
Detailed Notes on the UAS Meeting December 5, 2025

Chair's Report

- *The Chair Thanked Everyone for their Shared Leadership and Wishes All a Happy Break.*
- *UAS Materials in Teams:* Chair Karasinski reminded the body that the UAS materials are now shared via Teams and the link to the Teams folder is sent on Mondays in an updated calendar invitation to the meeting.
- *On the May UAS Retreat:* Chair Karasinski shared that the May retreat will be for the full UAS (rather than ECS only) and will include discussions on the ratio of ECS to UAS meetings, the time of ECS and UAS meetings (e.g., currently 3:00-5:00 pm on Fridays), and whether using the chat feature in Teams for discussions between meetings has been helpful or not.

Provost's Report

- *The Provost Extended her Thanks to All.*
- *On the Budget Process:* The Senior Leadership will hold a retreat in December to discuss the budget.

Student Senate Report

- *The Student Senate President Thanked the UAS Members for Their Partnership.*
- *On the Semester:* Students have been engaged and the Student Senate is prepared for a strong winter launch, with the State of the Student Body and legislation.

New Business

- *On Voting Whether UAS Will Vote on the PhD in Computing Proposal:* Chair Karasinski and another UAS member both independently had realized that this vote is not necessary, given that [SG 2.2.1.2](#) states, "The University Curriculum Committee acts for the UAS in performing the final curriculum review at the university level. However, upon the vote of the ECS or any of the standing committees of the UAS, the UAS shall perform the final review of new academic program proposals and requirements for academic degrees." [emphasis added]. ECS voted for UAS to perform the final review of the PhD in Computing Proposal; thus, UAS will vote on the PhD proposal after UCC completes its review. The ECS meeting of February 27 will likely be changed to a UAS meeting with this as the sole agenda item. The UAS will not request amendments; the other curriculum review bodies will have completed that work. The UAS vote in February will be whether to recommend the PhD program in Computing to the Provost.
- *On Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration Week:* The UAS voted to endorse Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration Week. The activities planned for the week can be found at <https://www.gvsu.edu/mlk/>. All are highly encouraged to participate.
- *On Review and Discussion on APSC Memo on Rescheduling Final Exams Due to Weather:* The APSC was charged to review the rescheduling of final exams policy after last year, when multiple exam dates were impacted by inclement weather and exams were moved to Saturday, which was difficulty for students and some faculty members. The APSC memo on rescheduling final exams due to inclement weather recommends the following. Faculty who are able to modify their exams to allow for online, take-home, alternate times, or other equitable arrangements for all students may do so. If an exam that requires physical space cannot be rescheduled earlier in the week, that exam will be held on the Friday of exam week. If, and only if, two exam days were affected, some exams that require physical space may be held on the Saturday following exam week. The UAS voted to support the recommendations.
- *On the Endorsement of the Reach Higher Together Commitments:* The UAS voted to endorse the Reach Higher Together commitments, which build on the Reach Higher 2025 Commitments. The Reach Higher Together commitments are empowered educational experience, lifelong learning, impact-driven discovery, and educational equity and well-being. These commitments will be discussed at Student Senate and the Board of Trustees meetings in the winter semester. Members of the body appreciated the engagement and opportunities to provide input. Although the words "academic excellence" were not explicitly in the commitments, it was understood that this construct is important to our work, and members appreciated that VP Laura Aikens took time to meet with faculty who wanted to discuss this.
- *On the Endorsement of the Academic Affairs Strategic Framework:* The UAS voted to endorse the [Academic Affairs Strategic Framework](#), which will guide the Academic Affairs Strategic Plan. UAS members expressed a desire to be part of the development of the plan and its priorities, noting that not all aspects of the framework can be implemented at once. Concerns also were expressed that we not lose sight of our core mission, and we don't want to focus only on the "shiny new things" that will impact relatively few students. The Provost shared that she has been listening to the faculty discussions and does plan to have UAS involvement.
- *On the Review and Discussion on the Academic Technology Advisory Committee (ATAC) Bylaws:* The ATAC has become a standing committee of the UAS, and has drafted its bylaws. The UAS voted to support the ATAC bylaws.

- *On the Review and Discussion on the Affiliate Faculty Advisory Committee Memo on Affiliates on University Committees:* A robust discussion was held on the Affiliate Faculty Advisory Committee (AFAC) Memo on Affiliates on University Committees. The memo recommends that affiliate faculty be permitted to serve on committees, but not required unless specified in their contract. Affiliates want their voices heard in spaces in which decisions are made that impact them. Currently, there is not policy saying that affiliates cannot serve on University committees, but some have interpreted policy as committee service being only for tenured and tenure-track faculty. At the college and department levels, whether or not affiliates serve on committees varies. UAS members expressed concerns about implementation, especially around ensuring that affiliates weren't given additional work without compensation (e.g., stipends or release time). The Chair of AFAC shared that this memo is a first step, and if approved, the AFAC will work on additional details for implementation. The UAS voted to support this memo.
- *On the Faculty Salary and Budget Committee (FSBC) Memo on Professional Development Funding:* The body expressed appreciation that the amount of professional development funding has increased for tenured and tenure-track faculty, but concern that affiliate faculty do not have professional development funds. Concerns about staff professional development funds were also raised. The UAS voted to charge FSBC with reviewing and discussing professional development funds and making recommendations.
- *On the Faculty Salary and Budget Committee Memo on Administrative Pay:* The memo revealed that administrators received raises at higher percentages than faculty. Faculty expressed concern about the raises and the number of administrators and how this impacted the University budget. The UAS voted to thank the committee for its work, accept the memo, and forward it to the Provost.