

Detailed UAS Notes from 04/08/2022

Report from the Chair

- *On the ECS/UAS Newsletter and Year-End Reports from Governance Committees:* The theme of the 2021-2022 UAS Newsletter is Adapting to Change and Reaching Higher Together. ECS/UAS Chair's Year-End Report will be included in the UAS Newsletter that will be published on April 22. Year-End Reports from the Standing Committees of the Senate plus the University Governance Committees (AFAC and LIFT-MC) are due on or before Monday, April 25.
- *On Senate Leadership Elections and the New Senate for 2022-2023:* Elections for Chair and Vice Chair of ECS/UAS will be held on Friday, April 22. The New Senate for the 2022-2023 AY will be welcomed on April 22 at ECS (3:00-4:00 pm) and UAS (4:00-5:00 pm).
- *On the ECS Summer Retreats:* ECS will hold two summer retreats, one in May and one in August. Dates TBD.
- *On the Next ECS Meeting of April 15:* The agenda contains the following items: Discussion on Non-disclosure Agreements and Non-disparagement Clauses; Faculty Facilities Planning Advisory Committee (FFPAC) Memo on Work Order Follow-Up Process; Equity and Inclusion Committee (EIC) Memo on Leadership and Succession Planning; EIC Memo on Responsibilities of EIC; EIC Memo on Teach-In; EIC Report on Data on Diversity; and Review of the Draft Test Optional & Holistic Admissions Task Force Document.
- *On the Next UAS Meeting of April 15:* The agenda contains the following items: NCAA Update; Faculty Facilities Planning Advisory Committee (FFPAC) Memo on Work Order Follow-Up Process; Equity and Inclusion Committee (EIC) Memo on Leadership and Succession Planning; EIC Memo on Responsibilities of EIC; EIC Memo on Teach-In; and EIC Report on Data on Diversity.

Report from the Provost

- *On CHP and KCON Dean Searches:* The searches are underway.
- *On the Provost's Cabinet:* Provost's Cabinet consists of Deans, Vice Provosts, and AVPs who are part of the Provost's Office. They meet Tuesday mornings from 9-11. They have been working on the following:
 - Strategic planning for the Division of Academic Affairs
 - A unified approach to retention efforts across the division
 - Hiring projections over the next 6-8 years
 - DEI framework for Academic and Student Affairs
- *On Transition Planning for the New Provost:* Interim Provost Plouff will meet weekly with incoming Provost Mili until she begins in early July in order to ensure a smooth transition.

Report from the Student Senate President:

- *On Transitioning to the New Student Senate:* the last General Assembly meeting was held Thursday April 7 and the newly elected Student Senate held their first meeting Thursday April 7. New e-board members will be elected next week

New Business

- *On University Budget Presentation:* Vice President for Administration and Finance Greg Sanial presented on the university budget. His presentation slides can be accessed [here](#).
- *On FTIAC Residency Requirement:* Director of Housing and Residence Life Kyle Boone presented on the residency requirement for first-year students. He expressed thanks to Provost Plouff and all those who welcomed him. He described how the housing program is to support the academic mission of the university. First-year students who live on campus are more likely to return than those who live off campus. Living on campus provides access to support and campus resources. The residential curriculum is an outcome-based learning process; students who live on-campus are exposed to social justice, civic engagement, belonging, academic success.
- *On the Faculty Personnel Policy Committee (FPPC) Memo on the LIFT Charge:* The proposal recommended that median and combined median scores will not be reported. Distributions and bar charts will be reported. Written comments should mostly be used for formative purposes, and can only be used for summative purposes to identify inappropriate behavior that would violate a policy, which would require substantive

agreement about an issue or a trend over time. Faculty will be trained on how to use the bar charts and comments. UAS members expressed support for this change. It was asked how this will be embodied in prescriptive policies, this will be a later step in the process. Some colleagues have expressed views that this change may introduce too much subjectivity. A motion was made to table this until more thorough planning for the whole process of evaluating teaching has been determined, which includes peer and self-evaluation. Members expressed concern that this would slow the process of ensuring bias issues in student evaluations of teaching are addressed. The motion to table failed with 6 yes votes, 36 no votes, 0 abstain. Further discussion continued, and it was noted that the memo presented was started in 2019 based on charges to FFPC at that time. The information from the Equity in Personnel Policies (EPP) taskforce recommendations regarding use of student evaluations of teaching and the bias in them was not really part of this, so use of student evaluations will need to be revisited in the future. Motion to support passed with 32 yes, 21 no, 2 abstain.

