

## SUMMARY OF UAS BUSINESS FOR APRIL 9, 2021 MEETING

The last time the University Academic Senate (UAS) met was March 19, 2021. Between the last meeting of the UAS on March 19, and the upcoming meeting of April 9, the Executive Committee of the Senate (ECS) met once in March and once in April to discuss business of the UAS. These meetings were held on the following dates: March 26, and April 2. At these meetings, ECS acted within its powers as specified in our Shared Governance bylaws, acted on behalf of UAS or supported motions with recommendation to UAS. In preparation for the UAS meeting on April 9, I am sharing information on the following: (1) Action Taken by ECS; (2) Non-Action Items on the Agenda for April 9; (3) Action Items on the Agenda for April 9; and (4) An Action Item on the Agenda for April 16.

### A. ACTION TAKEN BY ECS:

ECS reviewed and discussed a memo from the Affiliate Faculty Advisory Committee (AFAC), and another memo from the Equity and Inclusion Committee (EIC). The resolutions on the recommendations of the memo are the following:

- **AFAC Memo on AFAC Roster:** We reviewed and discussed a memo from AFAC regarding discrepancies in term end dates. After reviewing committee rosters posted on the faculty governance and college websites, AFAC found discrepancies with the term end dates of multiple members. In 2019, the term length for AFAC membership was changed from two years to three years, and to account for that change, the terms of the committee members at the time of the change were staggered to allow for a smooth transition. We believe the discrepancies could be attributed to colleges erroneously running elections based on the previous two-year term schedule. ECS passed a motion, charging the Chair of ECS/UAS to work with the Faculty Senate Assistant in handling this situation through internal communication. The Chair of ECS/UAS and the Faculty Senate Assistant will communicate with all colleges and the University Libraries and alert them to comply with the new term end dates for elections to AFAC.
- **EIC Memo on Long-term Role in Teach-In Planning and Implementation:** We reviewed and discussed a memo from EIC regarding the long-term role of EIC in Teach-In Planning and Implementation. EIC recommended that the Teach-In continue as a collaboration between faculty and the Division of I&E. However, EIC would prefer for the organizational structure to be changed so that a standing committee be created to lead the organization, implementation, and assessment of the Teach-In. ECS passed a motion to accept the recommendations from EIC and will discuss this further during the Spring/Summer retreat to come up with a more sustainable solution for a way forward.

### B. NON-ACTION ITEMS:

The following non-action items will be discussed at UAS on April 9:

- **Budget Update:** The Office of the Provost will be giving a presentation and leading a discussion on University Budget, with particular emphasis on the implication of the updated university budget on the Division of Academic and Student Affairs.
- **Open Collections and Strategy Update:** The Dean of the University Libraries will be giving a presentation and leading a discussion on Open Collections and Strategy at GVSU. It should be noted that an Innovation Fund Award was recently received for “Accelerating Open Educational Resources (OER)”); the strategy for OER at GVSU and what to expect will be discussed.
- **NCAA Update:** The GVSU NCAA FAR will be giving a presentation and leading a discussion on NCAA and the 2020-2021 academic year.

- **Faculty and Staff Dining Concept:** Paul Kramer, Resident District Manager of Campus Dining, will be giving a presentation and leading a discussion on the new Faculty and Staff Dining (Laker Club) that will be located at the Upper Level of Commons (where Einstein Bro’s Bagels used to be).

### **C. ACTION ITEMS FOR APRIL 9:**

ECS made specific motions on the following business items with a recommendation of support to UAS:

- myGVSU 2019 Campus Climate Survey Task Force Final Report. On July 31, 2020, UAS had a discussion and assessment of the myGVSU 2019 Campus Climate Survey Preliminary Results. Subsequently, ECS/UAS Chair invited VP Jesse Bernal to discuss some concerns raised about the Campus Climate Survey Preliminary Results on August 7, 2020. Because of concerns raised, UAS recommended that the results of the survey (especially the quantitative results) should not be used to make decisions until after a task force put together by the UAS on September 1, 2020, had reviewed the results with VP Bernal and made recommendations for a way forward. The task force has now completed its work and has made recommendations for next action steps.
- Academic Policies and Standards Committee (APSC) Memo: Consideration for Continuation of COVID-19 Temporary Academic Policies. Given that the pandemic is still ongoing, APSC recommends that the policy should be extended. APSC recommends not changing the established C/NC deadline and withdrawal deadline for the Spring/Summer semester. Furthermore, APSC recommends that the temporary Student Absence and Attendance policy be continued for Spring/Summer 2021.
- Faculty Salary and Budget Committee (FSBC) Memo: 2021 Summer Salary. FSBC recommends that the original one-year pilot, low enrollment thresholds used for Summer 2019 and continued for Summer 2020 be continued again for Summer 2021.
- Faculty Personnel Policy Committee (FPPC) Memo: Personnel Meeting Formats. Given that a temporary policy allowed synchronous online unit personnel meetings for Fall 2020 and Winter 2021, ECS charged FPPC to examine the possibility of a permanent version of this policy, and make a recommendation on whether to amend Board of Trustees (BOT) Policies 4.2.10. Accordingly, FPPC is recommending some guidelines for the use of synchronous remote meetings for personnel decisions that will change BOT 4.2.10.7. In addition, FPPC is recommending the use of a voting method that does not require accessing a new program.

### **D. ACTION ITEM FOR APRIL 16:**

ECS made specific motions on the following business item with a recommendation of support to UAS:

- Faculty Personnel Policy Committee (FPPC) Memo: Lift Scores. In April 2019, the Laker Impression of Faculty Teaching Management Committee, LIFT-MC, submitted its Final Report to ECS. In the report, LIFT-MC identified some issues on high variability across colleges in how LIFT data are used and interpreted. In addition, the report concluded that some colleges (and possibly units) are using LIFT data in ways that are inconsistent with the intended use of the data. Consequently, ECS charged FPPC with evaluating the issues raised by LIFT-MC. FPPC agrees with LIFT-MC that LIFT data should not be used to make “conclusive judgements about teaching effectiveness”. In order to stop the most egregious uses of LIFT results, the FPPC has proposed four recommendations that if accepted by UAS and the Provost, will take effect immediately. Furthermore, FPPC is proposing other recommendations that will be made in Fall 2021 on how to interpret LIFT data without the use of the Combined Median Score.