

Detailed ECS Notes from 11/17/2023

Report from the Chair

- *On the Taskforce on Shared Governance:* The taskforce will be comprised of the following members: Elizabeth Arnold (CLAS), Karen Gipson (CLAS/BCOIS), Raymond Higbea (CECI), Bob Hollister (CLAS), Figen Mekik (CLAS), Azizur Molla (CHP), Chuck Pazdernik (CLAS), Wendy Reffeor (PCEC), and Ed Aboufadel (*ex officio*). On December 8 ECS will talk about the committee's charge and timeline.
- *On Summary of Feedback from Faculty Forums:* We summarized the feedback from the faculty forums, and you can have access to the feedback by going [here](#).
- *On the Next UAS Meeting of December 1:* The December 1 UAS meeting will be an in-person meeting and will include the following agenda items: Academic Affairs Budget Presentation; Discussion of Consent Agenda for UAS; Online Education and Microcredential Council (OEMC) Memo on Program Modality Definition; Faculty Facilities Planning Advisory Committee (FFPAC) Memo on Lost and Found; FFPAC Memo on Campus Safety Night Walk; Affiliate Faculty Advisory Committee (AFAC) Memo on Affiliate Faculty Retirement Policy; Academic Policies and Standards Committee (APSC) Memo on Academic Review and Dismissal; APSC Memo on Academic Grievances; APSC Memo on Repeat Course Approval Policy; and Faculty Salary and Budget Committee (FSBC) Memo on Annual Salary Adjustment Request for 2024-2025.

Report from the Provost

- *On Search Committees:* Search committees are being formed for the PCEC Deans and for the AWRI Director.
- *On the Impact of the War:* Students and faculty are deeply impacted by the war, especially those with ties to the region. Please reach out if the Provost can do anything to support you.

Report from the Student Senate President

- *On Restructuring:* Student Senate is meeting once more this semester and will pass an omnibus bill of the restructuring proposals. These will be turned into official governing documents over Winter Break.
- *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 4:30 pm.

New Business

- *On the FSBC Memo on Annual Faculty Salary Adjustment Request for 2024-2025:* Next year's raise should be more than CPI plus 1.5% to address recent shortfalls. A question was raised about why raises from summer 2023 are not in this document. FSBC does not yet have these. A point was raised that our faculty member participation rate in the 403B supplemental retirement plan is low. We also have a 457B supplement. Participation is not low because faculty don't want to save, but because they either are unable to save or they are unaware of these options. The last time we got an increase in the retirement plan, which is currently at 12%, was in the mid-nineties. This is over a quarter of a century ago. Universities giving more than 12% include Michigan Tech and Oakland University. Just as the raise is important to maintain the standard of living, a 1% increase in retirement contribution from 12% to 13% would go a long way to ensure a good life for faculty after retirement. It was noted that faculty get 12% for 9 months, not for summer teaching, whereas administrators get 12% for the whole year. We are now in a situation where we are not talking about budget cuts, so there is at least an opportunity for a conversation. Motion to support with recommendation to UAS unanimously passed.
- *On the FFPAC Memo on Active Learning Spaces:* There have been charges to FFPAC over the past several years pertaining to Active Learning Spaces (ALS). A survey was conducted a year ago. A charge this year is to iron out details around who is responsible for what. A question was asked about lowering capacities in rooms creating scheduling challenges as enrollment is increasing. This question will be brought to the Academic Space Committee. The motion to thank the committee for their work and send the memo back to

committee to revise the memo with the specific recommendations listing who should address each recommendation was unanimously supported.

- *On the FFPAC Memo on Classroom Issues and Innovations:* This memo recommends that the new survey developed by FFPAC is administered every 3 years and used as a tool to work with Facilities Services and IT. The survey is likely to come out in January. AVP Aboufadel noted that the last time this was done was 2018 and it was very helpful. It went to the Academic Space Committee. A motion was passed to charge FFPAC with conducting a survey on Classroom Issues and Innovations and report back to ECS.
- *On the FFPAC Memo on Lost and Found:* This memo noted that there is a need to more actively promote the lost and found system and make it more official. The motion to support with recommendation to UAS was unanimously supported.
- *On the Pew FTLCAC Memo on Assisting FTLC with Goals on Scholarship of Teaching and Learning:* This memo was a report on what the committee has done. They met with Matt Ruen from libraries to understand the process. Materials are available through Scholarworks. The committee is working on the new related charge. A question was raised about how these will become policy and where the document will appear when it is ready. The answer was through FTLC and through Scholarworks, but the committee is open to other suggestions. Question: does this include published work? Yes, submit to the library and they will work to get the permissions. Question: where are sabbatical reports? In the archives. The motion to thank the committee and accept the report was supported.
- *On the Pew FTLCAC Memo on Supporting Faculty Best Practices for Online Pedagogy and Content Delivery:* This memo reported on what the subcommittee accomplished last academic year. Many of the recommendations have been communicated to FTLC and elearning and are already underway. This charge is not continued this year, but committee does have a standing charge of digital literacy. *The motion to thank the committee for their work and continue collaborating with FTLC was supported.*
- *On the Pew FTLCAC Memo on Relationship with FTLC:* This memo reported on the work that has been done toward formalizing the relationship with FTLC. The motion to accept the report and continue the charge was supported.
- *On the Review of FARES III Task Force Proposed Bylaws Language:* SG 1.03 is moving AFAC to SG 1.02 because AFAC is now a standing committee of UAS rather than a University Governance Committee. SG 1.02 carries over language from AFAC and updates the committee description. SG1.01 is the main set of ECS/UAS bylaws. Now that we are specifying a role for affiliates, there are places where we need to acknowledge affiliates and how they fit into our governance structure. The key changes in SG 1.01 pertain to Section 4, particularly 4.4, which specifies from where the members are selected, 4.4.2 has to do with who the second affiliate senator will be. AFAC should try to identify a member of AFAC who is an affiliate, and who can serve on UAS. If not, the second member can be selected from the broader pool of affiliates, with preference given to those who have served on AFAC or in other relevant roles. Section 6.7 says that if the affiliate UAS member needs to send an alternate to UAS, this alternate should come from AFAC, and can have either affiliate or tenured/tenure-track status. Section 7.6 states that if the AFAC Chair is unable to serve on ECS, the Vice-Chair of AFAC will serve. The proposed change to Section 8 changes the timeline for sending ECS/UAS agendas from one week prior to the meeting to 4 working days prior to the meeting; we don't need to require that this be done Friday night or over the weekend. Section 11 pertains to the role of affiliates for referenda. We will defer the conversation pertaining to Section 11 to another time and will not change that section at this time. Motion to support with recommendation to UAS with the amendment that changes will be implemented beginning in AY 2024-25 was unanimously supported.