

Detailed UAS Notes from 09/29/2023

Report from the Chair

- *On Memos from the 2022-2023 Academic Year:* Most memos were approved or recommended. A few minor revisions were made upon consultation with senate leadership. If major revisions had been needed, this would have come to ECS for discussion. The following memos are outstanding: FSBC Memo on Extra Compensation, and FPPC Memo on Bias Statement to Students and Faculty. The Provost needs more time to consider the broader context and implementation of these memos.
- *On New Programs Council:* New Programs Council approved the prospectus for a minor in Computing, Intelligence, and Values co-developed by PCEC and CLAS. The Provost will form a taskforce for the new program proposal.
- *On the Selection of LIFT-MC Membership:* The following faculty were selected to serve a 3-year term in LIFT-MC until 2026: Wei Gu; Sarah Nechuta; Christopher Shaffer.
- *On BOT 4.2.10.2:* Each College must decide if the Dean will attend as ex-officio, non-voting member of the College Personnel Committee and the results of the decision shall be reported to the Chair of the University Academic Senate.
- *On the Faculty Forum on the Evaluation of Teaching:* The faculty fora on the evaluation of teaching will be held via Zoom on Monday October 9 from 2:00-3:30 pm and Tuesday October 10 from 10:00-11:30 am.
- *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 submit proposals.
- *On the Next ECS Meeting of October 6:* The October 6 ECS meeting will include the following agenda items: Update on Campus Life Committee; LIFT-MC Memo on LIFT Student Perception Data Report; FSBC Memo on Updating Faculty Governance Committee Structure; Discussion of Memo from Workload and Significant Focus Task Force; CHP Memo on CHP CPC Representation; OEMC Memo on Program Modality Definitions; Discussion of Consent Agenda Adoption for UAS; and Faculty Forum Preparation Discussion.

Report from the Provost

- *On Retention:* The Provost invited everyone teaching 100-level courses to meet and she listened to learn what can be done to support faculty and students. This effort is in collaboration with Student Affairs. A survey was also sent. Students are more engaged, enthusiastic, and present than in recent years, and are also needing more help. *Laker's Ready* on 10/2 summarizes retention efforts.
- *On PCEC:* The Provost held four general sessions for faculty about the direction of PCEC, and two additional sessions for CECI faculty and staff. Lots of feedback was provided about the process. Suggestions were shared and questions were answered.

Report from the Student Senate President

- *On the New Student Senate President:* Quinten Proctor has been elected Student Senate President and attended the meeting. He is a junior double majoring in Political Science and International Relations.
- *On the Focus of Student Senate:* The focus of Student Senate is on restructuring to adapt to the post-COVID environment.

New Business

- *On the Benefits Update:* Open Enrollment is from 10/24-11/8. This is an active open enrollment, meaning everyone must go into the system and update their benefits information. Historical information is not being sent to Workday, only the information from this year's open enrollment is being sent to Workday. Employee contribution to the PPO plan will increase this year due to increased medical costs. There are no changes to vision and dental. A link is being added to the benefits website for affordable dental coverage for employees who do not have dental benefits through GVSU (e.g., adjunct or visiting faculty). There is no charge for the

high deductible plan, but the maximum out-of-pocket amount will increase. Due to changes by the IRS, employees can contribute additional money to FSA, HSA, and retirement accounts. The childcare account contribution remains the same. All affiliate faculty will have long-term disability benefits.

- *On the Discussion of the FARES II Taskforce:* The recommendation is that the Chair of AFAC will be a voting member of ECS and UAS, and a second AFAC member, who must hold an affiliate appointment, will be a voting member of UAS. AFAC will move from a University Governance Committee to a Standing Committee of ECS/UAS. A question was raised about the percentage of UAS members who would be on ECS, and whether UAS votes would be needed if ECS already voted. This proposal would bring the percentage of ECS members on UAS up to just below 40%, which is close to what it was when the reorganization of 2004 was completed. A concern was raised about bringing affiliates into governance. This recommendation was supported.
- *On the OEMC Memo on Instructional Modality Definitions:* The OEMC memo provided definitions for course modalities. A question was asked about whether more students may need overrides if they wanted a course section in their preferred modality; the override process will remain the same. Some concern was expressed for students wanting to have an online option when they have extenuating circumstances, accommodating these requests will be at the discretion of the instructor. A question was asked about assuming students have laptops or other technology for online components of face-to-face classes, but this proposal was not about curricular components of courses. The proposal was supported.
- *On the FPPC Memo on Bias in Personnel Processes from the EPP Task Force Recommendations:* The body discussed the memo. There were some concerns about ambiguity and the inability of ECS to charge UPRC, I & E, and HR to craft policy. The Provost shared that she has already given this to the deans to begin to address. She stated that she is aware that this will need to be coordinated with a taskforce from UAS. She agrees with the need to review our processes and the work will start. This memo was not supported by UAS and plans are to take the memo back to ECS.
- *On the Proposed Changes to the University Conduct Pool, SG 1.03.C.4:* Our policies were not consistent with Student Affairs policies. This is a Student Affairs committee, but faculty are involved. This proposal was supported.
- *On the EIC Memo on Annual Diversity Report:* The report was discussed, accepted, and supported.
- *On the Endorsement of UAS Letter of Appreciation to the eLearning Technologies Team:* UAS voted to endorse a letter of appreciation to the eLearning Technologies Team who have been very helpful to faculty in the transition from Blackboard to Blackboard Ultra.
- *On the Update on Blue Dot:* Blue Dot is part of the implementation of Reach Higher 2025. As part of Blue Dot, current and future programming will focus on digital and information literacy; upskilling k-12, health, and cybersecurity; digital studies; multimedia; computing; applied research; and incubation innovation. Domains include sustainability and ethics; mobility and battery tech; water and nature; computing and new media and design; people and health; and advanced product development.