

## Detailed UAS Notes from 10/27/2023

### Report from the Chair

- *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 attend and bring their students. More information on the Teach-In can be found [here](#).
- *On the Next ECS Meeting of November 3:* The November 3 ECS meeting will be a virtual meeting and will include the following agenda items: OEMC Memo on Program Modality Definitions; FSBC Memo on Updating Faculty Governance Committee Structure; Discussion of Memo from Workload and Significant Focus Task Force; CHP Memo on CHP CPC Representation; Discussion on Faculty Working 100% Remote; and Discussion of Consent Agenda Adoption for UAS.

### Report from the Provost

- *On the HR Session on Leading Lakers:* The Provost attended this session, which will be made available to the campus community.
- *On the Searches for Positions in AWRI and PCEC:* Search firms are being interviewed.
- *On GVSU Quest:* The GVSU Quest session on sustainability was held.
- *On Questions Regarding Workday:* UAS members asked questions on the transition to Workday. More information on the upcoming transition and work-arounds for dates during which some activities will be suspended will be shared in *Lakers Ready*.

### Report from the Student Senate President

- *On Restructuring Processes:* The Student Senate is working on restructuring processes.
- *On the Teach-In:* The Diversity Affairs Committee is spearheading the Student Senate's help with the Teach-In.
- *On Supporting University Committees:* The Student Senate is appointing senators to university committees.

### New Business

- *On the General Education Committee (GEC) Memo on Modifications to GEC Bylaws:* The memo proposed adding “b) to provide materials to assist instructors in teaching and assessing the general education knowledge and skills goals” to the bylaws language, making this a standing charge of GEC. GEC has been doing this to help instructors teach the skills goals, and thought it made sense to add it to the standing responsibilities. The motion to support unanimously passed.
- *On the Discussion of the COACHE Survey:* Ed Aboufadel, Senior Associate Vice President, shared information about the COACHE survey, which will be administered. COACHE stands for *Collaborative on Academic Careers in Higher Education*, which GVSU has joined for 2023-2026. The rationale for joining and conducting the survey is that GVSU is committed to fostering an environment where faculty/staff/students can thrive. This partnership came from a recommendation from GVSU Network of Advisors initiative and a desire for up-to-date data on faculty morale and workload. COACHE was established more than a decade ago and more than 250 colleges and universities are partners. The satisfaction survey was crafted by and for academic leaders. A steering committee has been established at GVSU with faculty, staff, and administration, led by the Office of the Provost. UAS has representation. Communication about COACHE will begin after Thanksgiving. COACHE is different from HERI and the myGVSU Climate Survey. Plans are in development for dissemination and utilization of the survey results in fall 2024. More information can be found [here](#).
- *On the Discussion on Reorganization of PCEC:* This opportunity was triggered by the announcement of Dean Plotkowski's upcoming retirement and discussions of PCEC's current state and visions for the future. There were several reasons for considering separating PCEC into two colleges. These include the following. Technology week reflected the increasing focus of the Grand Rapids community to want to

become a tech hub for the region. Technology is playing an increasing role in everything. In MI the economy is changing faster than in other places as we move from fuel-based to renewal energy, a blue and green economy. Our governor wants our economy to become greener and to build on our water resources. The two colleges would fit within Blue Dot ecosystem that the university is investing in to be the core of the engagement of GVSU with the rest of the community in technology. There is a need to grow our capacity to produce engineers and computer scientists. The two disciplines are at different stages. Engineering is in the phase of the changing face of engineering. Computing is different because it is both a discipline and a platform for everything else. People cannot do their work without some understanding of computing, whereas in some fields people do not need to have knowledge of engineering. The proposal will include a College of Engineering with resources needed to grow and expand in additional subdisciplines and a College of Computing to grow to meet the needs of students who want to major in computing as well as students who need digital literacy and to collaborate with other disciplines. We have compared GVSU to other Michigan universities. We have a lot of capacity for growth. Other Michigan universities have a larger percentage of graduates who are in engineering or computer science. Our computer science portfolio is similar to that of other universities. The engineering portfolio has grown in other universities, and we would like our engineering portfolio to grow. Questions were asked about the funding for this. Each year 30-50 positions become available, and they are not automatically allocated to the same units that lost them. A return on investment is expected from investing approximately 2 million dollars over two years for the Deans and infrastructure to support them and 10 tenure-track faculty positions. Awareness was expressed for the sensitivity of this topic, especially for faculty and staff in CECI. Gratitude was expressed for Dean Soman of CECI, and the Provost stated that CECI will continued to be supported with their continuing growth. Gratitude was expressed for Dean Plotkowski and all he has accomplished as the inaugural Dean of PCEC. The Provost thanked the body for the questions and noted that she hears and understands the anxiety around the resources. Her door is always open for more input. Faculty insight will always be helpful and will help direct the decision, regardless of the outcome. The motion to support passed with 22/40 (55%) votes to support, 13/40 (33%) not to support, and 5/40 (13%) abstentions.