

Detailed ECS Notes from 10/06/2023

Report from the Chair

- *On EIC Chair for 2023-24:* In April, none of the EIC members wanted to run for Chair. I reached out to Ed Aboufadel as an ex-officio member of the committee for names of people to contact. I contacted six people. Three people said they would be interested but were committed to other things. I reached out to ten faculty members; four accepted, one asked for more info and then said no, and then one said that since there are others who are interested, they would rather not go forward. The Provost and Senate Leadership interviewed two excellent candidates. Chasity Bailey-Fakhoury was selected for chair of EIC for this academic year.
- *On BOT 4.2.10.2:* Each College must decide if the Dean will attend as ex-officio, non-voting member of the College Personnel Committee and the results of the decision shall be reported to the Chair of the University Academic Senate. Currently, UL, PCEC, CHP, BCOIS, KCON, and CECI have responded. We are still waiting to hear from CLAS and SCB.
- *On the Faculty Forum on the Evaluation of Teaching:* The faculty fora on the evaluation of teaching were held via Zoom on Monday October 9 from 2:00-3:30 pm and Tuesday October 10 from 10:00-11:30 am.
- *On the Teach-In:* The 11th Annual Teach-in will be held Wednesday 11/8 and Thursday 11/9 in a hybrid format. The purpose is mutual education among students, faculty, and staff. The Teach-In is intended to address topics related to inequality and systems of oppression, as well as social justice and liberation. Faculty are encouraged to submit proposals.
- *On the Next ECS Meeting of October 13:* The October 13 ECS meeting will include the following agenda items: General Education Committee (GEC) Memo on Modifications to GEC Bylaws; GEC Memo on Development of Assessment Materials; GEC Memo on Example Curriculum Assessment Report; GEC Memo on Training Materials for GEC Members; Proposal to Modify SG 2.06; Discussion on Reorganization of PCEC; Discussion on Course Designation; and Discussion of Bylaws Amendment from Anticipated Amendment to BOT 3.1.4.1.

Report from the Provost

- The surveys that were sent after last week's Town Halls closed last Friday. The number of responses from PCEC was small, so it is hoped that those who wanted to contribute their thoughts did attend the Town Halls.
- There was a high number of responses to the survey sent to faculty teaching first year classes.
- The Provost attended the Undergraduate Research fair and talked with faculty. She heard a lot of positive sentiment, although this is not to undermine the concerns about preparation issues. Members of ECS noted hearing from faculty that many students have many absences. Student Affairs sent a message to students reminding them to attend class and meet with faculty. There was discussion about the potential for building a plug-in for Blackboard Ultra to monitor how much students are engaging with courses. However, there was concern that some students don't have good internet access, so they download files and access offline. There were also thoughts about adding a quarter-term grade to the mid-term grade. A question was asked about whether we have a sufficient number of advisors. We are waiting to hire advisors until Cathy Buyarski, Vice Provost for Advising and Student Success, decides what kind of structure she would like.
- An individual from Central Michigan University with a fellowship from Michigan ACE will be shadowing the Provost.
- *Lakers Together* from Monday October 6 gave an overview of retention efforts. Some of these efforts will have a short term impact, whereas others will have a long-term impact.

Report from the Student Senate President

- *On Active Shooter Training:* Student Senate made the following statement: "Recognizing that public safety is an important issue on campus in the wake of the tragedy at MSU, Student Senate supports the exploration of a locked door policy and active shooter training video requirements for students. As a partner alongside university administration and faculty governance, Student Senate will work to gather student feedback on these issues to help inform this process. We look forward to a continued dialogue and are committed to sharing the student perspective."

New Business

- *On the Campus Life Committee (CLC) Update:* The Campus Life Committee is a Student Affairs committee. Student Affairs is planning to sunset this committee, which may be obsolete. A question was raised about the purpose of the committee, which was to share information. Questions were asked about how, if this committee is sunset, faculty will be aware of issues in Student Affairs. There is an annual report from Student Affairs and newsletters faculty can view. The Student Affairs Division is also open to new ways to communicate with faculty. What we heard from Student Affairs is the decision of one division to sunset the CLC. Based on our processes, nothing will happen until after a formal memo has been submitted and acted on by ECS and UAS. Given that we are two divisions now, Student Affairs does not “need permission” to make changes in their division. However, anything that touches on our Shared Governance Policies will have to follow our processes and be approved by UAS before any changes can be made.
- *On the LIFT-MC Memo on the LIFT Student Perception Data Report:* The questions on LIFT do not align with our definition of effective teaching. One recommendation was the midsemester evaluation of teaching (MIT). Questions were raised about the validity of the MIT. No other institutions use MITs summatively; there is a correlation between student learning and MIT feedback when MIT feedback is used formatively. BOT policy says that effective teaching must be documented by self-, peer, student evals, not that effective teaching measures student learning. As we accept and publish reports saying that LIFT doesn’t measure our definition of effective teaching, are we out of compliance with BOT policy? We use LIFT as a measure of teaching quality and student learning, but LIFT does not measure those things. There were thoughts on not abandoning LIFT until we have another measure to replace it. Multiple recommendations have been made over the years about how to use LIFT, but these are not reflected in policy. ECS plans to form a taskforce to frame prior recommendations regarding LIFT, and to share findings at the summer retreat.
- *On the FSBC Memo on Updating the Faculty Governance Structure:* As the divisions of Student Affairs and Academic Affairs have separated, and new divisions have emerged within the University, we need to think about how ECS/UAS engages with other divisions. FSBC recently added the VP of Finance or a designee from that division to the committee membership. Perhaps other committees need representatives from other divisions. This discussion will continue.