
Detailed Notes on the UAS Meeting of February 6, 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 New Programs and Academic Units Council:* The New Programs and Academic Units Council will discuss a prospectus for a bachelor's degree in computing and criminal justice.
- *On Working with Information Technology:* The Chair and Vice Chair have meetings within the next few weeks with AVP Emil Delgado on the Digital Transformation Strategy and VP Milos Topic for a quarterly check-in. These meetings represent efforts to improve shared leadership between information technology and faculty governance.
- *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 Blue Dot:* The Provost and SAVP Ed Aboufadel addressed concerns from the faculty regarding the financing for Blue Dot. Blue Dot encompasses upgrades to the Eberhard Center and an ecosystem. As an anchor institution, Grand Valley is partnering with the community to advance the region as a technology hub. The amount of debt to be incurred to fund Blue Dot is similar to the amount of debt incurred in 2018 for expanding the Health Campus as GVSU partnered with the community to build healthcare as an economic driver. Although Board of Trustees meeting seem scripted, robust discussion happens in the committee meetings prior to the general meetings. Trustee Ron Hall shared full confidence in the amount of debt incurred to finance Blue Dot. Typically, faculty are involved in providing input into designing spaces, but not into the financing of the building projects. Discussions about Blue Dot have been ongoing since 2017, with faculty involved.
- *On Shared Leadership:* If members of the Provost's Office thought that plans for Blue Dot would adversely impact the University, they would have voiced these concerns and not supported the initiative. We are striving to decide what topics UAS should discuss and what type of communication is preferred. When there is a high level of concern, a delegation of faculty can meet with the Provost to share concerns.

Student Senate Report

- *On Traveling to Washington, D.C.:* Student Senate leadership was scheduled to travel to Washington, D.C. this week to meet with federal legislators. However, due to the partial federal government shutdown, these meetings have been rescheduled for the end of March. |
- *On Endorsements of Strategic Plans/Frameworks:* Student Senate has formally endorsed both the Academic Affairs Strategic Framework and the Reach Higher strategic plan and view these frameworks as foundational to the university's long-term direction. |
- *On Information Technology Town Halls:* Over the past week, Student Senate partnered with Information Technology to facilitate two student town halls—one on the Allendale campus and one on the downtown campus—to gather student feedback on the future of technology at Grand Valley. These sessions provided valuable insight into student priorities, concerns, and expectations related to digital infrastructure and emerging technologies. |
- *On Artificial Intelligence Strategy:* Student Senate is engaging with Marouane Kessentini, Dean of the College of Computing, and Eric Kunnen, Senior Director of IT Innovation and Research, who are serving as co-chairs of the university's AI Steering Team. This group has been charged with developing Grand Valley's first comprehensive strategy for responsible and mission-aligned use of artificial intelligence. In the coming weeks, they will be working closely with them to identify effective ways to gather student input, including co-designing a student survey modeled after the faculty and staff survey that has already been distributed.
- *On Discussions on the Federal Landscape:* Student Senate recently hosted Vice President Behler, Vice President Weare, and Vice President Shorty for a discussion on the current federal landscape and its implications for higher education. The conversation was productive and helped contextualize the challenges facing institutions and students alike. The discussion sparked strong engagement among our senators, particularly as they learned more about the shortcomings of the state funding model. |

- *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 will be hosting 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. |
- *On Black History Month:* Student Senate will co-host a Black History Month showcase in partnership with the Black Student Union, and that same week, Student Senate will deliver the annual State of the Student Body address, sharing key insights, priorities, and reflections on the student experience at Grand Valley. |
- *On Student Legal Services:* Student Legal Services, a piece of legislation passed several years ago, coming to life this spring with a partnership with Robert Anthony Alvarez of Avanti Law. Their goal is to have the Student Legal Services website and Avanti’s services ready for Student Senate to test shortly after spring break, with a full launch for students in early April. This timing is particularly important as students navigate lease endings and new housing agreements. |
- *On Recycling:* Student Senate is advancing draft legislation related to the installation of reverse vending machines, commonly known as can return machines, on campus. This work has been developed in close collaboration with the Office of Sustainability and Auxiliary Services. They are aiming to bring this legislation forward for passage by the end of the month. |

New Business

- *On Discussion with Executive Director of Human Resources H. Julian Woods:* H. Julian Woods joined Grand Valley this fall as the Executive Director of Human Resources. As a new administrator, he was invited to meet the UAS and share his vision for his department. He has experience with Workday at prior places of employment and is working on rebuilding modules to make them user-friendly. He is working to develop a more robust Leading Lakers program. He shared a willingness to engage with faculty who have concerns, and shared that they are welcome to email him.
- *On the Review and Discussion on Graduate Council Memo on Dismissal Policy Change:* The recommendations in this memo provide clarity and streamlines language, and ensure that students’ academic standing is accurate. The recommendations reduce human error and workload by automating notifications (decisions are still made by faculty and GPDs). The recommendations reflect a minimum standard, individual programs can have higher expectations. The UAS voted to support this memo.
- *On the Review and Discussion on Graduate Council Memo on Dual-Listed Course Policy Change:* The recommendations in this memo added language requiring dual-listed courses to clearly differentiate learning outcomes (SLOs) and evaluation methods (MOE) for graduate and undergraduate credit (must be at least 1 SLO and 1 MOE for specific to grad students) and added requirement that undergrad and grad courses must be offered for the same number of credits. Language was updated regarding the curricular review process. The UAS voted to support this memo.
- *On the Review and Discussion on Graduate Council Memo on Admissions Deferral Policy:* Currently, there is not an admissions deferral policy. The proposed policy states that students can request to defer admission for up to one year and decisions regarding deferrals are made by the graduate program. The UAS voted to support this memo.
- *On the Review and Discussion on FPPC Memo on Training for Individuals Involved in Personnel Decisions:* The Equity in Personnel Policies (EPP) Taskforce (2021) recommended an external advocate for personnel actions. FPPC recommended the creation of an external advocate program, discussed it at ECS in October 2024; and ECS and the Provost raised concerns. The current memo recommends training for those involved in implementation of the personnel process. This recommendation honors additional recommendations of the EPP taskforce. The memo includes recommendations for changes to policy language in SG 3.07.G (re: Faculty Evaluation Procedures) and SG 6.01.E (re: Unit Head Responsibilities). The UAS voted to support this memo. Additionally, the FPPC will be charged to report on the status of the training next year.
- *On Tabled Agenda Items:* Due to time constraints, the following agenda items were tabled: Update on Admissions Policies, Discussion on Parking Waivers for Graduate Assistants, and Update from the Shared Leadership Steering Committee. The UAS will meet on February 13 from 3:00-4:30 to discuss these items. The ECS will meet from 4:30-5:00.