

Detailed ECS Notes from 02/10/2023

Report from the Chair

- *On the UAS Newsletter 2023:* The theme is *Lakers Ready for Equity and Sustainability*. The deadline to submit an article to Chair Ngassa is March 15.
- *On the Earthquake in Turkey and Syria:* The devastating earthquake in Turkey and Syria and to a limited extent Lebanon and Egypt has affected, directly or indirectly, many of our faculty/staff/students. Some of our faculty colleagues, Dr. Feryal Alayont, Dr. Giray Aslim, Dr. Fatma Pir Cakmak, Dr. Atilla Ozgur Cakmak, Dr. Filiz Dogru, Dr. Figen Mekik, Dr. Mehmet Sozen, with ancestry from turkey, have written requesting support to the earthquake relief in Turkey. The GVSU Turkish faculty members's fundraiser can be accessed by going [here](#).
- *On the Faculty Awards Convocation:* The Faculty Awards Convocation will be held today, February 14 at 4pm.
- *On the Next Meeting of ECS on February 17, 2023:* The agenda for the ECS meeting in February 17, 2023 includes discussions on University Academic Senate/Equity and Inclusion Committee (UAS/EIC) involvement with the Teach-In, the Faculty Personnel Policy Committee (FPPC) Memo on FPPC Membership Update, the FPPC Memo on Modification to SG 3.07.C, the Laker Impression of Faculty Teaching Management Committee (LIFT-MC) Memo on Review and Feedback on Modifying Open-ended Questions on LIFT Forms, the LIFT-MC Memo on Review and Feedback on Monitoring Response Rates, the Graduate Council (GC) Memo on Independent Study Compensation, and the General Education Committee (GEC) Memo on Creation of Subcommittees for Curriculum and Assessment.

Report from the Provost

- *On the Earthquake in Turkey and Syria:* It is important to sit with our emotions.
- *On the Higher Education Summit for Climate Change:* Provost Mili attended the summit, where universities shared what they are doing in terms of climate change, including how they are being intentional with money and how universities are ensuring that facilities are sustainable and how they are using their carbon footprint. In many aspects, GVSU is doing more than others.
- *On the Academic Technology Advisory Committee:* A question was asked about whether this committee, which has elected members, will go away in favor of a committee appointed by SLT. ATAC focuses on academic affairs, whereas the University Technology Council focuses on the University as a whole. The two committees have different roles. ATAC is part of the governance structure and cannot be disbanded.

Report from the Student Senate President

- *On the Constitutional Taskforce:* This taskforce is meeting to propose new language for governing documents.
- *On the United Student Government Conference:* Student Senate will attend the United Student Government Conference.
- *On the State of the Student Body:* The State of the Student Body will be on February 16 at 5pm in the Pere Marquette room in the Kirkhof Center.

New Business

- *On the Presentation on the Laker Lines:* Lisa Haynes reviewed the history of the transportation system at GVSU. GVSU and the Rapid have had a 20-year partnership. GVSU has provided transportation between campuses for more than 25 years. Laker Line Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) service began fall 2020 with larger capacity buses, level access for easier boarding, signal priority at traffic lights, and on-board wifi. Laker Line BRT funding is 77% federal, 20% state, 3% Rapid. GVSU pays per bus per hour. The Laker Line and Silver Line have shared bus stations in Grand Rapids. GVSU students, faculty, and staff do not pay fares on any of the Rapids' fixed routes. The Laker Line runs with 10-15-minute frequency. There have been changes in bus

service since the pandemic: decrease in ridership across the nation by 30%. We are making steady progress in ridership across the region, and need to determine the new threshold due to remote and hybrid classes, flexible work schedules and people making fewer trips. Park and transportation have combined into a single unit, as they impact one another. A question was asked about the reduction in the number of stops, and whether there is a plan to return to old policy and have stops and drop-offs by request. Lisa said she will ask. There are federal mandates about how close the stops can be. There was a question about whether the bus could go westward toward Holland to have a real metro area bus service. This could be suggested to the Rapid. This is being studied by West Michigan Transit Linkages. A question was asked about plans to increase bussing capacity for evening transportation. As we continue to grow downtown, this will be considered.

