

Detailed ECS Notes from 12/08/2023

Report from the Chair

- *On Summary of Feedback from Faculty Forums:* The summarized feedback from the faculty forums on the evaluation of teaching are now available. If you missed it, you can have access to the feedback by going [here](#).
- *On the Next ECS Meeting of January 12:* The January 12 ECS meeting will be an in-person meeting and will include the following agenda items: Academic Policies and Standards Committee (APSC) Memo on Policy Language Surrounding Academic Minors; APSC Memo on Workday Implementation; Online Education and Microcredential Council (OEMC) Memo on Faculty Course Approval; OEMC Memo on Faculty Certification for Online and Hybrid Teaching; General Education Committee (GEC) Memo on Teaching Materials; GEC Memo on GEC Website; Faculty Facilities Planning Advisory Committee (FFPAC) Memo on UAS Bylaws Change to Include Academic Technology Advisory Committee (ATAC) as a Standing Committee of UAS; Discussion and Request for Endorsement of the Rev. Dr. MLK Jr. Commemoration for Winter 2024; and Discussion of the Theme for the 2024 UAS Newsletter.

Report from the Provost

- *On the End of Semester:* The provost thanked everyone for all their work during the Fall 2023 semester. She said that she hoped to see everyone at Commencement. She wished everyone luck with grading and wished everyone happy holidays.

Report from the Student Senate President

- *On Restructuring:* Restructuring proposals will be turned into governing documents over the break.
- *On Winter 2024:* This semester will focus on implementation of the new structure.

New Business

- *On the Discussion of Test-Optional and Holistic Admission Task Force Report:* There have been a number of significant efforts around retention, and the ECS members appreciate these. Caution is urged about putting too much stock in high school GPA, which is mostly a predictor of access and wealth. In the last 3 years the GPA has lost its predictive power. We need to be sure we are providing that student-ready curriculum. We are working toward this, but we aren't there yet. Concerned about current students as we try to adjust since we haven't been prepared. In the classroom we are seeing a disconnect between the retention measures getting to the students and serving the students who need to be served. Based on what we are seeing and hearing about attendance, students not understanding communication. We are wondering if students are able to access the measures, we are putting in place. It is important to involve faculty in this. We hear about resources going to advising centers, but faculty are bearing the weight of the unprepared students. We are wondering about measures of college readiness and ways to prepare students with basic skills that they will need in college. We are concerned about housing. There is a master plan for housing that will have a report soon. There seems to be fragmentation in the notion of advising and coaching. There are coaches that aren't in advising's domain, and they should be brought together. Our professional advisors are fantastic. In some sense they're tasked with guiding students from before they come to campus all the way up to senior year. Cathy Buyarski is planning on proposing advisors for first-year students and the coordinated care group pulling together all the resources and ensuring that they are all converging. This proposal will be finalized in February. Talking about advising is important but so much of this work happens in the classroom. Faculty feel like they are doing the best they can but it's not enough. One thing that has been going well is the structured learning assistance and embedded tutors. We are wondering if it helps to attend community colleges prior to attending GVSU. Is there a way for students to be admitted to GVSU but take initial courses at GRCC? It was decided

that more discussion is needed on this. A motion was made to accept the report with recommendation to UAS, which passed with 1 opposed and all others in favor.

- *On the Discussion of Proposed Changes to the Campus Life Committee:* The changes were proposed to the Campus Life Committee to reflect the reorganization of the university. A change was made during the ECS meeting to add reporting to UAS, in addition to reporting to the Provost and the VP of Student Affairs. It was discussed that it might be valuable to add members from advising or enrollment to the committee, as it could be another space for open conversation around what students are experiencing. The motion to support with recommendation to UAS passed unanimously.
- *On the ECS/UAS Endorsement of the COACHE Survey:* A series of communication is planned to the faculty encouraging them to complete the survey. There are plans for the data. We expect to get the results in May/June and create working groups to do something with the results, starting with dissemination to the faculty as early as August. It was asked whether there are any resources already dedicated to dealing with outcomes and recommendations from the university. There are not specifically yet, since we do not know what will come from it. The faculty on committee were clear that it cannot fall to faculty to figure out how to fix problems, but faculty will be part of the solution. The motion to endorse on behalf of UAS unanimously passed.
- *On the Discussion on Consent Agenda for UAS:* Because UAS indicated interest in a Consent Agenda at the last UAS meeting, ECS discussed the potential policy and procedure for this. ECS members could motion at ECS to recommend and put on UAS consent agenda. One UAS member should be able to get something off the Consent Agenda, perhaps they could email the chair, but also could be allowed to request this during the meeting. Jared Moore and Chuck Pazdernik agreed to work on drafting bylaws language for the Consent Agenda policy.
- *On the Discussion of Charge and Timeline for the Task Force on Governance Committee Structure:* ECS discussed the charge for the Task Force on Governance Committee Structure. It was decided that they should review our current faculty governance structure to determine where efficiencies can be created by consolidating standing committees or creating new standing committees and benchmark our peer institutions to determine what governance structures exist and how these governance structures work within governance systems.