

Detailed ECS Notes from 01/12/2024

Report from the Chair

- *On the New Programs Council (NPC):* On December 13, the New Programs Council met, reviewed, and approved a New Program Prospectus on Japanese Minor.
- *On the ECS/UAS Schedule:* There was no ECS meeting on January 19 because there were no business items to be considered. ECS will be meeting next on January 26, which was an “off” week. The UAS meeting of 04/12/24 has been moved to 04/05/24 due to the Reach Higher Showcase on 04/12/24.
- *On New ECS Members for Winter 2024:* BCOIS: Leifa Mayers is the sabbatical replacement for Kim McKee; CECI: Linda Pickett is the sabbatical replacement for Karyn Rabourn; CLAS: Melissa Morison is stepping in for Rachel Campbell who has stepped down to take on a leadership role in the CLAS Voyage. Kevin Strychar is the sabbatical replacement for Chuck Pazdernik.
- *On the Next ECS Meeting of January 26:* The January 26 ECS meeting will be a virtual meeting and will include the following agenda items: Proposed University Definition of Digital Literacy & Proposed Inventory Process; Faculty Personnel Policy Committee (FPPC) Memo on Bias Statements for Students and Faculty Revised; Selection of Faculty to the **SH**ared **G**overnance **R**eview (SHGR) Task Force; Consent Agenda Update; Discussion of Topics for Faculty Forums; and Discussion of Theme for the 2024 UAS Newsletter.

Report from the Provost

- *On the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration Week:* The Provost’s Office blocked off the week in order to attend as many events as possible.
- *On Student Success Progress:* The Lakers Ready of January 16 provided details of progress that has been made around student success.
- *On Town Halls:* The Provost, VP for Enrollment Management & Educational Outreach, and VP for Student Affairs will hold town halls together to share data about enrollment, retention, projections for next year, and what is being done to get ready for students. These town halls will provide opportunities for the vice presidents to hear directly from faculty about good news and concerns around serving our students.

Report from the Student Senate President

- *On Governing Documents:* Student Senate will finalize their governing documents at their next meeting.
- *On Retention:* Student Senate will discuss what can be done to support retention from a student perspective.
- *On the State of the Student Senate:* January 25th the State of Student Senate address will be held in the Pere Marquette Room in Kirkhof at 5:00 pm. The time was moved back to accommodate the I Am Grand Valley Awards.

New Business

- *On Discussion and Request for Endorsement of the Rev. Dr. MLK Jr. Commemoration for Winter 2024 (January 15-20, 2024):* ECS voted unanimously to act on behalf of UAS to endorse the Rev. Dr. MLK Jr. week. The keynote speaker was Dr. Melissa Harris-Perry, educator, and author. Other speakers included the following: Dr. Dar Mayweather, founder of an inclusive leadership consulting business, and leadership studies faculty member at the University of North Carolina Wilmington; and Tarita Johnson, senior vice president of Talent and Diversity at The Right Place in Grand Rapids.
- *On the Academic Policies and Standards Committee (APSC) Memo on Policy Language Surrounding Academic Minors:* APSC is recommending a change to the 2024-2025 catalog copy regarding the policy language for academic minors. According to the recommendation, the current 20 credit requirement for a minor is changed to 18 to align with current GVSU practice and our many benchmark institutions (peer institutions, peer aspirant institutions, and Michigan institutions). The existing residency (6 GVSU credits) and GPA (at least 2.0) requirements are retained. In addition, policies that are currently in place about who

may get a minor but are not in the catalog have been added. Furthermore, the existing catalog copy is cleaned up and streamlined, and a new paragraph defining a minor is suggested consistent with what is found in the catalogs of other universities. Motion of support with recommendation to UAS passed.

- *On the APSC Memo on Workday Implementation:* APSC was charged by ECS to “review the implementation of Workday (WD) Student and determine if policy changes are needed to allow us to use business processes within WD Student.” APSC determined that there are no policy changes needed at this time but proposed some working guidelines to be followed in the event of an error or disruption in processes connected with the Workday implementation if it falls within the scope of APSC. Motion to accept the memo and thanked APSC for their work passed.
- *On the Online Education and Microcredential Council (OEMC) Memo on Faculty Course Approval:* OEMC was charged by ECS to “review policy for review of online, and hybrid courses, and consider whether approved courses should be approved for all modalities.” OEMC recommends the following: (1). All courses (current and future) should be automatically approved for all offering modalities (in-person, hybrid, online, multiple delivery); and (2). **SG 2.01.D (Hybrid and Online Curriculum Proposals)** should be removed from the Shared Governance Policies (Handbook) because this same section is covered by another Shared Governance Policy, **SG 2.01.B.1 (UCC Curricular Procedures)**. Motion of support with recommendation to UAS passed.
- *On the OEMC Memo on Faculty Certification for Online and Hybrid Teaching:* The three main recommendations from this memo are 1) *A continuation of the current GVSU practice regarding initial approval for faculty teaching online and hybrid courses*, 2) *Approval is valid for 5-years*, and 3) *Faculty must renew professional development/training once every 5 years to continue teaching online/hybrid courses*. ECS members asked questions about what trainings are offered, and why the re-training every five years was recommended. GVSU provides trainings through FTLC, E-learning, and external online asynchronous opportunities. The recommendation to re-train every five years resulted from a review of what peer institutions are doing. The OEMC is trying to make things less onerous by not needing to propose courses as online/hybrid and providing some autonomy for faculty by not prescribing that everyone has to go through the same course but supporting faculty in teaching excellence. A question was asked about who will keep the list of qualified faculty for online teaching updated, as the current list seems to be outdated. The Provost’s Office maintains it in partnership with the Dean’s Offices. The data sources are being updated. It could be onerous for faculty. Once faculty complete the training, the expectation is that faculty do keep current. Members noted that they would rather address potential problems as they come up than requiring everyone to complete training every 5 years. The motion to thank the committee for their work and send the memo back to the committee to reconsider the requirement to renew the online training every 5 years passed.
- *On the General Education Committee (GEC) Memo on Teaching Materials:* GEC was charged by ECS to “evaluate the training material that was developed in 2022-2023 and make revisions as necessary.” GEC completed the teaching materials for Collaboration, Critical Thinking, Integration, and Ethical Reasoning. These were uploaded to the Gen Ed website in October 2023. Motion to accept the memo and thanked GEC passed.
- *On the GEC Memo on GEC Website:* GEC was charged by ECS to “evaluate the functionality of the GEC website and make revisions as necessary.” The website went live in October 2023 and small revisions are ongoing. Motion to accept the memo and thanked GEC passed.
- *On the Discussion of Theme for the 2024 UAS Newsletter: “Building Capacity: The Role of Shared Governance in Reconciling the Gap between College Ready and Student Ready.” Comment:* Revisions to the wording for this suggested theme were discussed. ECS leadership will continue to discuss the theme and revisit it at ECS on January 26.