

Grand Valley State University

Executive Committee of the Senate

Minutes of January 25, 2008

Present: Yatin Bhagwat, John Bender, Gayle Davis (ex officio), Frank Foster (Student), Rob Franciosi (Chair), Joe Godwin (ex officio), Robert Hendersen, Jon Jellema (ex officio), Paul Leidig, Nancy Levenburg, Jean Martin, Kristine Mullendore (Vice Chair), Ellen Schendel, Steven Schlicker, Robert Schoofs, John Stevenson, Kathleen Underwood

Guests: Nancy Giardina, Andrew Topper

The meeting was called to order at 3:02

Agenda Items	Discussion	Action / Decisions
1. Approval of Agenda	The agenda of was reviewed.	The agenda of January 25, 2008 was approved as amended
2. Approval of Minutes	The Minutes of January 11, 2008 were reviewed	The Minutes of January 11, 2008 were approved, as amended
3. Report of Chair	<p>a) The Chair reported that the Strategic Positioning 2010 Committee finished its work for this academic year on Tuesday. The refreshed document will go before the Board of Trustees at their February meeting, and then distributed campus-wide. The Chair reported that the document will be reviewed by the committee on a more regular basis. The current document is posted on the website.</p> <p>b) The Chair reported that a pair of Fora on Teaching Effectiveness are scheduled for Friday, February 1, so there will not be an ECS or a UAS meeting on that day. This topic was identified by the Student Retention and Academic Rigor Task Force and was also brought up by the FTLCAC, who concurred with their suggestion that the <u>Faculty Handbook</u> does not cover teaching effectiveness sufficiently. The results of the discussions at the Fora will be discussed at the next ECS meeting. Any changes that are made to the <u>Faculty Handbook</u>, will need to be reviewed by ECS/UAS and FPPC, if the personnel process is involved.</p> <p>c) The Chair reported that Dr. Jeanne Arnold, Vice President for Inclusion and Equity, will attend the ECS meeting on February 8.</p> <p>d) It was noted that Professor Don Williams has moved from phased retirement to full retirement, and suggested that the ECS/UAS should do something to recognize his service to GVSU and governance. The Chair will draft a resolution for review by ECS/UAS.</p>	<p>The refreshed Strategic Positioning document will come before the senate as an information item.</p> <p>The Chair will draft a resolution thanking Don Williams for his service to the university and governance, and present to ECS/UAS for review.</p>
4. Report of Provost	a) While awaiting the Provost's arrival from another meeting, Vice Presidents Jon Jellema and Joe Godwin indicated in her place that	

	<p>there was no report from the Office of the Provost.</p> <p>A discussion was held concerning the failure of the heating system in Padnos Hall, some time during the previous weekend, as the temperature was, on average, 100F. When Provost Davis arrived at the meeting, she was asked who the proper administrator would be to contact to follow up on the issues raised by this failure of notification and immediate response to the unsafe heating failure. Provost Davis reported that Vice President Bachmeier oversees facilities and the contact persons in Facility Services are Tim Thimmesch and James Moyer.</p> <p>A related facility concern was raised about the narrow aisles in 202A DeVos Center. Provost Davis reported that Vice President Jon Jellema and Registrar Jerry Montag review academic space and it was noted that the FFPAC could also be informed of the concern.</p>	
<p>5. Report of Student Senate</p>	<p>a) Student Senate President Foster reported that the student senate is working on filling committees and sub-committees.</p> <p>b) Mr. Foster reported that students are looking forward to the President's Ball scheduled for Friday, February 1 at the DeVos Place Ballroom with cocktails beginning at 5:30pm.</p> <p>c) Mr. Foster reported that the reception hosted by Student Senate for Dr. Jeanne Arnold the previous week was a success.</p> <p>d) Mr. Foster reported that on February 9 the student senate will hold their retreat and include such activities as bowling and basketball.</p> <p>e) The Student Senate has been in contact with their peers regarding their no-smoking-on-campus policies.</p> <p>f) Mr. Foster noted that the Student Life Fund is dwindling as requests are honored.</p>	
<p>6. New Business</p>	<p>a) The Chair followed up on the issues raised at the prior UAS meeting on the Faculty Handbook's need for editing and revision. The review should look for editing changes that should have occurred when changes were made elsewhere such as those impacted by reorganization and other policy revisions and with a goal of separating policy language that belongs in the handbook from procedural language which should be located elsewhere, although appropriately linked to the policies. It was suggested that a small group work could work on this over the summer and it would specifically address the school/college issue raised at UAS on January 18, create a section for definitions and propose language for those definitions, identify where cross-reference are needed, separate and identify what is within the purview of faculty</p>	

governance review and should be designated as in the administrative portion(s).

The Chair and Vice Chair will further discuss this issue with Provost Davis, as well as identifying what stipends might be available for the work group.

b) The November 5, 2007 memo from Larry Burns, Chair of FSBC, requesting the formation of a Task Force to review the university's assignment of faculty work for 399s, 499s, and other credit generating courses that is not compensated for as part of a regular course assignments. It was proposed that the task force would consist of members from UCC, FSBC, and FPPC. The ECS Chair noted FPPC has declined to work on this task force, believing the issue can best be handled within the units an individual faculty member's Workload Plans.

After considerable discussion, the group reached consensus on this request. It endorsed the position of FPPC that the current Workload and Rewards policy seems the proper mechanism for addressing the impact of these independent study offerings on faculty.

ECS also believes that a standard policy would be difficult, if not impossible, to formulate given the range of thesis, project, and independent study work that faculty do. Determining compensation or reassigned time for such efforts should remain an administrative function.

The Graduate Council has discussed this issue and would like to have a representative involved in the fact-finding and further discussion. It was noted that ECS would be interested in receiving any additional data that is collected on this issue.

The Chair will send a memo to the Chair of FSBC advising him of ECS's decision.

c) The Prospectus for Online Degree Programs from the College of Education, which was distributed earlier, was discussed. The Chair summarized issues that it presents, such as: 1) GVSU does not

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The Chair will send a memo to the Chair of FSBC advising him of the decision.

	<p>currently have a policy for UCC or GC to use to review programs that are proposed to be delivered completely online, 2) the implication in the proposal that the program would rely heavily on adjuncts/affiliates raises questions of how it might impact the Program in the eyes of NCA, an issue that was raised earlier in their review of the Nursing graduate program and the Education Specialist Degree, and 3) the difference in expected costs from IT and the department.</p> <p>A question was raised from the floor on whether or not the instructors will have the proper credentials, who will monitor this and how that monitoring is to be done. The Graduate Council is reviewing what level of courses that instructor credentials ought to be verified, and whether there should be an review of those credentials external to the unit as well.</p> <p>Dr. Nancy Giardina agreed to ask the Graduate Council to identify what best practices are, and will report back to the senate. GVSU is not currently authorized by NCA to offer online courses. However, the appropriate time for the request for that approval is after the program has been approved through GVSU's curricular review process.</p> <p>Another question was raised on how the program could guarantee the authenticity of the identity of the person taking the course.</p> <p>The Asynchronous Teaching Task Force Report from 2003 was discussed. The University Curriculum Committee will be asked to review and determine if the Task Force needs to be reconvened to revise the document.</p> <p>c) <u>Prospectus / Final Plan Procedure</u> No discussion</p>	<p>Dr. Nancy Giardina will ask the Graduate Council to identify what best practices are, and report back to the senate.</p> <p>The University Curriculum Committee will be asked to review and determine if the Asynchronous Task Force needs to be reconvened to revise the document.</p>
Adjournment	The meeting adjourned at 5:00 PM	