

## Detailed UAS Notes from 02/16/2024

### Report from the Chair

- *On President Mantella's Response Memo to "UAS Response to the White Paper on Educating Adult Learners at Scale"*: We have now received President Mantella's response to the memo I sent to the President, Provost, Senior Leadership Team (SLT), and Board of Trustees (BOT) on "UAS Response to the White Paper on Educating Adult Learners at Scale." You can have access to President Mantella's response memo by going [here](#).
- *On the COACHE Survey*: All faculty are reminded to participate in the COACHE [Faculty Job Satisfaction Survey](#), which has been launched and will remain open for several weeks. The findings from COACHE will be available this summer, and in Fall 2024, GVSU faculty will be engaged to review the findings and to start to make changes. Details can be found on [our GVSU COACHE website](#).
- *On Democracy 101*: Upcoming events are February 28, and March 27.
- *On the Theme for the 2024 UAS Newsletter*: The theme for the 2024 UAS Newsletter will be *The Role of Shared Governance in Co-Creating Laker Readiness*. All faculty who would like to contribute an article should contact Chair Ngassa and plan to submit their articles by the deadline of April 1.
- *On the ECS Meeting of February 23*: The February 23 ECS meeting will be an in-person meeting in CHS 127, with a virtual option. The agenda items include the following: Graduate Council (GC) Memo on Independent Study Policy; GC Memo on AI Policy in Theses and Dissertations; University Curriculum Committee (UCC) Memo on Course Designation for Study Abroad and Study Away Courses; Policy on Establishing, Reviewing, and Discontinuing Academic Centers, SG 2.06 & 1.03.B.14; Discussion of Consent Agenda; Review of Statement of Concern Document on Admission; and Discussion of Creation of Test-Optional and Holistic Admissions Task Force 2.

### Report from the Provost

- *On the Faculty Awards Convocation*: Provost Mili congratulated all the faculty that received awards. The full list of awardees was posted in *Lakers Ready*.

### Report from the Student Senate President

- *On Elections*: Student Senate election season is underway. Current Student Senate President, Quinten Proctor, is running for re-election. This is the first time the Student Senate President will be elected by the student body at large.
- *On Admissions and Retention*: The Student Senate is discussing issues related to admissions and retention, especially how to help connect students with resources once they are here.

### New Business

- *On the Discussion of Admissions and Retention*: Members of the SEMP team shared information about the admissions processes. UAS members shared stories from colleagues and themselves about the stress of faculty as they do their best to help learners be successful, including embedding tutoring support and increasing office hours. UAS members shared that no topic has drawn so much interest from colleagues, who have concerns about students who have difficulty with reading and writing at the college level. Concerns were raised for non-tenure-track faculty, who carry a heavy portion of first-year classes. Members mentioned the below-100-level courses GVSU used to offer for students who were not ready for 100-level, and wondered if these could be resurrected. There were thoughts about students beginning at community college and then transferring to GVSU. It was suggested that perhaps there should not be a push for students to graduate in four years, as some may need more time. UAS members support the social justice mission of providing opportunities to more diverse learners but want supports in place for students who are coming in with lower high school GPAs, as these GPAs do predict success in college, even though the metric is flawed and tied to other social factors. There was concern about the impact on mental health for students who are admitted to GVSU but are not successful. VP Truss shared that the admissions process considers each

individual as a whole, considering the application, transcript, test scores, and uses Landscape, a tool developed by College Board. The growth in enrollment was strategic. Financial aid was optimized. Reporting lines were changed to get more recruiters out into the field at high schools, fairs, and open houses. Free tuition and fees are available for families with incomes and assets less than 50,000. There was an overhaul of the merit scholarship program. The Office of Student Support and Belonging was created. Dean Plotkowski, who was a member of SEMP Leadership Team, recommended looking at the SEMP report, which shares a lot of details. Provost Mili highlighted that the two biggest challenges nationwide are student preparation and student mental health. Changing admissions requirements will not eliminate this issue. This year, 16 non-tenure-track faculty positions have been added as a reaction to the growth. VP Hall-Jones shared that Student Affairs has added resources to Disability Support Resources (DSR), support for Asian and Pacific Islander students, an adjunct Care staff member as Care reports are increasing, a peer support program for mental health, a monthly newsletter for parents, a new FTE in the Office of Multicultural Affairs, and more Resident Advisor (RA) staff. She noted that there is a myth that there are waitlists for the Counseling Center, but there are not waitlists. February 22 is mental health screening day. VP Hall-Jones invites faculty who have suggestions for additional resources to contact her. UAS members had questions on the weights of the different aspects of holistic admission, and how social or emotional preparedness could be measured as part of the admissions process. It was noted that faculty should be a key part of developing academic supports for students who have difficulty with math, reading, and writing. There was talk of sending a statement of concern about student preparedness, admissions, and retention to the BOT. However, it was decided that such a move was premature at this time and that it is prudent to wait for the response from administration on the Test-Optional and Holistic Admissions Task Force recommendations. A motion that **“A UAS Task Force be formed with the charge of acting on the Test-Optional and Holistic Admissions Task Force Report in order to continue to review and report on the current GVSU admissions standards, criteria, and decision practices in collaboration with leadership, and review the SEMP recommendations”** was supported.