

Detailed ECS Notes from 02/24/2023

Report from the Chair

- *On the 2022-2023 UAS Newsletter:* The Theme of the 2022-2023 UAS Newsletter is ***Lakers Ready for Equity and Sustainability***. All past newsletters can be found on the faculty governance website. The deadline to submit an article to Chair Ngassa is **March 15**.
- *On the Winter 2023 Faculty Forums:* The topic will be workload, and the following questions will be used as prompts. What does faculty workload mean to you? Do we have inequities in faculty workload? What is an ideal faculty workload? The forums will be held on Tuesday 3/14 from 10-11:30 and Wednesday 3/15 from 2:30-4. All faculty are encouraged to attend. Information on how to register and obtain the Zoom link was shared via email last week and will be shared again this Thursday.
- *On the Equity and Inclusion Committee (EIC) Membership:* Chair Ngassa communicated with the VP of Enrollment Development and Educational Outreach, AVP for HR, the AP Committee, and the PSS Union about the bylaws' expectation of their membership and meeting attendance.
- *On the New Program/New Academic Unit Council (NPC):* NPC met to revise the forms for new program prospectuses and new academic unit or college proposals in order to better position proposers for success. NPC is also creating an FAQ list.
- *On the Campus Master Plan Update 2022:* A question was raised from the body regarding faculty involvement on the GVSU Master Plan that has been publicly shared. Questions were also asked about the plans for growth, which appear to indicate more growth in Grand Rapids than in Allendale, despite most services being located in Allendale. It was shared that the Master Plan is a "product" of Facilities Services, and the Strategic Enrollment Management Plan (SEMP) is a "product" of the Division of Enrollment Development & Educational Outreach. Before the release of the current Campus Master Plan Update 2022, the last Campus Master Plan was released in 2018. The current updated plan was necessary to align with the goals from the Reach Higher 2025 strategic plan. The Master Plan is a vision. In order to build the future of GVSU, we all have to stay involved with feedback and ideas when the time comes to build out what has been envisioned.
- *On the Next Meeting of UAS on March 17, 2023:* The next meeting of UAS will be 03/17/2023. The agenda will include the following: Discussion on Required Course Materials and Student Success; Review of Final Report and Recommendations of UAS/EIC Involvement with the Teach-In; Campus Safety Update by GVPD; Student Senate Memo on Student Wages; Student Senate Memo on Credit/No Credit Policy; Review of Proposal to Amend SG 2.05.2; FPPC Memo on FPPC Membership Update; FPPC Memo on Modification to SG 3.07.C; FFPAC Memo on Facilities Services Membership; and AFAC Memo on Affiliate Faculty Contract Length.

Report from the Provost

- *On the Campus Master Plan Update 2022:* Based on the questions about the Campus Master Plan Update 2022 during the Chair's Report, the Provost shared that the Campus Master Plan Update 2022 is not a spending plan. This is used each year when GVSU requests money from the state.
- *On GVSU Quest:* A forum on ChatGPT had 186 attendees and there was great follow-up afterward. A forum on the earthquake in Turkey and Syria had 50 attendees.
- *On Remote Days:* There were two remote days due to weather. The University is considering whether remote days or snow days are better. Comments from ECS members suggested that remote days may be more challenging from some marginalized populations than for others. If k-12 schools are also remote or cancelled, remote days may be challenging for individuals with children in the home. Some students may not have the technology to work remotely. Preparation to put classes online that were planned for face-to-face is challenging with short notice.
- *On Chief DeHaan's Presentation on Safety:* Chief DeHaan gave an excellent presentation on safety, in response to questions and concerns from the GVSU community following the tragic incident that happened at MSU.

- *On the Reach Higher Showcase:* More than 80 proposals have been submitted for the Reach Higher Showcase.

Report from the Student Senate President

- *On United Student Government Conference:* Members of Student Senate will attend the United Student Government Conference.
- *On Elections:* Election petitions are due February 24 at 5pm.
- *On Student Opinions of Remote Days:* ECS members asked about student opinions of remote days. the Student Senate President will solicit opinions from students.

