



AP Committee Meeting Agenda
Thursday, September 25, 2025 9a-10:30a
JHZ

Name	Group	Expiration Term
Kyle Barnhart	Central Admin/Development/I&E	2027
Cassonya Carter	CHS, KCON	2027
Melanie Rabine-Johnson	CECI, PCE, CoC	2028
Myesha Gholston	Academic Affairs Student Support Units	2026
Jaime Guizor	Finance & Admin	2027
VACANT	BCOIS, CLAS	2026
Justin Melick	Information Technology	2027
Justin Wickenheiser	University Relations	2028
Bri Slager	Student Affairs	2028
Heather Taylor	Finance & Admin	2027
Fran Golden	Enrollment Development	2028
Jen Torreano	SCB/Library or University Relations	2027
Ex-Officio		
Mary Albrecht	Provost Office Liaison	
Tara Bivens	HR Liaison	
2023-24 Sub-Committee Chairs (optional)		
Keigh-Cee Bell	Social Justice Sub-Committee Chair	
Kelley Senkowski	Awards Sub-Committee Chair	
Jon Dean	Salary & Benefits Sub-Committee Chair	
Paul Cullen	Professional Development Sub-Committee Chair	
Guest		
Jen Drake	Vice President and Provost	

Member present in person

Member present virtually

Academic Affairs Strategic Framework – Provost Drake

- **Is there a place to learn more about the Strategic Framework and the Process plan?**
 - Academic Affairs Strategic Framework website: <https://www.gvsu.edu/aasf>
- **Is there a way for AP staff to ask questions or provide feedback into the Framework?**
 - Encourage AP to engage with the Feedback form:
<https://www.gvsu.edu/aasf/form/93152189-b3ca-4699-b5cd-5ae9f4810694/response/create>
- **Does this work connect to Reach Higher?**
 - Academic Affairs is going first, intentionally – the academic vision needs to drive the collective/holistic work of the institution
 - Laura Aikens and Sean Lancaster are the Reach Higher liaisons, working together to ensure alignment
 - AP staff encouraged to engage in Reach Higher opportunities in the winter semester, to help drive next steps
- **Affordability is a concern and faculty can be impactful when they integrate Open Educational Resources (OER) into their curriculum. Can you make a commitment around OER?**
 - The value of OER is already recognized. Looking for areas to enhance opportunities, such as online and low-residency credit-bearing programs; academic first-year experience, multi-section first-year courses, etc
- **Regarding materials, could we create consistency on adoptions? Example: earlier deadlines for submitting adoptions (publisher discounts), group adoptions for common classes, etc?**
 - We're currently in the 2nd year of a 3-year project associated with the Gardner Institution examining course redesign for high DFW courses, redesigning large multi-section textbooks
 - Mandating common textbooks is a change-leadership and change-management journey for faculty
 - Student Senate is looking at a bill with a cost-containment component
- **Can you talk a bit about the Budget Exercise?**
 - The exercise is a conversation about how the budget is designed and allocated; the work will help ensure that our limited resources are allocated in alignment with our institutional strategies - within the framework of incremental budgeting
- **Can you speak to Omni – are there any measurable outcomes supported by data?**
 - Omni has served 8,601 individuals (not FTEs) with services including online certifications, employee upskilling programs run by local employers, continuing education credits for teachers and social workers and other short courses
- **What is Omni?**

- Clarifying the model (which is still building)
- Currently focused on the Continuing Education piece, not degree programming which is managed by Academic Affairs. However, Omni and Academic Affairs are in thoughtful conversation about those opportunities
- Omni is also expanding and enhancing our branding and footprint in community colleges across the state to a) facilitate recruitment of transfer students and b) eventually offer low-residency programming (aligned with regional economic needs)
- Ultimately, Omni should scale online learning, but also – build partnerships with regions, institutions, and employers for delivery of a variety of low-residency opportunities
- **How are Academic Affairs and Omni working together?**
 - Erica Hamilton is the Academic Affairs liaison on co-designing curriculum to ensure courses are created, converted, or refreshed with academic intention
 - Omni model does require that courses are primarily taught by adjuncts. **However**, course design is managed for quality and developed by tenure-track and/or affiliate faculty
- **Can you talk about GVSU's position on PhD programming?**
 - The only proposal being considered right now is in Computing – driven by regional needs and employer feedback on GR as a Tech Hub, existing partnerships driving applied research opportunities for our teacher scholars
 - Additional programs will be considered through the lens of marketplace needs (ex: healthcare)
- **GVSU just launched a new Branding/Marketing initiative. What can be done to reinforce the value of a Liberal Arts Education**
 - Our core values, and our curricula, are consistent. However, definitions and meaning have changed, outside of the institution. We can use updated language to discuss “what” liberal education is, using a skills-based definition that will be better contextualized by external stakeholders
 - Human-centered skills are more important than ever in this technology-focused environment. We can communicate that using language that resonates
- **Retention rate are low – what are we doing about that?**
 - Our incoming classes have broad academic differentiation – support teaching across that spectrum
 - \$7 million has been invested in student success efforts – aligning budget with strategy
 - First-year experiences, advising options and opportunities, expanding sections using structured learning assistance with peer mentoring support, etc
 - Documenting successes and expanding or changing
- **How can we best support students in high-credit, sequenced majors? Is there an interest in looking at credit value, 4-year graduation approach may not be working**
 - All of the Colleges are examining this. Example: KCON advises on both a 4-year and 5-year option, Engineering is examining ideas around curriculum, particularly with DFW sections

- Understand that schedules are challenging, especially for our students who work or have other obligations.
- Tension: students run out of financial aid eligibility, we want to empower completion before aid runs out

Subcommittees

- Vacancies:
 - AP EC-CLAS, BCOIS – Justin will send out a targeted request and voting mechanism to AP Committee
- Subcommittee and Representative Updates
 - Social Justice
 - Reviewing survey results
 - Awards
 - Finalized survey result reviews
 - Updating rubric wording to validate scoring results
 - Confirming subcommittee is empowered to change without Executive Committee oversight
 - Salary & Benefits
 - Open enrollment – PEC says no major changes this year
 - Preventative screening – bringing in a mammogram truck in October
 - Salary memo – beginning work, partnering with various groups
 - Professional Development
 - First session “Giving & Receiving Feedback” – 32 attended and 21 attendees responded to post-session survey. Feedback indicates more time was needed, and UClub wasn’t a preferred venue
 - October/November session: Worklife Balance
 - February Session Generations in the Workplace
 - March session: Finding Meaning in Work
 - AP Social will be in Grand Rapids, finding location
 - New charge: How are PD funds allocated to AP staff?
 - Possible memo to Dr Shorty on assistance in data gathering
 - AALT
 - Reviewed Academic Affairs Strategic Framework
 - H Julien introductions
 - Strategic Planning updates from PEC/I&E
 - Campus climate insight groups are being instituted.
- Minutes from 9-12-25 Jen Toreano moved, Jaime Guizor supported. Approved

