

SUMMARY OF UAS BUSINESS FOR THE MARCH 15, 2024 MEETING

The Executive Committee of the Senate (ECS) met two times in February 2024 to discuss the business of the University Academic Senate (UAS). These meetings were held on the following dates: February 9 & 23, 2024. At these meetings, ECS acted within its powers as specified in our Shared Governance bylaws, acted on behalf of UAS, or supported motions with recommendations to UAS. In addition, some leftover business from the February 2 UAS meeting will be considered (motions from the ECS meeting of January 26, 2024). In preparation for the UAS meeting on March 15, I am sharing information on the following: (1) Non-Action Items on the Agenda for March 15; and (2) Action Items on the Agenda for March 15.

1. NON-ACTION ITEMS:

The following non-action items will be discussed at UAS on March 15:

- ***Discussion of Creation of Test-Optional and Holistic Admissions Task Force 2:*** On February 23, ECS reviewed and discussed the potential charges of the Test-Optional and Holistic Admissions Task Force 2. The updated charges will be shared with UAS on March 15 and UAS will discuss the composition of such a taskforce. After discussion of the composition of the task force, the Chair of ECS/UAS will solicit interest from within UAS and faculty at large for membership of the task force. The list of potential members of the task force will be reviewed by ECS and selection made according to SG 1.01.3.4. How did the idea of a task force come about? Please, read the following for context regarding the UAS meeting on February 16:

On February 16, UAS had robust discussions with the administration regarding admission and retention. Present at this meeting as guests were the Vice President for Enrollment Development and Educational Outreach, VP Truss, the Vice President for Student Affairs, VP Hall-Jones, the AVP and Director of Admissions, AVP Velez, members of the SEMP Leadership Team, and faculty who are currently serving on or have served on the SEMP Team. VP Truss shared that the admissions process considers each individual as a whole, considering the application, transcript, and test scores, and uses Landscape, a tool developed by the College Board. The enrollment growth 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 the 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 no waitlists. VP Hall-Jones invited 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 support 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 the administration on the Test-Optional and Holistic Admissions Task Force recommendations. “During the meeting, it was agreed that a UAS Task Force should be formed with the responsibility of implementing the Test-Optional and Holistic Admissions Task Force Report. The task force will continue to review and report on the current GVSU admissions standards, criteria, and decision practices, in collaboration with the leadership team. Additionally, the task force will review the SEMP recommendations to ensure that the admissions process is fair and transparent.”

- ***New Complaints and Grievance Process:*** Senior AVP Ed Aboufadel and members of the Complaints and Grievance Process Taskforce will give us an update on the New Complaints and Grievance Process.
- ***Inclusion and Equity Strategic Framework Presentation:*** On behalf of the Activation and Accountability Leadership team, AVP Marlene Kowalski-Braun, AVP Alisha Davis, and AVP Sean Lancaster will give a presentation on the updated I&E framework, which was last updated in 2015. This is the beginning of the updating process, and they will return in six to eight months with another update. Urban Curry Consulting has partnered with GVSU on the updating of the framework. Feedback was gathered from faculty and staff over the summer, and there is an active student engagement cohort participating in the updating process. There are plans to create a glossary and Toolkit to help with clarity. There is an Equity and Inclusion Institute at GVSU that has provided internally-facing and externally-facing workshops.
- ***Presentation of the Bellamy Creek Program:*** There will be a presentation of the Bellamy Creek Program from our colleague Jackie Doyon-Martin, Professor School of Criminology, Criminal Justice & Legal Studies, and Co-Director, Bellamy Creek Program.

2. ACTION ITEMS:

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

- ***Proposed University Definition of Digital Literacy & Proposed Inventory Process:*** The Digital Literacy Taskforce has been invited to present a summary and answer questions. This group was convened last fall. They drafted a definition and sought feedback from several groups. The proposed definition is “*Digital literacy is the ability to use, create, evaluate, and engage critically with digital technologies to complete tasks safely and ethically in professional and civic contexts.*” Would also like to develop a digital literacy inventory. The motion to support the definition of Digital Literacy with a recommendation to UAS passed unanimously during the ECS meeting on January 26.
- ***Faculty Personnel Policy Committee (FPPC) Memo on Bias Statements for Students and Faculty Revised:*** Statements were drafted last year with FFPC and the I & E Office,

which was approved by UAS, but someone at UAS shared about potential backlash if a statement was included. It was noted that a statement could increase defense mechanisms or decrease student participation. FFPC delved into the research around this, and the review of the literature was inclusive. FFPC tapped psychology faculty to review the submitted draft statements. None of the psychology colleagues objected to the statements based on unintentional harm, but they did suggest revisions to make statements clearer and less accusatory in tone. Many faculty did not feel as though the statements would mitigate bias. FFPC went forward with the statements as these can educate, and it is a public acknowledgment for those who have suffered from bias that we strive to uphold standards of equity and inclusion. The motion to support the memo with a recommendation to UAS passed unanimously during the ECS meeting on January 26.

- ***Proposed Policy on Establishment, Review, and Discontinuing Academic Centers, SG 2.06 & 1.03.B.14:*** A new language has been proposed to replace the current language in SG 2.06. The current title of SG 2.06, “Procedure for Establishment of Non-Academic Institutes, Centers, and Offices” will be replaced with the new title, “Policy on Establishing, Reviewing, and Discontinuing Academic Centers.” In addition, it is recommended to insert a new section SG 1.03.B.14 to establish an additional University Governance Committee. The motion to support the Proposed Changes to the Policy on Establishing, Reviewing, and Discontinuing Academic Centers, SG 2.06 & 1.03.B.14, and forward to UAS with a recommendation to support was approved unanimously during the ECS meeting of February 23.
- ***Review of Statement of Concern Document on Admission:*** On February 23, ECS reviewed and discussed the “Statement of Concern Document on Admission.” ECS did not take any action on the document but rather made a motion to forward the document to UAS as a position statement expressing faculty concerns, for discussion of whether to modify, approve, and/or disseminate. The motion was not unanimous but received overwhelming support.