Detailed Notes on the UAS and ECS Meetings of February 13, 2026

UAS

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 the Reach Higher Integration Team:* Chair Karasinski is joining the Reach Higher Integration Team. This team will help stress-test the direction for emerging priorities, key performance indicators, and data capture and visualization approaches ahead of Reach Higher Collaborative Leadership Network meetings to ensure that the work is resonant, relevant, and well-aligned across divisions.

- *On The Digital Transformation Strategy:* The Chair and Vice Chair met with Emil Delgado, Associate Vice President for Information Technology and Eric Kunnen, Senior Director of Innovation + Research on the digital transformation strategy. Six pillars have emerged based on surveys and town halls that provided opportunities for feedback from across the university: AI Enablement and Governance, Digital Fluency and Change Enablement, Modern Learning Environments, Research and Innovation Enablement, Data and Analytics for Decisions, and Operational Excellence and Simplification. The Information Technology division has been working with the University Technology Council, The Academic Technology Advisory Committee, the Faculty Facilities Planning Advisory Committee, and Academic Space Committee.

- *On Meeting with the Vice President of Information Technology and Chief Digital Officer:* The Chair and Vice Chair will meet with the Vice President of Information Technology and Chief Digital Officer this month for their quarterly meeting.

- *On the Meeting of February 27:* The originally scheduled ECS meeting on February 27 has been changed to a UAS meeting to vote on the proposal for the PhD in Computing.

- *On the Year-End Reception:* Although due to budget constraints coffee and cookies will no longer be served at UAS and ECS meetings, the end of the year reception will still be held on Friday, April 24 at 5pm in DCIH 520 for all outgoing, current, and incoming UAS members.

Provost's Report

- *On the 2026 Action Plan:* The 2026 Action Plan was shared in *Lakers Ready.*

- *On the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Dean Search:* Christopher Jones has been appointed as the new dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. More information can be found here.

- *On Questions from ECS Members*
  - A question was asked about the changes to the retiree benefits. After the meeting, the Provost sent talking FAQs and a timeline from VP Shorty to Chair Karasinski. FSBC also discussed this at their meeting. Chair Karasinski shared that the change was shared with the Benefits Committee prior to this announcement, although the decision was made without discussion with that group.
  - A request was made for an update on holistic admissions. This will be added to a future agenda.

Student Senate Report

- *On Engaging with State Representatives:* Student Senate will be facilitating a "Letters to Legislators" activity during General Assembly which will provide student senators with an opportunity to engage directly with their state representatives and practice thoughtful advocacy around state-level policy decisions that impact higher education.

- *On Meet your Future Profession:* Student Senate hosted the *Meet Your Future Profession* event next Wednesday in collaboration with the College of Health Professions and Dean Potteiger. This event is designed to connect undergraduate and graduate students with professionals currently working in the fields they aspire to enter, responding directly to student-identified needs around post-graduation pathways.

New Business

- *On Update on Admissions Policies:* David Carlisle, Associate Director of International Recruitment and Admissions, shared about policies to verify the identities of applicants, and individuals who knowingly misrepresent their background will have their applications canceled. He was thanked for his work and update. When asked about

numbers of graduate international applicants, he shared that the graduate pipeline is healthy, and that he is interested in faculty members' ideas for recruitment.

- *On Discussion on Graduate Assistant Parking Waivers:* The UAS voted that Chair Karasinski write a memo to the Vice President of Finance and Administration regarding reinstatement of the graduate assistant parking waivers. The UAS did not believe that the money for this should come out of the Academic Affairs budget.
- *On the Update from the Shared Leadership Steering Committee:* Krista Benson and Ed Aboufadel, Co-Chairs of the Shared Leadership Steering Committee, reported on the committee's work. In Winter 2024 the COACHE survey was administered. The results were shared in August-September 2024. Two-day workshops were held in Summer 2025 to discuss the findings. The report from these meetings is available. Feedback was sought on the directions of the subcommittees. The slides from this presentation can be found here.

ECS

- *On the Shared Governance Processes:* It was discussed that it is challenging to fit in the actions on memos *and* the discussions people want to have at UAS meetings. Thoughts about changing the ratio of UAS to ECS meetings were shared. Thoughts about how much to share, when, and where (e.g., the Teams chat, in meetings) were shared. It was decided that at the next ECS meeting making a tangible plan will be discussed.
- *On the UAS Meeting of February 27:* The plan for the UAS meeting of February 27 to vote on the proposal for a PhD in Computing was discussed. The full proposal, with recommendations from other committees, is available in SAIL and all UAS members are expected to read everything in SAIL prior to the meeting. The authors of the proposal will not give a presentation, as this was done earlier in the process. The meeting will be a conversation among UAS members, rather than questions to the authors of the proposal. The authors of the proposal will be invited guests. Paper ballots will be used for those in the room, and an anonymous poll on Zoom will be available for those online. No amendments will be requested of the authors, the vote will be to support or not support the proposal.