

Grand Valley State University  
University Academic Senate Special Meeting  
**Minutes of February 16, 2024**

**Present:** Robert Adams, Salvador Arias-Lopez, Marshall Battani, Yatin Bhagwat, Adrian Copeland, Tara Cornelius, David Crane, Brian Deyo, Richard Dolnik (Student Senate, Kurt Ellenberger, John Gabrosek, Charles Ham, Chris Haven, Michael Henshaw, Susan Harrington, Bob Hollister (for Figen Mekik), Barb Hooper, Elena Jimenez (Student Senate), Courtney Karasinski (Vice Chair), Leifa Mayers, Marie McKendall, Azizur Molla, Jared Moore, Melissa Morison, Oindrila Mukherjee, Felix Ngassa (Chair), Chris Pearl, Linda Pickett, Braylond Price (Student Senate), Quinten Proctor (Student Senate President), Wendy Reffeor, Mary Bower Russa, Gayle Schaub, Anne Sergeant, Paul Sicilian, Andrew Spear, Kevin Strychar, Robert Talbert Miriam Teft, Alexander Wilson, Jennifer Winther, Michael Wroblewski (for Deana Weibel), Mingyu Wu, Richard Yidana

**Absent:**

**Ex Officio:** Fatma Mili, Ed Aboufadel, Cathy Buyarski, Jen Drake, Jenny Hall-Jones, Erica Hamilton, Paul Plotkowski, Mark Schaub, B. Donta Truss, Jackie Zhang

**Guests:** Naomi Aldrich, Kirk Anderson, Chasity Bailey-Fakhoury, David Bair, Mary Bair, Nathan Barrows, Keigh-Cee Bell, Matt Boelkins, Larry Burns, Amy Campbell, J Chen, Dan Cope, Lindsay Corneal, Jason Cronkrite, Jennifer Cymbola, Brittlund DeKorver, Will Dickinson, Filiz Dogru, Gwendyn Duiker, Shawn Evans, Paul Fishback, Elizabeth Flandreau, Mayra Fortes Gonzalez, Daisy Fredricks, Patrick Gerkin, Jennifer Gross, Jon Hasenbank, Julie Henderleiter, Amanda K, Eaaron Henderson-King, Mark Hoffman, Cameron Jones, Brian Kipp, Chris Knapp, Brian Lakey, Paola Leon, Leon Lou, Kingshuk Majumdar, Josita Maoune, Jakia Marie, Sarah Mather, Stephen Mattox, Michelle McCloud, Justin Melick, Catherine Meyer-Looze, Emily Nichols, Jen Olson, Jamie Owen-Deschriver, Kris Pachla, Tonya Parker, Thomas Pentecost, Janel Pettes Guikema, Christina Ponzio, Laura Pryzbytek, Joel Quamme, Michelle Rhodes, Scott Rood, Ashley Rosener, Sally Ross, Betty Schaner, Amy Schelling, Ellen Schiller, Christine Smith, Scott Stabler, Paul Stansbie, Mark Staves, Terry Stockton, Ben Swets, Richard Vallery, Danny Vannier, Joel Veazy, Danny Velez, Andrea Vincent, Michael Vrooman, Michael Wolfe

The meeting was called to order at 3:00pm

Agenda Items	Discussion	Action / Decisions
Approval of Agenda	The Agenda of February 16, 2024, was reviewed.	The Agenda of February 16, 2024, was approved.
Approval of Minutes	The Minutes of UAS Special meeting of February 9, 2024, were reviewed.	The Minutes of UAS Special meeting of February 9, 2024, were approved.
Report from the Chair	Chair Ngassa reported We have now received President Mantella’s response to the memo I sent to the President, Provost, Senior Leadership Team (SLT), and Board of Trustees (BOT) on “UAS Response to the White Paper on Educating Adult Learners at Scale.” You can have access to President Mantella’s response memo by going <a href="#">here</a> . He reminded all faculty to participate in the COACHE <a href="#">Faculty Job Satisfaction Survey</a> . GVSU has joined The Collaborative on Academic Careers in Higher Education ( <a href="#">COACHE</a> ) for the next several years. The findings from COACHE will be available this	

	<p>summer, and in Fall 2024, GVSU faculty will be engaged to review the findings and to start to make changes.</p> <p>Upcoming events for Democracy 101 are February 28, and March 27. The theme for the 2024 UAS Newsletter will be <i>The Role of Shared Governance in Co-Creating Laker Readiness</i>. All faculty who would like to contribute an article should contact Chair Ngassa and plan to submit their articles by the deadline of April 1.</p>	
Report from the Provost	<p>Provost Mili reported congratulated all the faculty that received awards during this year's Faculty Awards Convocation. The full list of awardees was shared in <i>Lakers Ready</i> and is available on the Office of the Provost website.</p>	
Report from Student Senate President	<p>Student Senate President Proctor reported that election season is in full swing for Student Senate now and he is running for re-election as President. This election will be the first time the Student Senate President will be elected by the student body at-large.</p> <p>Student Senate is discussing admissions and retention, especially how to help connect students with resources one they are on campus.</p>	
New Business	<p>Discussion was heard on Admission Standards and Conditions with members of the SEMP team sharing information about the admissions processes. UAS members shared concerns about the toll it is taking on faculty to try to support students' academic success and mental health.</p> <p>VP Truss shared additional information about the admissions process and addressed questions from the floor. Dean Plotkowski, who was a member of SEMP Leadership Team, recommended looking at the SEMP report, which shares a lot of details.</p> <p>Provost Mili highlighted that the two biggest challenges nationwide are student preparation and student mental health and noted that changing admissions requirements will not eliminate these issues. Furthermore, 16 non-tenure-track faculty positions have been added this year as a reaction to the growth. VP Hall-Jones shared that additional supports have been added by Student Affairs.</p> <p>A <u>motion was made, seconded, and approved by consensus</u> to extend the meeting by 15 minutes.</p> <p>Discussion continued with questions addressed from the floor.</p> <p>A <u>motion was made and seconded</u> that "A UAS Task Force be formed with the charge of acting on the Test-Optional and Holistic Admissions Task Force Report in order to continue</p>	<p><b>MOTION:</b> The University Academic Senate will form a UAS Task Force be formed with the charge of acting on the Test-Optional and Holistic Admissions Task</p>

	<p><b>to review and report on the current GVSU admissions standards, criteria, and decision practices in collaboration with leadership, and review the SEMP recommendations.”</b></p> <p>A <u>motion was made, seconded, and approved by consensus</u> to extend the meeting by an additional 15 minutes.</p> <p>Discussion continued with questions addressed from the floor.</p> <p>A <u>motion was made and seconded</u> to send the statement of concern that was circulated regarding issues raised by the Test-Optional and Holistic Admission Task Force Report to ECS for discussion.</p>	<p>Force Report in order to continue to review and report on the current GVSU admissions standards, criteria, and decision practices in collaboration with leadership, and review the SEMP recommendations.</p> <p><b>APPROVED by Majority</b></p> <p><b>MOTION:</b> The University Academic Senate sends the statement of concern that was circulated regarding issues raised by the Test-Optional and Holistic Admission Task Force Report to ECS for further discussion.</p> <p><b>APPROVED by Majority</b></p>
c. Adjournment	Adjourned at 5:29	