

Grand Valley State University  
Executive Committee of the Senate  
Minutes of November 8, 2019

- Present:** Yatin Bhagwat, Shawn Bultsma (Vice Chair), Kurt Fanning (for Paul Sicilian), Courtney Karasinski, Brian Lakey, Salvador Lopez-Arias, George Lundskow, Gavin Marlowe (for Student Senate President Szczepaniak), Hazel McClure (for Elizabeth Psyck), Jared Moore, Felix Ngassa (Chair), Charles Pazdernik, Kathryn Remlinger, Melanie Shell-Weiss, Georgette Sass, Joy Washburn
- Absent:** Deana Weibel
- Ex Officio:** Maria Cimitile
- Guests:** McKenzie Gamage (Student), Bob Hollister, Deb Rambadt, Chris Uhl, Peter Wampler, Doug Wentworth

The meeting was called to order at 3:00pm

Agenda Items	Discussion	Action / Decision
1. Approval of Agenda	The Agenda of November 8, 2019 was reviewed.	The Agenda of November 8, 2019 was approved.
2. Approval of Minutes	The Minutes of November 1, 2019 were reviewed.	The Minutes of November 1, 2019 were approved.
3. Report from Chair	The Chair reported that the 7 <sup>th</sup> annual Teach-In was held on Wednesday and Thursday and the several sessions he hosted were well attended. He reminded faculty of upcoming events including the Fireside Chats scheduled later this month and early December as well as the investiture on November 15. The proposed schedule and upcoming agenda items were presented.	
4. Report from Provost	Provost Cimitile reported that she is working on an infographic on initiatives since President Mantella arrived.	
5. Report from Student Senate	Student Senate Vice President Marlowe reported on various initiatives including the First Generation celebration and Grandest Huddle.	
6. New Business	<p>a. Doug Wentworth presented information on Campus Dining and Nutrition and introduced members of his team. Questions were answered from the floor.</p> <p>b. Felix Ngassa led discussion on creating an action plan to address diversity/climate issues. During discussion multiple ideas were generated for possible action including: buying books for each UAS member so they could host a facilitated conversation within each college (or smaller settings); multiple sessions on a certain topic (similar to the Teach-In); instituting another all-campus or community read combined with interactive activities; partnering with Lakeshore Ethnic Diversity Alliance (LEDA); raise awareness how faculty can help their peers with “action steps” and articulating those action steps from the beginning; providing a mandatory session for incoming students regarding diversity; etc.</p>	

There was also a suggestion to have a “menu” of options for faculty/staff/students to select what they would like to participate in. Additional discussion will be had at the next ECS

- c. Gavin Marlowe and McKenzie Gamage presented an overview of the Student Senate Resolution on Opposing the Grand River Waterway Project (proposing to dredge a 7’ deep 50’ wide 22 mile long trench) that was distributed earlier. Peter Wampler and Eric Snyder presented an overview of impact the dredging would have along the riverway. Discussion.

A motion was made and seconded to extend the meeting for 15 minutes

Discussion continued on the Grand River Waterway Project. During discussion a motion was made and seconded that the Grand Valley State University Faculty are concerned that the project will hinder outside learning activities and the quality of experience at GVSU, and as well as negatively impacting our students and their learning experience. They forward this to UAS with a recommendation to support.

**MOTION:** The Executive Committee of the Senate extends the meeting for 15 minutes.  
**APPROVED Unanimously**

**MOTION:** The Grand Valley State University Academic Senate, on behalf of the Faculty, formally state our opposition to the Grand River Waterway Project that proposes to extensively dredge portions of the lower Grand River, based on potential to harm the student learning and living experience, and substantial scientific evidence (for a review, see O’Keefe 2019) that dredging would harm the river ecosystem. With over two kilometers of river frontage adjacent to the Allendale Campus and over ten square kilometers of woodland along the river, the Grand River is a tremendous living laboratory for many departments and programs including but not limited to Biology, Geology, Anthropology, Natural Resources Management, and the Honors College. Faculty regularly engage students in immersive classroom and research experiences and many classes are involved in long-term studies in the river floodplain and ravines. Alteration of the river and riparian

	<p>d. Felix Ngassa presented an overview of the suggested Charge to FPPC regarding the LIFT-MC Report Issues that was distributed earlier.</p> <p>A <u>motion was made and seconded</u> to forward the charge to FPPC.</p> <p>e. Bob Hollister presented an overview of the FSBC Annual Salary Adjustment Request for 2020-21 that was distributed earlier. Discussion.</p> <p>A <u>motion was made and seconded</u> to support the FSBC Annual Salary Adjustment Request for 2020-21 and forward to UAS with a recommendation of support.</p>	<p>zone as a result of dredging and subsequent erosion could negatively impact student learning outcomes. The proposed dredging would alter the riverbed, dewater important riparian wetlands and habitat adjacent to the river, potentially release contaminants stored in the sediments, destroy historic structures and archeological sites, and increase shoreline erosion caused by large boat traffic. The University's oldest varsity sport, rowing, established in 1964 uses the Grand River as an athletic training and competitive venue. Under the proposed dredging project, the river would be unsafe as a venue as the racing shells can be capsized by swells of only 6 inches. Due to the significant harm to academic, athletic, and recreational student life at GVSU, the Faculty oppose the dredging proposal known as the Grand River Waterway Project. They forward this to UAS with a recommendation to support.</p> <p><b>APPROVED Unanimously</b></p> <p><b>MOTION:</b> The Executive Committee of the Senate forwards the Charge to the Faculty Personnel Policy Committee.</p> <p><b>APPROVED Unanimously</b></p> <p><b>MOTION:</b> The Executive Committee of the Senate supports the FSBC Annual Salary Adjustment Request for 2020-21 and forward to UAS with a recommendation of support.</p> <p><b>APPROVED Unanimously</b></p>
7. Adjournment	The meeting adjourned at 5:13pm	