

Detailed Notes on the ECS Meeting October 3, 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.*”
- *On Weekly Appointing Officer Calls:* The Chair and Vice Chair of the University Academic Senate have attended the weekly Appointing Officer calls during which information is shared about the federal and state landscapes for higher education. Up-to-date information can be accessed on the [Hub](#), on the website of the People, Equity, and Culture Division.
- *On the Reach Higher Collaborative Leadership Network:* Chair Karasinski and Vice Chair Anne Sergeant are members of the Reach Higher Collaborative Leadership Network (RHCLN), along with many stakeholders throughout the University. Faculty are well-represented, with UAS Leadership and all of the Presidential Fellows attending. The RHCLN met on October 3. The process for developing the next phase of GVSU's strategic plan has involved gathering input from stakeholders across campus, including the UAS. You can [review the insights report here](#) to learn more about the top trends and you can [learn more about Reach Higher Together here](#).
- *On the Benefits Committee:* Chair Karasinski attended the Benefits Committee meeting. Faculty should review <https://www.gvsu.edu/hro/benefits/> for information about benefits and open enrollment. A presentation on benefits will be given at the UAS meeting on October 24, 2025.
- *On New Programs Council:* The New Programs Council approved prospecti for the following programs: bachelor's degrees in Inequities and Social Justice, Computing and Business, Computing and Allied Health Sciences, and Computing and Modern Languages. The New Programs Council approved the prospectus for the PhD in Computing.

Provost's Report

- *On the CLAS Dean Search:* The search for the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences has begun. Information can be found at <https://www.gvsu.edu/clasdeansearch>.
- *On Federal Landscape Forum:* Invitations will be sent for the Federal Landscape Forum.
- *On the State Budget:* The budget has been sent to the Governor. VP Behler will update University leadership on Wednesday.

Student Senate Report

- *On Events:* The Student Senate hosted its Open House and its Solutions Summit. Both events were well-attended.

New Business

- *On the Presentation and Discussion on the Student Success Framework:* Cathy Buyarski, Vice Provost for Advising and Student Success, presented the Student Success Framework. She noted that “Retention isn't the goal; retention is the by-product of a good undergraduate experience” (Tinto). Students ask themselves three questions which lead to the decision to stay or go: 1) Do I belong here? 2) Can I do it? 3) Does this have value for me? (Murphy). The Student Success Framework involves pre-college, college experience ecosystem, conditions for success, and degree and goal achievement. Pre-college includes student background, experiences, and education, including pre-college opportunities. The college experience ecosystem includes essential student needs, co-curricular experience, community-based engagement, support services, curriculum and high-impact practices, technology, policies and procedures, facilities and space, and money, people, and time. Conditions for success include purpose, agency, mattering, well-being, and resiliency. Degree and goal achievement include liberal education outcomes, disciplinary knowledge and skills, career readiness, and personal growth and development. ECS members suggested that VP Buyarski work with FTLC to provide resources and examples for faculty. VP Buyarski will present the framework to UAS on October 24.
- *On the Review and Discussion on the Affiliate Faculty Advisory Committee Memo on Affiliates on University Committees:* The Affiliate Faculty Advisory Committee Memo on Affiliates on University Committees recommended that affiliate faculty are permitted to serve on committees, but not required to do so unless specified in their contract. AFAC Chair Jennifer Cymbola shared that affiliates want to be involved in the decisions that impact them. AFAC is working on looking into workload equity. They had administered a survey to affiliate faculty regarding workload but

it was clear that many responses were inaccurate. A discussion was held around wanting to ensure that affiliate faculty were not expected to engage in more work without increasing pay. The AFAC committee is hopeful that allowing service for those who are interested will help with tracking. It was shared that some affiliates want to serve, as they want a professional life at GVSU, this is their career. It was shared that AFAC has been working since 2017 on trying to give affiliates a voice. It took two years to allow the Chair of AFAC to attend ECS and three years to allow affiliates a vote on ECS and UAS. They want to get into the rooms in which decisions are being made. The ECS voted to support with recommendation to UAS, with one nay vote, due to concerns about affiliates doing more work without pay increases, and one abstention from the AFAC Chair.

- *On the Discussion on Changing the Meeting Time for ECS and UAS in the Future:* A discussion was held around changing the meeting time for ECS and UAS beginning in Fall 2026. Fridays from 3:00-5:00 are not a time that faculty are best able to think through complex issues. Additionally, there are inequities around who is able to meet until 5pm. This issue was surfaced at the Shared Leadership Workshops in the summer. The bylaws do not state when the bodies meet, so the time can be changed, but a discussion is desired in order to have buy-in from the body. The ECS voted to put moving the ECS and UAS meetings to 2:00-4:00 pm on Fridays for the 2026-27 academic year on the UAS agenda.