
Detailed Notes on the ECS Meeting October 10, 2025

Chair's Report

- *On the Teach-In:* The annual Teach-In will be held on November 12-13. Proposals to present are due October 20 and all faculty are encouraged to present and attend. More information about the Teach-In can be found on the website: <https://www.gvsu.edu/teach-in/>. From the Teach-In website: "*The purpose of Teach-In is for mutual education among students, faculty and staff and is intended to address topics related to inequality and systems of oppression, as well as social justice and liberation. The broad learning objectives of Teach-In: Power, Privilege, and Critical Conversations are to raise awareness, inform, create dialogue, and motivate action. We encourage contributions with an intersectional framework that takes into account the various ways that race, class, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, etc. impact lived experience.*"

Provost's Report

- *On Fall Break:* Fall Break will be held on Monday 10/20 and Tuesday 10/20. The rationale for having fall break was to support mental health. Faculty should not assign work or plan meetings to occur during Fall Break.
- *On the CLAS Dean Search:* Information on the CLAS Dean search can be found here: <https://www.dsgco.com/search/22543-gvsu-clas-dean/>.
- *On GVSU's Economic Impact:* GVSU has had a \$3 billion annual impact. See the economic impact report here: <https://www.gvsu.edu/economic-impact>.

New Business

- *On the Academic Technology Advisory Committee (ATAC) Bylaws:* Tom Pentecost, Chair of ATAC, and Bonnie Bowen, ex-officio member of ATAC, discussed the bylaws drafted by the members of ATAC, which has become a Standing Committee of the University Academic Senate. Discussion was held on the relationship between ATAC and the University Technology Council (UTC). ATAC is faculty-focused and UTC is broader, across the whole university. An ATAC member serves on UTC, and it is planned that there will be a UTC update at ATAC meetings. As UTC members can propose agenda items for UTC meetings, the member who serves on both ATAC and UTC will propose agenda items to UTC when issues surface in ATAC and need broader discussion. The ECS moved to place the ATAC bylaws on the UAS agenda.
- *On the Review and Discussion on Review and Discussion on Faculty Personnel Policy Committee (FPPC) Memo on External Advocate Program for Personnel Decisions:* The FPPC had discussed recommending an external advocate program for personnel decisions, as recommended by the Equity in Personnel Policies (EPP) Taskforce. This was discussed at ECS in October 2024, and ECS members and the Provost raised concerns about this potential program. The FPPC discussed these concerns and decided instead to recommend training for those involved in personnel processes. Trainings have been held for unit heads, and ECS members who are unit heads reported that the trainings were well done and helpful. The hope is that unit heads will share the information learned in the trainings with their departments. The word "training" was discussed and changed to "professional development." The ECS voted to support with recommendation to UAS.
- *On the Review and Discussion on the Online Education and Microcredential Council (OEMC) and University Curriculum Committee (UCC) Memo on Certificate Review:* This memo moves certificate review from UCC to OEMC. The ECS voted to put this memo on the UAS consent agenda.
- *On the Review and Discussion on Equity and Inclusion Committee (EIC) Memo on ex-officio Membership:* The EIC was charged to review its ex-officio membership and make recommendations. The EIC recommended changing "1 undergraduate and 1 graduate student" to "1 or 2 undergraduate or graduate students;" changing "selected" to "elected" for the AP committee and PSS union members; and updating the language to reflect current titles for the VP for People, Equity, and Culture; VP for Enrollment Development and College Futures, and VP for Student Affairs. The ECS voted to place this memo on the UAS consent agenda.
- *On the Review and Discussion on Charges to FPPC:* The ECS charges the FPPC to 1) Review the memo from the Affiliate Faculty Advisory Committee (AFAC) on faculty rank nomenclature in policy. Consider updates to the nomenclature (e.g., an alternative for "regular faculty") and make recommendations. 2) Develop infographics to facilitate understanding of tenure & Promotion process. 3) Discuss the sentence in the policy BOT 4.2.10.6, "Units shall, by majority vote of the unit, elect a Designate to carry out the Unit Head's responsibilities in cases where the Unit Head is either under consideration for a personnel action or the Unit Head is unable to serve." Provide clarification that the Designate should be selected by the dean and appointed after the unit votes to confirm selected designate rather than elected by a majority vote of the unit. Provide recommended policy language in a Word doc with

track change. 4) Review policy language and information available regarding faculty personnel decisions related to scholarly and creative activity requirements and make recommendations.

- *On the Review and Discussion on Charges to Faculty Facilities Planning Advisory Committee (FFPAC):* The ECS charges the FFPAC to 1) Develop documents for new committee members to facilitate understanding of classroom design (for example, furniture choices, room capacity, classroom layout, technology, safety). 2) Design a clear, concise survey of classroom issues to be used in fall 2027. Design a communication plan around the survey to enhance participation. Consider adding questions about office spaces into the survey. Includes a review of previous survey responses to ensure issues have been resolved. 3) Review bylaws language for relevance to current committee activities and make recommendations. Consider adding language about classroom issues and innovation survey, including timeline, construction, distribution, and follow-up. Add follow-up on closing the loop on survey issues. 4) During the classroom walk through, prepare a list of classroom spaces needing evaluation (e.g. for safety for teaching). 5) Examine the current state of charging stations for electric vehicles across all campuses and provide a report with possible recommendations.
- *On the Review and Discussion on Charges to UCC:* The ECS charges the UCC to 1) Review combined degree proposal and review processes for existing combined degree programs. 2) Work with FSBC and the members of the new program council on the process of review and approval of new programs. 3) Consider potential 12-month responsibilities/ activities of UCC (workflow over 12 months).
- *On the Review and Discussion on Charges to the Affiliate Faculty Advisory Committee:* The ECS charges the AFAC to 1) Review University policies to determine any clarifications about which apply to Affiliate faculty. Make recommendations as needed. 2) Prepare a study of affiliate faculty workload equity across colleges, including how workload is calculated and whether service, voting at meetings, and attendance at meetings are required or allowed. Evaluate the study results to determine if inequities exist and make recommendations for addressing inequities if possible. 3) Investigate whether the transition of an affiliate faculty member to a tenure-track position results in the loss of the affiliate position within the department and how this might impact qualified affiliate faculty members who apply for tenure-track positions. Investigate AFF to TT conversion pathways at GVSU and other institutions to identify and address barriers and opportunities for AFF who are qualified for TT positions. 4) Identify standing committees where affiliate voice is needed, and work with chairs of these committees to ensure affiliate voice is included in their work. 5) Review BOT 4.3.1 regarding termination of affiliate faculty, specifically in relation to 4.2.13 for tenure-track faculty. Consider recommending revised policy language for BOT 4.3.1.