

Detailed ECS Notes from 10/8/2021

Report from the Chair

- *On Faculty Forums:* The dates for the upcoming Faculty Forums on Shared Governance are set for Wednesday, October 27, 10:00-11:00 am and Thursday, October 28, 2:30-3:30 pm.
- *On the November 10 & 11 Teach-In:* Faculty, staff and students are encouraged to submit proposals (deadline was yesterday, October 11), and to volunteer to host/moderate sessions.
- *On the Provost Search:* For the most recent update, please check on the Provost Search website by going [here](#).
- *On the Next ECS Meeting of October 15:* The October 15 ECS meeting will be held in 3062 JHZ. The four agenda items are discussion of a way forward on RH2025 after review of President Mantella's response memo, discussion of Title IX Office, discussion of Peer Review Pilot with an update from Faculty Personnel Policy Committee (FPPC), and review of a memo from APSC on Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) policy for undergraduates.

Report from the Provost

- *On Mid-terms:* Faculty should provide support to one another and students during this busy time and take time for self-care.
- *On the Office of the Provost Website:* a section has been added to provide easy access to commonly needed information, including personnel, salary, and evaluation
- *On COVID:* Although faculty are seeming to see a rise in COVID cases, VAT is not seeing a rise in the numbers reported on the self-assessment. Faculty are reporting that compliance with mask-wearing seems to be declining; if the number of cases decreases in our neighboring counties, we could go to Level 1 or 0, but cases are currently rising in these counties. Consequences of noncompliance with the vaccine mandate are still being determined, and will need to comply with state and federal legislation. Students may postpone their vaccine deadline if they are only taking online classes, but they may not come to campus if they postpone their deadline.

Report from the Student Senate President

- *The Student Senate President was absent from the meeting*

New Business

- *On Reach Higher 2025:* President Mantella has shared that she will be providing opportunities for faculty to engage in conversations about the strategic plan. This is recognized by ECS as a good faith effort to create mutual understanding between faculty and administration. ECS members want to understand what students like about the plan, and why there seems to be a disconnect between how students read it and how faculty read it. ECS continues to discuss ways to solicit the views of faculty. You can read UAS's memo to the President on RH2025 endorsement by going [here](#) and you can read the President's response by going [here](#). The highlights of the President's response memo are the following:
 - The Steering Committee will continue receiving feedback and incorporating the feedback as it works on a new iteration.
 - The President will delay the presentation of the plan to the Board of Trustees (BOT) until February 2022 to allow space for the work and further engagement to continue.
 - The President will share her own reflections on the plan and clarify intentions subscribed to her in a letter to our community. The letter will include an invitation to conversation groups with the President and the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) for those who seek to engage.

- *On Title IX:* Concerns remain over the number of resignations from the Title IX Office.
- *On Appointments to the OEMC:* The appointments to the OEMC were finalized.
- *On AFAC Memo on Affiliate Faculty Evaluation Procedure:* Motion was made to support with recommendation to UAS. It was noted that it may be helpful to add in the definition of affiliate faculty that affiliates can participate in the review process for other affiliate faculty members.
- *On the Report from the AFARES Taskforce after Meeting with AFAC:* It is clear that the members of AFAC feel strongly about having voting representation at ECS and UAS, rather than just a seat at the table. They may be open to starting with a non-voting seat at the table, which requires only ECS/UAS bylaws changes, rather than BOT policy changes. However, they do eventually seek voting membership and do not want this request to get lost.