Old Business

- *On the LIFT-MC Memo on Review and Feedback on Modifying Open-ended Questions on LIFT Forms:* This generated a robust discussion. LIFT-MC has asked Institutional Analysis to let LIFT-MC know if people are asking for modifications. Individual faculty can add questions. Should LIFT-MC review these added questions for bias? Should the ability to add questions be taken away? History- when LIFT was selected, there had been multiple forms used and some of them had good questions that faculty wanted to add to the LIFT forms. Also, this was an option if, for example, someone had a challenging contract renewal and the unit head wanted to recommend some additional questions to address the concerns. A point against having the committee review these questions was that some units use adding questions to get student input on curriculum. If LIFT-MC reviewed questions prior to questions being added, there would need to be a deadline established by which faculty submitted questions, which could be a challenge. The committee chairs did not think this would be too cumbersome for the committee. A point was raised about the importance of ensuring that added questions were not biased. LIFT-MC has not reviewed questions in the past, so they did not know how many questions had been added that could be problematic, but it was noted that even if there had not been biased questions in the past, there still could be biased questions added in the future. It was noted that the purpose of what is currently in the policy about LIFT-MC reviewing questions has to do with the official forms, not just adding questions as individuals or by departments. This was tabled and will be discussed at the ECS summer retreat.

New Business

- *On the Discussion on GVSU Parking:* Chris Swank presented about GVSU parking, including parking categories, parking inventory, and transit services. Each year a parking audit is conducted in September and a parking/transportation survey is conducted each spring. The parking committee consists of representatives from faculty, student senate, DSR, public safety, facilities, student affairs, and the parking and transit department. Some items listed as “things to know” included the following: Faculty/staff permits are valid in student commuter lots; Allendale resident permits are valid in Grand Rapids and commuter lots; and Grand Rapids resident permits are valid in Allendale.
- *On the Discussion of the Downtown Living and Learning Community (LLC):* During Phase 1 in Fall 2021, the taskforce looked at student services and general education courses and identified what was available in Grand Rapids and what would be needed for students to not need to go to Allendale to complete the first year. They mapped where services are and where they should be placed. A Living Learning Community was piloted in Fall 2022. The concept, planning, and execution went as planned. The following lessons were learned. First, this was started too late. Only about a dozen students joined the LLC. Some ultimately moved to Allendale. Students were moving between campuses. The first-year students we typically focus on want to live in Allendale. Students didn’t want to participate in activities that were not part of their credit-based work, but if it was part of a course, they enjoyed participating. It’s too early for the living portion of the LLC. It will take more intentional development. The Learning Communities portion was relatively successful and has potential. This could be discipline-specific or interdisciplinary and topic-specific. Currently this is on

pause. A question was asked about whether an LLC for graduate students downtown has been considered. It was answered that this could be considered. Questions were asked whether we have the resources to provide support downtown and in Allendale to support diverse learners, as being on GVSU's campus is, for some, an immersion in getting to know the majority and getting to know a community.

- *On the Discussion on the Active Shooter Response:* Chief DeHaan led the discussion on the active shooter response. It was presented to the community and to the Board of Trustees. He asked about faculty concerns. It was noted that in some classrooms, faculty are physically far from the lock. Chief DeHaan suggested finding out if any police officers, military, etc. were in the class who might be able to lock that door. Putting language in our syllabi in the future regarding safety measures was suggested. When asked about a university-wide safety training, it was noted that an active shooter video geared for students was created pre-pandemic, and currently there is a video for faculty in pre-production. It was acknowledged that there are different needs downtown vs Allendale, so the video will need to address multiple needs. Chief DeHaan expressed appreciation for the information from faculty on students who are in crisis, he looks at this to see if there is anyone who is a threat. Lakers Ready has information on where to find safety information.
- *On the FFPAC Memo on Facilities Services Membership:* Individuals from the facilities department have worked with the committee for years and Rence Meredith has been attending the meetings, which has worked well. FFPAC would like to add a member of facilities services as *ex-officio*. Motion to support with recommendation to UAS passed.
- *On the FFPAC Memo on Wayfinding Issues in Building Interior Spaces:* FFPAC want to formalize their work on wayfinding and take it on as a formal charge for the next academic year, and also want to think about who else would be appropriate to take on this issue. ECS thanked FFPAC for their work and will look into this at the retreat as charges are created.
- *On the AFFAC Memo on Affiliate Faculty Contract Length, BOT 4.3.0 & AFF 3.0:* This memo would add that senior affiliates are eligible for contracts of up to six years and would change the senior affiliate promotion increment from \$1000 to \$5000, per the FSBC memo regarding this change. Motion to support with recommendation to UAS passed.