- *On FPPC Memo on Parental Leave for Faculty:* After the university enacted a new Parental Leave Policy, it was necessary to rewrite existing information on procedures for faculty that appears on GVSU's website. These documents specify how parental leave will be implemented for faculty. FPPC's proposal involves the following: UAS endorsement of a new document on parental leave procedures for faculty; modification on the policy language on parental leave, SG 5.02; and information on the parental leave reference guide faculty link in SG 5.02 to be replaced with the new document on parental leave procedures for faculty. Motion passed with 41 yes, 1 no, 1 abstain.
- *On Faculty Facilities Planning Advisory Committee (FFPAC) Memo on Former Report Review:* This review covered three topics: safety and security, gathering information on classroom issues, and wayfinding issues. For safety/security, night safety walks will be held on the Grand Rapids campuses as well as the Allendale campus beginning next fall. On gathering information on classroom issues, Fixit magnets with information on how to report classroom issues will be placed in classrooms. On wayfinding issues, faculty and staff are encouraged to help students find their classrooms at the beginning of the semesters. Students may feel shy about asking for help, so faculty and staff could be in the hallways proactively offering help. FFPAC plans to continue working on these three issues on a regular basis. Motion to support passed with 42 yes, 1 no, 0 abstain.
- *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 passed with 42 yes, 0 no, 1 abstain.
- *On the General Education Committee (GEC) Memo on Teaching about Systemic Racism:* GEC consulted with faculty and departments teaching in the US Diversity and Global Issues categories. Including language and a student learning outcome related to systemic racism was straightforward for US Diversity, as this was largely being done. For Global Issues, it was more challenging because of the variety of courses in this category. The category description was revised to include systemic racism but a student learning outcome was not added. A question was asked on why explicitly include critical race theory and push a political agenda. The answer was given that this was largely being done, no change is needed in the Global Perspectives category, and this was a current strategic priority recommended by the Network of Advisors. A question was asked why the word "primarily" was stricken from the Global Perspectives category, the answer was given that the word was redundant since the purpose of the courses is to look outside the US. Concern was raised that in the new student learning outcome for US Diversity, it could be taken to sound as though systemic racism only impacts people of color when it is a problem that impacts and needs to be addressed by everyone. Agreement was expressed with this sentiment and it was noted that draft language was given to departments teaching in this category and the wording proposed was supported by most of the departments teaching in US Diversity. Systemic racism can still be taught as a problem everyone faces and must address, but the assessment will focus on the impact on people of color. Motion to support passed with 31 yes, 7 no, 5 abstain.
- *On the University Curriculum Committee (UCC) Memo on Representation by College:* Given the creation of CECI by merging two colleges, UCC decided to continue to have 2 representatives from CECI. They are willing to look at this again in the future. UCC noted that there are unfilled positions in some colleges. Motion to support passed with 39 yes, 2 no, 1 abstain.

- *On the 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. Motion to support passed with 42 yes, 0 no, 1 abstain.
- *On the Student Senate Resolution to Create a Safety Barrier on the Little Mac Bridge:* Given tragedies that have occurred on this bridge, the Student Senate recommends a safety barrier be installed. Motion to support passed with 39 yes, 4 no, 0 abstained.
- *On the Student Senate Resolution to encourage GVSU to print the National Suicide Prevention Hotline Info on Student ID Cards:* Motion to support passed with 40 yes, 1 no, 1 abstain.