirely new prep, etc.).
- 3) The proposed level of pay is too high--and it is feared that it will result in Unit Heads and Deans relying on the lower salaried TT faculty to teach in emergency overload situations--so we should consider setting the rate much lower--perhaps equal to the rate currently paid to Visiting Adjuncts to teach in comparable emergency overload situations.
- 4) The motion needs a much more explicit definition of "emergency" perhaps starting with only identified 'medical' emergencies?
- 5) The motion needs more latitude in the definition of "emergency." As previously discussed, what about chronic situations where a given unit/department routinely requires its faculty to teach overloads due to a failure to attract/fill new positions?

This motion was intended to be a simple amendment to antiquated Overload Policy language in the current handbook. Unfortunately, in reality it appears to further polarize the contentious and highly charged workload situation. Faculty's emotions rise to the surface very quickly at the notion of someone in a 3-3 teaching situation getting paid for an "Overload" when someone else in a 4-4 situation isn't getting paid for what thus appears to be their extra course assignment(s).

The motion appears to have clear support for its premise and collective acknowledgment of unfair negotiating practices within and between Units/Departments related to Overload teaching. However, I am highly doubtful that any Emergency Overload motion can be adopted by ECS until the larger and significantly more contentious issues surrounding workload uniformity at GVSU are resolved.

Most respectfully,

Larry Burns  
Chair, FSBC

To: Rob Franciosi/ Chair ECS  
From: Pat Parker/Chair FTLC Advisory Committee  
Date: February 23, 2007

As per your request to review the description of the FTLC Advisory Committee as stated in the faculty handbook, the Committee met and unanimously recommended the following changes to the Faculty Handbook, Section 4, STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE UAS under g) iv) :

1. Deletion of Item H): Annually evaluate the effectiveness of the Pew FTLC Administrative staff – this no longer should be the function of the Committee.
2. Modification of current item i - replace the word “evaluate” with “review”.  
i) Review annually the effectiveness of the Pew FTLC program activities, and report results to ECS/UAS.

This is our proposal for changes to the handbook regarding the FTLC Advisory Committee. Please let me know if you need additional information or clarification on the above before submitting it to ECS/UAS for review.

*approved ECS*  
*3/16/07*

## Rationale for changes to UAC Bylaws

Rob,

It has become clear to the UAC that assessment at GVSU goes well beyond just assessing student learning outcomes. We also recognize that is important to maintain connections between assessments occurring in service units that support students and academic programs so that assessment at GVSU is maintained within a workable framework. Further, our responsibilities identify that we are to oversee assessment by reviewing assessment plans, progress reports, and self-studies for all academic majors, Academic Resources, and Special Programs (the last two represent service units). To this end, the University Assessment Committee has identified a need to increase representation from service units. In the fall semester, we will be receiving both academic and service unit assessment reports and we would like to have service unit representatives identified from the major service areas participate in reviewing and offering comments for the service unit reports. This past fall, we invited 4 service unit representatives as consultants in the review process for service unit plans and found their input and interactions very useful. Attached you will find a modification to the By-Laws regarding membership in the University Assessment Committee that we request the ECS and UAS consider before the end of the year if possible.

Further, the UAC has recognized that the current responsibilities focus on overseeing "assessing student learning outcomes". We believe that given that assessment goes well beyond student learning outcomes. Further, current identified responsibilities of the UAC include reviewing self-studies; which the committee recognizes as an opportunity for the unit to examine its function beyond just student learning outcomes. Therefore, we also have amended the responsibilities to represent the broader spectrum of assessment we recognize as important for continued program improvement.

Thanks for your time and attention this important issue.

Regards,  
Stephen

Dr. Stephen Burton  
Integrated Science Coordinator;  
Assistant Professor of Biology  
320 Henry Hall  
Grand Valley State University  
Allendale, MI 49401  
Phone: (616)-331-3456  
email: [burtonst@gvsu.edu](mailto:burtonst@gvsu.edu)

NCA GVSU Self-Study Steering Subcommittee Member  
[www.gvsu.edu/ncaseifstudy](http://www.gvsu.edu/ncaseifstudy)

## CURRENT BYLAWS

### h. University Assessment Committee (UAC)

i. **Faculty Membership:** Faculty membership of the UAC consists of seven faculty members from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, two from Seidman College of Business, one from each of the remaining colleges, one from the library, and one service unit representative appointed by the Provost from Academic Resources and Special Programs, Academic Services and Information Technology, or Student Services. Academic and service unit representatives serve three-year staggered terms beginning at the end of the winter semester.

ii. **Student Membership:** One student representative selected by the Student Senate for a term of one year.

iii. **Administration Membership:** The Director of the Pew Faculty Teaching and Learning Center ex officio, non-voting and the Provost or designee ex officio, non-voting.

iv. **Responsibilities:** The UAC's primary responsibility is to oversee the process of assessing student learning outcomes. It does so by reviewing assessment plans, progress reports, and self-studies for all academic majors, Academic Resources, and Special Programs.

## UPDATED BYLAWS

### h. University Assessment Committee (UAC)

#### i. Membership:

**I** **ACADEMIC UNIT REPRESENTATION:** Faculty membership of the UAC consists of seven faculty members from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, two from Seidman College of Business, one from each of the remaining colleges, and one from the Library. Academic unit representatives will vote on issues directly related to assessing academic programs. They will serve in an advisory capacity for issues associated with assessing service units.

**II** **SERVICE UNIT REPRESENTATION:** Service unit membership of the UAC consists of two representatives from the Advising Resource/Advising Council, one from Student Services and one from Academic Services/Information Technology, appointed by the Provost with recommendation from the vice presidents responsible for the preceding groups. An additional at-large representative from any of the above groups or Public Broadcasting, Alumni Relations, or Graduate Studies and Grants Administration will also be appointed by the Provost if desired. Service unit representatives will vote on issues directly related to assessing service units. They will serve in an advisory capacity for issues associated with assessing academic programs.

Academic and service unit representatives serve three-year staggered terms beginning at the end of the winter semester.

ii. Student Membership: One student representative is selected by the Student Senate for a term of one year.

iii. Administration Membership: The Director of the Pew Faculty Teaching and Learning Center ex officio, non-voting and the Provost or designee ex officio, non-voting.

iv. Responsibilities: The UAC's primary responsibilities are to oversee and support the process of unit self-assessment (including assessing student learning outcomes). It does so by reviewing assessment plans, progress reports, and self-studies for all academic majors, academic units, and service units.