- *On the Update from the FARES Taskforce:* BOT policy provides a formula for faculty representation on UAS, and has fixed apportionment of seats on ECS. This has not changed since the University was reorganized in 2004, with the exception of the reorganization resulting in CECI, which carried over the 2 seats from the previous colleges. If number of representatives from professional colleges increases, the number of representatives from CLAS will increase to match this number based on a 50% principle. The taskforce proposal recommends the following. Expand ECS by adding one member each for CHP, CLAS, PCEC, and the AFAC chair. Continue to hard-code the apportionment in BOT policy rather than writing an apportionment formula. Eliminate the “additional criteria” policy that allocates seats between “liberal arts” and “professional” colleges. Write a policy, a rule that triggers a review of ECS apportionment at specified intervals. Add additional affiliate seat on UAS. Defer drafting BOT policy until an agreement in principle has been approved. Currently, there are 17 voting members on ECS (16 and 1 student), the proposal increases voting members to 21. Historically, the apportionment of ECS members relative to UAS members has been around 33%, if we make these changes it will be about 40%. When ECS and UAS first started, it was around 38%. Getting rid of the dichotomous language of professional schools vs CLAS shows that we are one, united University. Having more bodies on ECS will help spread out the workload that results from the taskforces that are created on ECS. Keeping the number to 21 makes it still a manageable group.
- *On the Student Senate Credit/No-Credit Policy:* This proposal would move the deadline to choose to take a class for credit/no-credit to the 75% tuition refund deadline. Student Senators met with the APSC chair, who said this would be fine as long as the Registrar has no issues. Student Senators met with the Registrar, who said if the deadline was pushed back there would be more time to process the applications. A question was asked about why not extend the deadline more, the answer was that applications need to be processed by time midterm grades and exams are due. It was noted that credit/no-credit doesn't change the course requirements, and some graduate schools may not look favorably on a lot of credit/no credit courses. It was also noted that students need to pass with a C for credit, not a C-, D+ or D. A motion to support with recommendation to UAS was unanimously passed.
- *On the Review of Proposal to Amend SG 2.05.2:* The proposal recommended removing the statement that new minors that consist solely of existing courses can be created by a program change request. These should go through NPC so they can be adequately resourced, and Deans need to be aware of these proposals. This will help position proposers to be successful. A motion to support with recommendation to UAS was unanimously passed.
- *On the Review and Discussion of Presentations on Faculty/Staff Departures:* There is concern that, although departures of certain groups are similar across the country, but this is still changing the culture of GVSU. In the past there was a continuity of service and sense of cohesiveness, when individuals would change. The AP committee had mentioned less connection with other people across the university. VP Bernal had mentioned a lack of a sense of belonging. As we see people leaving, some retired positions weren't replaced, then COVID happened, and we are still dealing with adjustments to changes. What can we do as a university to address the lack of cohesion, continuity of services, sense of belonging? It is taking longer to get responses across the university, even for chairs or deans. Each division is deciding what to do. In Academic Affairs, we are looking globally and recently per college. Some is morale, some is sense of belonging. Is this the right metric? We are working to understand what the issues are, and how they vary from place to place. Hiring is

an important component; we are reversing the trend of reducing the overall workforce of GVSU. Staff were overworked, some tasks were given to faculty, which may not be the ideal. One question during forums was ‘what is our change management strategy?’ As we change, and introduce initiatives, when will the change stop and what are we preserving? We have hired a GVSU alumnus to help articulate a change management strategy, which is getting close to being ready to share. This is helping understand the external forces pushing a need to change and the internal tensions. This will inform the strategy and the guiding principles we will use. ECS would like to continue to collect data on this, and would like percentages, in addition to raw numbers by college. Knowing reasons for departures, by college, also would be helpful.

- *On the Topic for Winter Faculty Forums:* The topic will be faculty workload. Tentative dates for the faculty forums are March 14 and 15.