

Detailed ECS Notes from 03/25/2022

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 President Mantella's Response to the Title IX External Investigation Task Force Recommendations:* President Mantella's response can be seen by going to the Faculty Governance website [here](#).
- *On the Upcoming Learning Management System (LMS) Migration:* Migration from Blackboard Classic to Blackboard Ultra is scheduled for May 3 to May 8. Starting at 3:00 pm May 3, Blackboard will become unavailable until the morning of May 8. A campus-wide email will be going out today, Tuesday, March 29 from IT.
- *On the Next ECS Meeting of April 1:* The agenda includes the following items: Faculty Personnel Policy Committee (FPPC) Memo on Parental Leave for Faculty; Discussion on Competency-Based Education; Discussion on Student Learning Issues and Implications for Faculty Evaluations; Discussion on Student and Peer Evaluations of Teaching; and General Education Committee (GEC) Memo on Teaching About Systemic Racism.

Report from the Student Senate President:

- *On Election:* Student Senate elections begin next week.
- *On Bipartisan Elections Event:* This will be held next week.

New Business

- *On the Faculty Personnel Policy Committee (FPPC) Memo on LIFT Charge:* Median and combined median scores will not be reported. Distributions and bar charts will be reported. Written comments should mostly be for formative purposes. Written comments can be used for summative only to identify inappropriate behavior that would violate a policy, and there must be substantive agreement about an issue or a trend over time. Faculty will be trained on how to use the bar charts and comments. Motion to support with recommendation to UAS passed with 13 yes, 2 no, 1 abstain.
- *On the Faculty Facilities Planning Advisory Committee (FFPAC) Formal Report Review:* FFPAC plans to assess classroom issues, innovations, feedback and safety and security on a schedule rather than when things come up. Campus Safety Night Walks had been held on the Allendale Campus but not the Pew and Health Campuses; now these will be held with the same frequency on all 3 campuses. For needs in the classroom, faculty should use www.gvsu.edu/fixit. The myGV app has a "Classroom Issues" button in the menu. It points directly to www.gvsu.edu/fixit. Way-finding within buildings can be challenging for new students in certain buildings. Departments and colleges within those buildings can anticipate these challenges at the start of each semester by providing guides (faculty, administration, students) to direct students between class periods. Motion to support with recommendation to UAS passed with unanimous support.
- *On the FFPAC Memo on Leadership and Succession Planning:* There will be a chair and vice chair. The vice chair can assist the chair and can step into the chair's place following the chair's term. This has been a good way to keep institutional knowledge. The chair can serve for a second year if elected. Motion to support with recommendation to UAS passed with unanimous support.
- *On the University Curriculum Committee (UCC) Memo on Leadership and Succession Planning:* There will be a chair and a vice chair elected in spring. An official representative to the Online education and Microcredential Council (OEMC) will be appointed by the chair from the committee members. The vote was unanimous to support with recommendation to UAS.
- *On the UCC Memo on Representation by College:* There will be two representatives from CECI. The committee would entertain a charge to look at representation across all colleges in the future. There has been a lack of full representation by CLAS, and two positions have remained unfilled from CLAS this academic year. The vote was unanimous to support with recommendation to UAS.
- *On the Student Senate Resolution on Test Optional Policy:* Student senate has discussed this with the Director of Admissions and the VP for Enrollment Development. The current test-optional policy goes through this year. They note that standardized tests are not a good predictor of success at the university. Questions were raised about why GPA is considered a reliable predictor, and it was noted that GVSU data suggest that GPA is a reliable predictor of success in college. Last week VP Truss shared that for some populations GPA is not

a reliable predictor, and a holistic admissions policy is needed that identifies how individuals have risen to challenges they face. ECS/UAS may need a presentation on holistic admissions and how the datapoints coalesce before an informed decision can be made on how to proceed. There is support for test-optional policies, but this could change the student body and supports will be needed for students who may not have had access to quality education in the past. Questions were also raised about access to scholarships if standardized tests are not taken. ECS plans to form a taskforce with faculty and student representatives at the summer retreat. This plan was unanimously supported.

- *On the Student Senate Resolution to Create a Safety Barrier on the Little Mac Bridge:* Motion to support with recommendation to UAS was unanimously supported.
- *On the Student Senate Resolution on Re-Examining the COVID Alert System and Moving to Mask-Optional:* Student Senators expressed a position that the standard set for moving to Alert Level 0 is too stringent, and that students wish to move to mask-optional policies in the classroom. VAT indicated satisfaction with their indicators. Faculty expressed appreciation for relying on data and science. It was noted that epidemiologists recommend a county count of 5-10 people and we are at 35. Many of our students do not live on campus and are becoming exposed to COVID in the community. Classrooms are high-density areas, and data have supported wearing masks in high-density areas to slow the spread of COVID. Faculty and students signed up for face-to-face courses this semester with the expectation of wearing masks, and there is concern that individuals who are medically fragile or live with those who are may be concerned about health if masks are optional in the classroom. Classrooms are compulsory spaces, so this should be one of the last places mask requirements should be changed. ECS members noted that it was useful for Student Senate to have these discussions. A motion was made to receive the report, thank the Student Senate for their work, and remain in support of VAT in the decision-making related to COVID. The vote was 9 in support of the motion, 3 not in support, and 1 abstention.
- *On the Student Senate Resolution on Printing the Suicide Prevention Hotline Number on Student ID Cards:* The suicide prevention hotline is extending its focus beyond suicide into other mental health concerns. The printing of the hotline number on student ID cards could begin in May so that new students registering for spring/summer could have it. Questions were raised about why only this number and not campus security. The Student Senators had considered this but noted that having to make a decision about which number to call could lead to harm, some individuals in mental health crises do not want police involvement, and 911 calls would get dispatched to campus security; there is broad awareness regarding calling 911 in emergencies but the suicide prevention hotline number is not as widely known. The motion to support with recommendation to UAS was unanimously supported.