GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY

University Academic Senate
Executive Committee of the Senate
Courtney Karasinski, Chair, 2024-2026
Anne Sergeant, Vice Chair, 2024-2026

Detailed Notes on the ECS Meeting September 12, 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 Taskforce and Committee Appointment Updates:* The following faculty members have accepted appointments to the Multi-Year Taskforce on Teaching Evaluation (MYTTE): Kim McKee (BCOIS), Yunju Lee (PCE), Jay Knight (KCON), Vijay Gondhalekar (SCB), and Kelly Margot (CECI). The following faculty members have accepted appointments to the Nature of Work: Service Taskforce: Zachary Kurmas (CoC), Andy Booth (CHP), Scott Berlin (CECI), Nick Lerma (CLAS). The following faculty members have accepted appointments to the Nature of Work: Teaching Taskforce: Kelly Margot (CECI), Merritt Delano-Talyor (CLAS), Luanne Shaw (KCON), Jill Ellis (CHP), Kyle Brink (SCB). The following faculty members have accepted appointments to the Centers Evaluation Committee: Denise Ludwig (CHP), Rahat Rafiq (CoC), Hayou Li (CoC), Deborah Herrington (CLAS), Jerry Johnson (CECI), and Raymond Higbea (CECI). Two additional members are needed for the Centers Evaluation Committee. If interested, please email Chair Karasinski at karasinc@gvsu.edu.

- *On the Reach Higher Collaborative Leadership Network*: Chair Karasinski attended the Reach Higher Collaborative Leadership Network meeting, along with many stakeholders throughout the University. Faculty are well-represented, with UAS Leadership and all of the Presidential Fellows attending. The process for developing the next strategic plan has engaged individuals throughout the University and the feedback has been analyzed and has shaped the discussions. Laura Aikens, Vice President for Institutional Advancement, and Elizabeth Doyle, Executive Associate for Philanthropic Partnerships and Strategic Initiatives, will attend UAS on September 26 to discuss Reach Higher Together with the body. As a reminder, UAS meetings are open and all are welcome to attend. Only members and invited guests may speak.

Provost's Report

- *On Celebrating Promotion and Tenure:* The Provost attended the celebration for faculty who earned promotion and tenure.

- *On Enrollment Data:* Enrollment data will be available soon. Currently, data indicate that the retention rate has increased, potentially due to the positive impact of adding advisors and SLA sections. The number of FTIACs has increased, although the number of international students has decreased.

- *On Security:* The new Chief of Police discussed the events in the dorms with the Senior Leadership Team. Non-students have been coming into the dorms and even living there during the first few weeks of the semester. Policies are being enforced, including quiet hours and limiting guests. There is movement toward more robust safety structures and the goal is to re-norm the enforcement of policies.

Student Senate Report

- *On Reach Higher Together:* Student Senate leadership met with VP Aikens to learn more about Reach Higher Together. VP Aikens is scheduled to attend a Student Senate Meeting.

- *On Student Engagement on Weekends:* Students have been engaging on weekends, contributing to a vibrant campus culture.

New Business

- *On the Preliminary Conversation with ECS about the Need, Feasibility, and Next Steps for the Introduction of a PhD Program in the College of Computing:* Dean Kessentini and the following faculty from the College of Computing: Erin Carrier, Zachary Kurmas, and Rahat Rafiq provided a thorough presentation on the College of Computing's proposal for a PhD program. They shared the input gathered from faculty, the community/industry, and students, and how the proposed PhD program would meet the needs of all three groups. They noted that adding this program would not impact GVSU's Carnegie classification. They shared how the program fits into the Academic Affairs strategic priorities and fits with the teacher-scholar model. A robust discussion was held. Questions included whether resources would be taken from other programs to fund the PhD, and the answer was that the PhD would have external funding, so would not take away from other programs. The potential for interdisciplinary collaboration was noted. Concerns about potential inequities between graduate assistant salaries in the proposed PhD program vs other programs were

raised. It was noted that other faculty, not only those in the College of Computing, would benefit from having PhD students in their own fields. This presentation and discussion will be held again at the UAS meeting of September 26.

- The Review and Discussion on the Affiliate Faculty Advisory Committee Memo on Affiliates on University Committees, Review and Discussion on the Online Education and Microcredential Council and University Curriculum Committee Memo on Certificate Review, and Discussion on ATAC Moving to a Standing Committee of UAS were moved to the meeting of October 3, due to time constraints.