

Detailed ECS Notes from 02/25/2022

Report from the Chair

- *On the ECS/UAS Newsletter:* The theme is Adapting to Change and Reaching Higher Together. Please write about what this means to you. The deadline to submit articles to Chair Felix Ngassa is March 31.
- *On the Next UAS Meeting of March 18:* The agenda contains the following items: Update on the Strategic Enrollment Management Plan; AFAC Memo on Leadership and Succession Planning; APSC Memo on Leadership and Succession Planning, ECS Title IX External Investigation Task Force Final Report; FPPC Memo on Service During Sabbatical; FPPC Memo on Tenure and Promotion Decisions; LIFT-MC Memo on Leadership and Succession Planning; and Update from VAT.

Report from the Provost

- *On Student Attendance:* An email was sent to the students emphasizing the importance of class attendance.

Report from the Student Senate President:

- *On the Student Government Association Conference:* Members of the Student Senate Attended the Student Government Association Conference at the University of Michigan—Flint.
- *On Student Senate Week:* Student Senate hosted Student Senate Week with events to engage the student body
- *On Elections:* The election period for Student Senate is approaching

Old Business

- *On the Academic Policies and Standards Committee (APSC) Memo on Policy Proposal for National Election Day:* APSC recommended change to the current election day policy. Members of ECS discussed the importance of students being able to vote in elections. This will be on the agenda for the 2022 ECS retreat.

New Business

- *On the APSC Memo on Repository for Syllabi:* APSC recommended the creation of a repository for syllabi, which has been requested by Student Senate. However, students wanted current syllabi available when registering for courses. The proposal does not provide this, as the repository will be of past syllabi for courses, since current syllabi typically aren't finalized until the beginning of a course. Concerns were raised about how this would be operationalized. Additional concerns were raised about vulnerability for faculty teaching controversial subjects, especially faculty from historically marginalized backgrounds and disciplines. Some faculty worried about intellectual property being stolen if a repository were created, although others noted ways to handle this. A question was asked regarding updating SORs to provide more of what students are hoping to gain out of a repository. This proposal was tabled and will be on the agenda for the 2022 ECS retreat. This was supported by 86% of the body.
- *On the APSC Memo on Rescheduling Exams During Finals Week:* APSC proposed keeping the current policy. Problematic situations related to this policy have not been found; faculty have been accommodating to students with three or more exams on a given day. This report was accepted and supported by 100% of the body.
- *On the APSC Memo on Test-Optional Admissions Procedures:* It has been challenging for advisors to create schedules for incoming students for math due to lack of information on math proficiency. APSC proposed requiring students to provide one of the following prior to their first-year advising appointment: ACT or SAT scores, proof of completion of AP calculus AB or BC, evidence of transfer credit for a college-level math course, or complete the GVSU math placement exam. Concerns were raised regarding the potential to lose students if this requirement was enforced. It was suggested that admissions should set the requirements. A motion to receive the report with no action was supported by 93% of the body.
- *On the Lake Impression of Faculty Teaching Management Committee (LIFT-MC) Memo on Leadership and Succession Planning:* A motion was made to place on the UAS agenda pending revisions. This passed unanimously.
- *On the Affiliate Faculty Advisory Committee (AFAC) Memo on Leadership and Succession Planning:* Unanimously supported with recommendation to UAS.

- *On the University Assessment Committee (UAC) Memo on Update on Co-Curricular and Advising Task Force:* This was for information purposes only and an update was provided.
- *On the UAC Memo on Update on the Self-study Process:* This memo informed ECS about work that was completed.
- *On the Update from VAT:* VAT is discussing what mask requirements would be at Level 1. All states have rescinded mask mandates and Kent and Ottawa counties' orders have expired. Nationally, many universities will go to mask-optional after spring break. At GVSU, the last place mask mandates will go away is the classroom, due to the close proximity of individuals and the compulsory nature of being in the classroom; this is not a place that can be avoided by individuals with compromised immune systems. Making masks optional in some spaces is being discussed.
- *On the APSC Course-Withdrawal Policy:* There have been a number of requests to reinstate the temporary policy that was in effect earlier in the pandemic, which moved the course withdrawal date to the 11th week of the semester, which is March 25 for Winter 2022. Due to the withdrawal date approaching, ECS voted to support this proposal and act on behalf of UAS, with 93% support.