

SUMMARY OF UAS BUSINESS FOR MARCH 19, 2021 MEETING

The last time the University Academic Senate (UAS) met was February 12, 2021. Between the last meeting of the UAS on February 12 and the upcoming meeting of March 19, we have had two faculty forums on February 16 and 17. In addition, the Executive Committee of the Senate (ECS) met twice in February and once in March to discuss business of the University Academic Senate (UAS). These meetings were held on the following dates: February 19 & 26, and March 5. 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 March 19, I am sharing information on the following: (1) ECS Debrief of Faculty Forums and the Way Forward; (2) New Program Prospectus Reviewed by The Council for New Programs and New Academic Units; (3) Action Taken by ECS; (4) Non-Action Item on the Agenda for March 19; and (5) Action Items on the Agenda for March 19.

A. ECS DEBRIEF OF FEBRUARY 16 & 17 FACULTY FORUMS AND THE WAY FORWARD:

Following the Faculty Forums of February 16 and 17, ECS had on its agenda in two meetings the “Debrief of the Faculty Forums”, in which short-term and long-term recommendations that came out from the faculty forums were discussed. As we look to the future of *Shared Governance*, here are a few takeaways from the forums and our recent ECS meetings.

- The candid assessment of experiences with *Shared Governance* communicated by our colleagues has given us valuable information to strengthen our robust culture.
- Based on feedback from our colleagues during the forums and our debrief in two ECS meetings, the following three themes can be gleaned: Concerns related to trust; Perception challenges; and Process challenges.
- We take the feedback received from faculty colleagues very seriously and plan to take both short- and long-term actions to strengthen our tradition of a robust *Shared Governance*. We are already in the process of taking some short-term actions that will delineate the role of the governance process (specifically the involvement of ECS/UAS, consistent with the expectations from our bylaws) in Program Review. Our strategy for long-term actions is to have focused and deliberative discussions during our ECS retreat in the spring on the essential role of faculty governance in making university decisions. Also, going forward, we plan to have faculty forums regularly every academic year, either once a semester or once a year, where faculty can have candid discussions and share their experience with the governance process.

B. NEW PROGRAM PROSPECTUS: BS MAJOR IN SENIOR LIVING ADMINISTRATION:

Information on Recent Proposals (SG 1.01 Section 2.2.1.1 & SG 2.05):

- The Council for New Programs and New Academic Units (NPC) discussed a prospectus for a new Bachelor’s of Science major in Senior Living Administration. The proposed program prepares administrators to meet the needs of our aging population that continues

to grow, and the authors argue that this new program meets interest levels of current students. It was also noted that this program would be the only accredited bachelor's level program in Michigan. In addition, it would be the only program in Michigan preparing candidates for the required license that would provide the mandated clinical hours or an internship as part of the learning experience. There are currently only ten programs across the nation that offer an accredited bachelor's level program in senior living administration. The Council voted to recommend support for the new program prospectus and forwarded its recommendation to the Provost.

C. ACTION TAKEN BY ECS:

ECS reviewed and discussed a memo from the Affiliate Faculty Advisory Committee (AFAC), in which AFAC representation on ECS and UAS was requested. The resolution on AFAC's memo was the following:

- In principle, ECS accepted that AFAC's request is acceptable in the spirit of inclusivity and equity. We recognize the very important role that our AFAC colleagues play at the university and we are appreciative of their numerous contributions.
- However, because of the implications of the requested change on Board Policies, specifically BOT 3.1.4, and also because more time would be needed to work out the logistical details, ECS will be considering AFAC's request in a more deliberative meeting during the spring retreat.

D. NON-ACTION ITEMS:

The following non-action items will be discussed at UAS on March 19:

- **Strategic Initiatives in the IT Division:** The VP for Information Technology & Chief Digital Officer will be giving a presentation and leading a discussion on the Strategic Initiatives in the IT Division.
- **CCPS/COE Restructuring Task Force Recommendations:** ECS reviewed and discussed the CCPS/COE Restructuring Task Force Recommendations that were addressed to the Provost and referred to ECS by the Provost. ECS unanimously passed a motion to receive the recommendations and forward to UAS for conversation.

E. ACTION ITEMS:

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

- Academic Policies and Standards Committee (APSC) Memo: Modification to the Academic Forgiveness Policy.
- Faculty Salary and Budget Committee (FSBC) Memo: Annual Salary Adjustment Request for 2021-2022.