
Detailed Notes on the ECS Meeting of January 23, 2026

Chair's Report

- *On Weekly Appointing Officer Calls:* The Chair and Vice Chair of UAS attend the calls, which center on updates to the state and federal landscape. There is broad representation from Academic Affairs, which includes the members of the Provost's Office and the Deans. These calls highlight that the administration is keeping abreast of what external factors could impact GVSU and planning accordingly. Updates can be found on the [website](#) of the Division of People, Equity, and Culture.
- *On Curricular Processes:* The New Programs and Academic Units Council met and discussed a plan to have a retreat to examine curricular processes to ensure a balance of efficiency and thoroughness.

Provost's Report

- *On the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration Week:* The Provost was disappointed that the events needed to be canceled due to weather. The keynote address is being rescheduled.
- *On the Federal and State Landscape:* Each Wednesday morning appointing officers are updated on the federal and state landscape. There is a \$1 billion shortfall in the state budget, which will impact education budgets.
- *On Questions from the ECS:*
 - Some members shared that colleagues found shifts to remote status challenging for teaching, whereas others shared that colleagues were grateful to shift to remote status for safety. The Provost shared that this was discussed at SLT. The VP of Finance and Administration with the Chief of Police and Associate Vice President for Facilities Services make the decision by looking at road conditions and ability for facilities to be ready and safe, such as parking lots and sidewalks. At low temperatures, chemicals to melt snow and ice are ineffective.
 - Questions were raised on the pilot summer teaching program that was mentioned last week. Provost Drake shared that details are being determined. This is an effort to split the adjunct overload budget from the summer teaching budget. It will be a small pilot.

Student Senate Report

- *On the Endorsement of Reach Higher Together and the Academic Affairs Strategic Framework:* The Student Senate voted to endorse the Reach Higher Together Commitments and the Academic Affairs Strategic Framework.
- *On the Meet your Professional Initiative with College of Health Professions:* The Student Senators from the College of Health Professions are hosting an event to meet professionals in healthcare fields and Student Senate is proud to support this.

New Business

- *On the Review and Discussion on APSC Memo on Review of Policy to End Undergraduate Non-degree 30-Credit Policy:* The memo recommends removing the statement, "A maximum of 30 semester hours earned as a nondegree-seeking undergraduate student may apply toward a Grand Valley degree program" from the current GVSU policy. The ECS voted to place this on the UAS agenda.
- *On the Review and Discussion on APSC Memo on Residency Changes:* The current residency policy states that the last 30 credits toward a baccalaureate degree must be earned at GVSU. The memo recommends changing this requirement to 18 of the last 30 credits. The ECS voted to place this on the UAS agenda.
- *On the Review and Discussion on FPPC Memo on Faculty Rank Nomenclature in Policy:* The memo recommends changing "regular faculty" to "tenure stream" faculty. The ECS voted to place this on the UAS agenda.
- *On the Review and Discussion on FPPC Memo on Designate in Personnel Actions:* BOT 4.2.10.6 states, "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." The memo recommends that the procedure for recommending and appointing the Unit Head be used for the recommendation and appointment of the Designate and that the qualifications for the Unit Head position be adopted for the Designate position. The memo also includes the associated changes to BOT 4.2.10 and SG 6.01. The ECS voted to place this on the UAS agenda.
- *On the Discussion on Draft Memo on Draft Memo on Graduate Assistants No Longer Receiving Parking Waivers:* The Graduate Council and Faculty Salary and Budget Committee are also discussing the concern about Graduate Assistants no longer receiving parking exemptions. The ECS decided that the GC, FSBC, and UAS chairs collaborate to draft a memo from all three bodies. This will be discussed at UAS at the February 6 meeting.
- *On the Discussion on Faculty Forum and Workshop:* A group of ECS members are planning a faculty forum and workshop on the budget. The purposes as follows. Learn mechanics to understand the budget as communicated by the administration (Workshop). Determine role and mechanisms for advocacy in faculty voice around the budget (Forum). Provide space for

faculty to voice concerns and ask questions and get answers about the budget. (Forum) Discuss how budget decisions align with strategic planning and mission and vision? (Workshop and Forum). Dates will be determined and shared.

Next Meeting: UAS February 6, 2026: Agenda Items

- Discussion with H. Julian Woods, Executive Director of Human Resources
- Update from the Shared Leadership Steering Committee
- Graduate Council Memo on Dismissal Policy
- Graduate Council Memo on Dual-Listed Courses
- Graduate Council Memo on Deferral Policy
- Update on Admissions Policies
- Discussion on Parking Waivers for Graduate Assistants
- FPPC Memo on Training for Individuals Involved in the Personnel Process