



# AP Newsletter

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**March 2026**

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## AP Executive Committee Updates

### VP for PEC Responses to Memos

The AP Executive Committee met with Dr. Shorty recently to discuss the two memos sent from the AP Committee regarding the changes to retiree medical benefits and about staff professional development.

You can read those memos and his responses on our [AP Committee Communications Webpage](#).

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### Save the Date! AP Forum

*Tuesday, May 5, 2026 from 3:00PM-5:00PM in Allendale (Exact Location TBD)*

The AP Forum is an annual event hosted by the AP Executive Committee, in which AP staff are invited to dialogue with the Senior Leadership Team. The purpose for the Forum is to provide an opportunity for AP staff to ask questions of the SLT and facilitate conversations between AP Staff and the SLT.

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## Join a Reach Higher Together Explainer & Insight Session!

Grand Valley is co-developing its strategic plan – [Reach Higher Together](#) – which builds on Reach Higher 2025 and sets the direction for the university through 2030.

As part of this process, the Reach Higher Collaborative Leadership Network (RHCLN) invites all students, faculty, and staff to continue shaping a shared roadmap for GVSU’s future.

These sessions are hosted by the RHCLN and facilitated by Laura Aikens (Vice President for Institutional Advancement) and Jen Drake (Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs), in collaboration with University Academic Senate, Student Senate, and the AP Committee.

### Here’s What to Expect:

- **A brief refresher** on our strategic framework, planning timeline, and our current goal during the integration phase: defining success clearly and intentionally.
- **A preview** of the first draft of the university-level “points of integration” — identified areas of overlap between the [Academic Affairs Strategic Framework](#) and emerging divisional plans.
- **An opportunity** to share feedback on the direction of the university-level “points of integration” and make recommendations for shared priorities — ensuring the approach is resonant, relevant, and well aligned across divisions.
- **A look ahead** and exchange of ideas for how we might continue working together as a community during the implementation phase.

Session Information:	Session Information:
TUESDAY, March 31	WEDNESDAY, April 1
Virtual - Zoom	Virtual - Zoom
10:00 AM - 11:00 AM	3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

**Registration will close Monday, March 30 at 5:00 PM.**

[Register to Join RHT Explainer Session](#)

**Questions?**

Please email us at [ReachHigher@gvsu.edu](mailto:ReachHigher@gvsu.edu), or reach out to a member of the [Reach Higher Collaborative Leadership Network](#).

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## 2025-2026 Meetings with Campus Partners

The AP Committee meets with campus partners each year to discuss questions, ideas, and goals. Please contact your AP Executive Committee Representative if you have any questions or wishes regarding communication between AP Committee and Campus Partners. [Find your representative on our website.](#)

As of this newsletter, the AP Committee has met with:

- **Dr. Robert Shorty**, Vice President for People, Equity, and Culture. [Learn more about Dr. Shorty.](#)
- **Dr. Jennifer A. Drake**, Provost and Executive Vice President for the Division of Academic Affairs. [Learn more about Dr. Drake.](#)
- **Representatives from Data & Analytics.** [Learn more about Data & Analytics at GVSU.](#)
- **Representatives from Reach Higher Together.** [Learn more about Reach Higher Together here.](#)
- **Representative from Intercollegiate Athletic Advising.**
- **Jessica Weare**, Vice President and General Counsel.
- [Learn more about The Hub: Updates & Resources Related to Federal and State Landscapes here.](#)
- **Stacie R. Behler**, Vice President and Chief Public Affairs and Communications Officer, Secretary to Board of Trustees. [Learn more about The Hub: Updates & Resources Related to Federal and State Landscapes here.](#)
- **Representative from Human Resources.** [Learn more about Human Resources here.](#)
- **Representatives from Office of the Employee Ombuds.** [Learn more about the Office of Employee Ombuds here.](#)

You can learn about our Campus Partner meetings by reviewing the [AP Executive Committee published meeting minutes](#).

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## Contact the AP Committee

Want to reach us? The AP Committee Website has a place where you can send comments, questions, or initiate conversations with members and representatives. The form is online and can remain anonymous, if you wish.

Submit your comments or questions: Fill out this Form

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## AP Subcommittee Updates

### RSVP to The AP Awards Ceremony

*April 21, 2026 @ 12pm-1:30pm, Valley Campus, Grand River Room, KC*

## Message from...

### IT

All faculty and staff are invited to attend **open forums** focused on the current review of how GVSU uses Microsoft 365 and Google Workspace. These sessions provide an opportunity to learn about the assessment process and share perspectives.

Three forum dates are available:

[March 26, 10am - City Campus](#)

[April 15, 3pm - Zoom](#)

**Important:** There are no proposed changes to Microsoft or Google services currently. Faculty, staff, and students will continue to have access to both platforms as they do today. These forums are intended for listening and learning. Additional community and student-focused sessions will be offered in the coming months.

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## University Communications

### Join the inaugural GVSU CommCon June 17

The inaugural GVSU CommCon, presented by the [University Communicator Network](#) on June 17, is a daylong conference geared toward helping faculty and staff in all stages of communication.

The day will include an inspiring keynote speaker, a luncheon address from President Philomena V. Mantella and breakout sessions.

#### Details:

June 17, DeVos Center for Interprofessional Health, City Campus

[RSVP for CommCon Here](#)

#### Submit a proposal:

We are seeking dynamic presenters to showcase transformative communication projects or share best practices that have worked for them in breakout sessions. Learn

more details about [proposal submissions](#).

We look forward to seeing you in June! Questions can be directed to Michele Coffill, [coffillm@gvsu.edu](mailto:coffillm@gvsu.edu).

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## Cornhole Tournament

The [GVSU Cornhole Tournament](#) is *back* for its 6th year on Tuesday, May 19. It's time to start practicing your throws! Join us for some friendly competition and your chance at earning the title of **2026 GVSU Cornhole Champions**. 🏆

Find a teammate, create a team name (put those puns to work!), and [secure your spot!](#)

### Tournament Details

- Date: Tuesday, May 19
  - *Rain date: Tuesday, May 26*
  - Time: 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
  - Location: Lawn outside of Mary Idema Pew Library (near the Clocktower)
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## 2025-2026 AP Committee Priorities from AP Survey Data

*Based on participation in the AP Survey administered in June 2025, the AP Committee has developed a list of priorities for focused advocacy efforts. [Please review the summarized survey findings and list of AP Committee priorities](#) for the 2025-2026 year.*

Browse all past AP Communication Documents

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