

# Grand Valley State University

## Executive Committee of the Senate

### Minutes of March 21, 2008

**Present:** John Bender, Yatin Bhagwat, Gayle Davis (ex officio), Rob Franciosi (Chair), Joe Godwin (ex officio), Richard Hall (for Nancy Levenburg), Jon Jellema (ex officio), Sharon Leder, Paul Leidig, Jean Martin, Kristine Mullendore (Vice Chair), Tonya Parker, John Peck (for John Stevenson), Steven Schlicker, Robert Schoofs, Roger Wilson (for David Bair), Roy Winegar, Kathleen Underwood

**Guests:** Teresa Beck, William Levitan, Neal Rogness, Curtis Smith, Yan Yu, Star Swift

The meeting was called to order at 3:03

Agenda Items	Discussion	Action / Decisions
1. Approval of Agenda	The agenda of March 21, 2008 was reviewed.	The agenda of March 21, 2008 was approved as submitted.
2. Approval of Minutes	No Minutes for Review	No Minutes for Review
3. Report of Chair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) The Chair reported that Vice Chair Mullendore is sending around a sign up sheet for the new faculty receptions to be held on April 7 and April 10 from 4 to 6pm. This is a great opportunity to network with new faculty colleagues.</li> <li>b) The Chair reported that several senators were unable to attend this meeting because of illness</li> <li>c) The Chair reported that he and several other senate members attended a presentation by an architectural firm who specializes in contemporary academic libraries and learning centers. He will report more on this at the next UAS meeting</li> </ul>	
4. Report of Provost	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Provost Davis reported that the dean searches for the College of Health Professions and the College of Community and Public Service are at their final stages. The Provost's Office expects to have the searches finalized in a week or so.</li> </ul> <p>Provost Davis, in response to questions raised from the floor, reported that, while there may be a few snags, the Banner System is enforcing prerequisites as it was programmed to do. Manual overrides of the system are also occurring depending upon the student's circumstance.</p>	
5. Report of Student Senate President	In the absence of a student representative there was no report	No Report

<p>6. New Business</p>	<p>a) A summary of the Final Plan for a Major in Chinese Studies that was distributed earlier and is supported by UCC and FSBC was presented by Curtis Smith and Yan Yu. Discussion.</p> <p>It was <u>moved and seconded</u> to forward the Final Plan for a Major in Chinese Studies to UAS for their action, with a recommendation of support.</p>	<p><b>MOTION:</b> The Executive Committee of the Senate approves the Final Plan for a Major in Chinese Studies and forwards it to the University Academic Senate, with a recommendation of support. <b>APPROVED by voice vote with 1 abstention</b></p>
<p>7. Old Business</p>	<p>a) A summary of the notes from February 29, 2008 working session that included ECS members and members of the GVSU LGBT subcommittee that were distributed earlier was discussed.</p> <p>Three motions for consideration were presented: The first motion is a recommendation for UAS: It was <u>moved and seconded</u> that "UAS reaffirms its commitment to equity in employee benefits and requests that GVSU identify and extend present employee benefits to include other qualified individuals." Discussion.</p> <p>The second motion is a recommendation for ECS to formally establish a group to advise the senate: It was <u>moved and seconded</u> that "The Executive Committee of the Senate resolves that it will create an Employee Benefits Working Group, the members of which will be appointed by the Chair, who will be charged with meeting with administrators and others to develop the expertise necessary to advise the University Academic Senate on the nuances of the plan to extend benefits to other qualified individuals concerning which the Executive Committee of the Senate will be asking President Haas to report on to the Senate." Discussion.</p>	<p><b>MOTION:</b> The Executive Committee of the Senate recommends that the University Academic Senate reaffirms its commitment to equity in employee benefits and requests that GVSU identify and extend present employee benefits to include other qualified individuals. <b>APPROVED Unanimously by voice vote</b></p> <p><b>MOTION:</b> The Executive Committee of the Senate resolves that it will create an Employee Benefits Working Group, the members of which will be appointed by the Chair, who will be charged with meeting with administrators and others to develop the expertise necessary to advise the University Academic Senate on the nuances of the plan to extend benefits to other qualified individuals</p>

Volunteers for the committee are John Bender, Marinus DeBruine, Neal Rogness, Star Swift and Kathleen Underwood.

The third motion requests a report from President Haas:  
It was moved and seconded that *"The Executive Committee of the Senate asks President Haas for a report on the actions that will be taken to extend benefits to other qualified individuals as soon as the Michigan Supreme Court reaches a decision on the pending case that will resolve some of the legal issues surrounding benefits of this type. The Executive Committee of the Senate asks that this report be made by April 4, 2008."*

Considerable discussion was heard on how to make the request for information in the best way without unduly hindering Administration. Faculty have made it clear they want equal benefits across the university, and would like a sense of reassurance from President Haas that progress is being made and that the university is well positioned regardless of what is the decision of the Michigan Supreme Court decision in the pending case.

Provost Davis reminded the senators that the GVSU Board of Trustees will decide the benefits question after the court decision has been handed down. Therefore, President Haas will not be speaking publicly about this issue now.

Upon further discussion, the ECS agreed that after an informal meeting with President Haas, the Chair and Vice Chair could report back to the ECS.

It was requested that a secret ballot be held on whether this should be presented to President Haas.

b) The Chair presented an overview of the current system of voting on personnel issues and identified the changes proposed, such as 1) changing those eligible to vote on contract renewals, tenure and

concerning which the Executive Committee of the Senate will be asking President Haas to report on to the Senate.  
**APPROVED Unanimously by voice vote**

It was requested that a secret ballot be held on whether this should be presented to President Haas.  
**SECRET BALLOT RESULTS:  
8 yes; 4 No; 1 Abstention**

	<p>promotions to only tenured faculty; 2) how to ensure that there are a sufficient number of tenured faculty available to vote in smaller units, if the eligibility requirement is changed; 3) the right to use an absentee ballot; and 4) calculating a vote based on the number of eligible voting faculty that are present as opposed to the number of eligible faculty in the unit.</p> <p>Discussion.</p> <p>Joe Godwin presented a probability theory schematic drawn on the white board for consideration during the discussion of tenured only voting.</p> <p>It was moved and seconded that the FPPC proposed revisions be amended to revert back to the old language concerning voting with regard to absentee ballots.</p>	<p><b>MOTION:</b> The ECS recommends that the FPPC proposal be revised before it is presented to UAS so as to not include the possibility of absentee ballots and that the language taken to UAS revert back to the original language on this part of the proposed revisions.</p> <p><b>APPROVED with 1 abstention</b></p>
8. Adjournment	The meeting adjourned at 5:04pm	