

Detailed ECS Notes from 09/03/2021

Report from the Chair

- *On Memos from the 2020-2021 Academic Year:* No outstanding memos from 2020-2021, all approved as recommended.
- *On Communication:* There will be weekly direct message to all faculty sent on Tuesdays on ECS business. ECS/UAS Chair will continue to prepare highlights before every UAS meeting and share with all faculty. Faculty will have the opportunity to provide feedback through their representatives.
- *On the Provost Search Faculty Forums:* Two forums are organized this week, one on Wednesday, September 8, 10:00-11:30 am and the second on Thursday, September 9, 2:30-4:00 pm.
- *On the Digital Roadmap from IT:* Feedback is requested from faculty on the Digital Roadmap from IT. The deadline is September 17.
- *On Senate Schedule for 2021-2022:* The full senate schedule for 2021-2022 is posted on the faculty governance website. Some ECS meetings will be Zoom meetings, especially those that are scheduled same day as the President's Council.
- *On the Next ECS Meeting of September 10:* The September 10 ECS meeting will be a face-to-face meeting. The Employee Ombuds, Elisa Salazar, will attend as a guest. Three memos submitted at the end of last academic year in April 2021 will be reviewed, as well as the report from the Equity in Personnel Processes (EPP) Task Force.

Report from the Provost

- *On Enrollment Update:* There is a head count deficit from last year and a decrease in student credit hours. Most of the deficit is at the undergraduate level; we are down in undergraduate students but up in graduate students. A majority of the decrease is with returning students rather than first year students; we all have to be partners in our retention strategy.
- *From Ed Aboufadel About VAT DATA:* Specific number of students, faculty and staff on the isolation and quarantine list can be viewed by visiting the VAT website. At this time, about 80% of our students on campus are vaccinated, and about 69% of students overall are in compliance with our policy on vaccination (either vaccinated or have an exemption/postponement). So far, 1313 exemptions or postponements have been approved. It should be noted that the number of exemptions/postponements that we are seeing is consistent with statewide numbers.

Report from the Student Senate President

- *On Internal Strategic Plan and Visit from RH2025:* The Student Senate will be updating its strategic plan and governing documents throughout the year in collaboration with the Johnson Center. The RH2025 Co-Leads and Steering Team will be visiting the Student Senate this week.
- *On Communication:* Student Senate plans to send a newsletter to students regularly starting this week in order to improve communication and get the student body more informed on the business of Student Senate.
- *On Other Events:* Memorial for 9/11; Service project during the Stars and Stripes football game; Letter-writing table to thank troops; Battle of the Valleys at the end of September.

New Business

- *Review and Adoption of 2021-2022 Charges to Standing Committees:* In the presence of the Standing Committee Chairs, ECS reviewed and adopted the final charges for the 2021-2022 academic year. The Chair of ECS/UAS will send an official memo to each Standing Committee Chair with the final charges that were approved by ECS.

- *Selection of Two One-Year Appointees in OEMC:* The names of nominees submitted by OEMC will be considered for selection and appointment of the two one-year replacements in OEMC.
- *OEMC Report on First Year of Two-Year Microcredential Process:* We reviewed and discussed the progress report from OEMC and agreed that OEMC is doing a great job and is on the right path.
- *Update of Faculty Governance Website and Review of 2021-2022 ECS/UAS Calendar:* We reviewed the newly updated Faculty Governance website. We reviewed and approved the 2021-2022 ECS/UAS calendar.
- *Presentations to Request in 2021-2022:* We discussed and prioritized presentations to request in 2021-2022.

Questions

- *On Questions About Vaccination, Exemptions, and Face Covering:* Many questions were asked on our policy and the consequences as it relates to vaccination, exemptions, and face covering. Here are some of the questions and answers that were shared.
 - i. 1300 exemptions seem high. What are some examples?
 1. Similar to statewide numbers
 2. $\frac{3}{4}$ have been religious exemptions
 3. Exemption Committee has rejected some
 4. Some are medical
 5. Some students are not yet 18 and parents do not want them to be vaccinated.
 - ii. What do we know about mask compliance in non-classroom spaces?
Monday morning and Tuesday afternoon, Ed walked public indoor spaces on campus and only saw 1 student who was not wearing a mask. However, this is anecdotal and no data is being collected.
 - iii. What does the vaccine mandate mean? Will students be disenrolled if they are not vaccinated by September 30?
 1. Processes will begin in October
 2. Some students do not realize the mandate applies to them
 3. Students will be unenrolled in Winter classes immediately if they do not comply.
 4. Unenrollment is still being discussed.
 5. Faculty and staff will not immediately be let go.
 6. Process will include continuing to encourage vaccination, and then process will begin in which individuals will separate from the University, likely at the end of the semester
 7. There is due process to remove tenure, which will have to be followed.
 - iv. Students asking faculty to make a decision whether they should come to class?
 1. The VAT email and phone number is available on the VAT website or you can call the Provost's Office and ask for Ed Aboufadel
 - a. For general questions contact the Lakers Together Call Center: (616) 331-INFO (4636), Mon. - Fri.
 2. Students who are ill should be encouraged to stay home, and perhaps this should be added to the student code.
 - v. Do we anticipate a change in the mask mandate due to the vaccination mandate?
 1. This depends on the alert level on campus. We would need to be at alert level 0. High vaccination rate is one indicator, but there are others. We are currently at level 2. <https://www.gvsu.edu/lakerstogether/alert-levels-and-indicators-39.htm>