

Detailed ECS Notes from 02/17/2023

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 Waiving of Prior Learning Credit Limit for the RN-BSN Program:* The Academic Policies and Standards Committee (APSC) unanimously approved the Kirkhof College of Nursing (KCON) proposal to be allowed to waive the prior learning credit limit and apply up to 32 credits for passing the NCLEX/RN exam at the discretion of the Unit for the RN to BSN students.
- *On the Winter 2023 Faculty Forums:* The topic will be workload, and the following are potential questions which could be used as prompts. What does faculty workload mean to you? Do we have inequities in faculty workload across units and across the university? What are the effects of class size on workload? How do we credit faculty for “nonstandard” assignments? How is reassigned time or release time earned? What is an ideal faculty workload? The forums will be held on Tuesday 3/14 from 10-11:30 and Wednesday 3/15 from 2:30-4. All faculty are encouraged to attend. More information about the virtual sessions and how to obtain the Zoom link will be shared in a separate message.
- *On the Next Meeting of ECS on February 24, 2023:* The agenda for the ECS meeting on February 24, 2023 includes discussion with Chris Swank on parking, discussion on the downtown living and learning center, discussion on active shooter response with Chief DeHaan, the Faculty Facilities Planning Advisory Committee (FFPAC) Memo on Facilities Services Membership, the FFPAC Memo on Wayfinding Issues in Building Interior Spaces, and the Affiliate Faculty Advisory Committee (AFAC) Memo on Affiliate Faculty Contract Length.

Report from the Provost

- *On the Faculty Awards Convocation:* The Faculty awards convocation held on Tuesday, February 14, was a success.
- *On the Earthquake in Turkey and Syria:* A vigil was held on Wednesday, February 15 for those impacted by the earthquake.
- *On the Shooting at Michigan State University:* A vigil was held for the MSU community following the State of the Student Body address on Thursday, February 16. In light of the shooting at MSU, the President is inviting everyone to two campus safety briefings on Thursday, February 23. At the Grand Rapids DeVos Center Campus, the safety briefing will take place at 1:00 p.m. in the Loosemore Auditorium. At the Allendale Campus, the safety briefing will take place at 3:00 p.m. in the Louis Armstrong Theatre at the Haas Center for Performing Arts.
- *On Accreditation:* Accreditation reviews for the master’s programs in public administration and speech-language pathology concluded this week.
- *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 Committee 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 Shooting at Michigan State University:* A vigil was held for the MSU community following the State of the Student Body address on Thursday. There was an impressive turnout. Students signed banners for MSU. Processing these events may be delayed in some and not resolved over the weekend. Students are supporting each other.

New Business

- *On the Discussion of UAS/EIC Involvement with the Teach-In:* The faculty lead for the Teach-In, Karen Gibson, shared some feedback about the 2022 Teach-In and some recommendations for future Teach-Ins. There is a recommendation for sessions to be hybrid as much as possible for the future, as hybrid events were robustly attended online. A suggestion was made for a 2-day event limited to the Pew and Allendale campuses, as the CHS security makes accessibility prohibitive, but it was noted that the security issues were before the new buildings on the Health Campus were built. Participation from UAS and Student Senate has declined over the years. It was recommended to reach out to other groups, such as social justice centers, I & E, and Student Affairs, to join UAS and Student Senate. Graduate students may also be interested in planning. Members of UAS should each reach out to 5 people who would be a good fit for presenting at the Teach-In. Perhaps there is a way to incentivize participation. Having more structure, such as setting a number of faculty participants, due dates, and a system for rotation maybe be helpful for soliciting involvement. There is a planning committee, but not a steering committee. There is a need to determine who has the authority to make decisions. The new hire in Student Affairs is adamant about making the Teach-In part of the first-year experience. The Teach-In is important, the event was created after a bias incident in student housing; faculty felt it was important. Many do not know this history.
- *On the Faculty Personnel Policy Committee (FPPC) Memo on FPPC Membership:* FPPC recommended allowing the Assistant Vice President for Human Resources to allow a designated representative to serve as an ex officio, non-voting member. There was a discussion of the importance of institutional knowledge, and concerns about what is lost when leadership can send representatives instead of attending personally. The motion to support with recommendation to UAS passed.
- *On the FPPC Memo on Modification to SG 3.07.C:* The proposal recommended investigating whether records, including scores, could be expunged, in addition to comments if they contain bias. The motion to support with recommendation to UAS passed.
- *On the LIFT-MC Memo on Review and Feedback on Modifying Open-ended Questions on LIFT Forms:* Kim McKee presented the highlights of the LIFT-MC recommendations on the Review and Feedback on Modifying Open-ended Questions on LIFT Forms that was distributed earlier. Additional discussion will be heard at the February 24 ECS meeting.
- *On the LIFT-MC Memo on Review and Feedback on Monitoring Response Rates:* Kim McKee presented an overview of the LIFT-MC recommendations on the Review and Feedback on Monitoring Response Rates that was distributed earlier. Additional discussion will be heard at the February 24 ECS meeting.
- *On the GC Recommendation on Independent Study Compensation:* GC indicated concerns about a single workload compensation policy for graduate and undergraduate independent studies, and requested to work collaboratively with FSBC on addressing independent study for graduate faculty. This will be a topic at the ECS summer retreat.
- *On the GEC Recommendation on the Creation of Subcommittees:* GEC had been charged with looking at the structure of the committee and considering the creation of subcommittees. After careful consideration, GEC decided to keep the committee structure as it is, as creating subcommittees might lead to unequal workloads among committee members. ECS thanked the committee for its work.