

Grand Valley State University
Executive Committee of the Senate Meeting
Minutes of March 14, 2025

Present: Nick Baine, Krista Benson, Yatin Bhagwat, Chris Haven, Karyn Rabourn, Courtney Karasinski (Chair), Salvador Lopez-Arias, Rodd Lowell (for Jennifer Cymbola), Gwyn Madden, Hazel McClure, Figen Mekik, Chuck Pazdernik, Quinten Proctor (Student Senate President), Rahat Rafiq, Anne Sergeant (Vice Chair), Christine Smith (for Ernest Park), Kevin Strychar, Miriam Teft (for Tonya Parker), Mary Russa for Deana Weibel

Absent: Susan Harrington, Jennifer Winther

Ex Officio: Jen Drake, Ed Aboufadel

Guests: Sherie Klee, Jennifer Pope, Raymond Higbea

The meeting was called to order at 3:00pm

Agenda Items	Discussion	Action / Decision
1. Approval of Agenda	The Agenda of February 21, 2025, was reviewed.	The Agenda of February 21, 2025, was approved with 1 abstention
2. Approval of Minutes	The Minutes of ECS Regular Meeting of February 21, 2025, were reviewed.	The Minutes of ECS Regular Meeting of February 21, 2025, were approved with 1 abstention
3. Report from Chair	<p>Chair Karasinski reported that she attended a discussion on the Academic Affairs Strategic Plan to Augment Research, Scholarship and Creative Activity (SPARCA) and that a survey is available for faculty if they were unable to attend the in-person sessions.</p> <p>She also met members of The Change Leaders (TCL), who are the external facilitators for COACHE discussions who were hired at the request of the faculty on the COACHE Steering Committee. Additionally, she met with VP Shorty to discuss collaboration between his division and UAS and invited him to a future meeting (April 11) to share his vision for the division of People, Equity and Culture.</p> <p>Chair Karasinski also attended a pre-AI accelerator virtual training, with topics of design thinking, group collaboration, and improving student retention.</p>	

	The calendar and upcoming agenda items were shared.	
4. Report from Provost	<p>Acting Provost Drake welcomed all and reported that strategic planning continues, and conversations continue on the COACHE process.</p> <p>The Senior Leadership Team (SLT) is in constant conversation around the federal climate. It was noted that GVSU received notice in January that we scholarships that have race based criteria; the University Development Office is working with donors to change this language.</p> <p>She further noted that interviews are scheduled for the VP for Research candidates.</p> <p>Questions were addressed from the floor related to LIFT data being held outside of Academic Affairs. Provost Drake and SAVP Aboufadel will look into this.</p>	
5. Report from Student Senate	<p>Student Senate President Proctor reported that they passed a bill which recommends an optional "Course Marking" system where classes may be marked as "low-cost" or "no-cost". They are planning to bring this to ECS/UAS as faculty input will be important for this.</p> <p>The Reach Higher Collaborative Leadership Network's Core Team is coming in to meet with Student Senate as part of the student engagement strategy for Reach Higher Together.</p> <p>They held the annual Last Lecture event, where Adrian Copeland was able to give an inspiring lecture about life lessons.</p> <p>The Student Senate elections will be held next week, and faculty are encouraged to remind students to vote.</p> <p>Questions were addressed from the floor.</p>	
6. Old Business	<p>a. Chuck Pazdernik provided an overview of the proposed changes SG 1.02-03 Committee Indices. Discussion, with questions addressed from the floor.</p> <p>A <u>motion was made and seconded</u> to support the proposed changes SG 1.02-03 Committee Indices and forward to UAS for their review.</p>	<p>MOTION: The Executive Committee of the Senate supports the proposed changes SG 1.02-03 Committee Indices and forwards it to UAS for their review.</p> <p>APPROVED Unanimously</p>

	<p>b. Discussion was heard on the creation of a subgroup to determine action items and next steps related to the concerns identified in the COACHE survey and subsequent discussions.</p> <p>The charge for this group is to: “Collate the information from COACHE, the Admissions Taskforce, the SHGR Taskforce, and previous UAS discussions and individual faculty members and identify actions with timelines we would like to see from the Senior Leadership Team. Bring this information to UAS in April.”</p> <p>The following faculty members were appointed to the subgroup: Leifa Mayer (UAS member), Chris Haven (ECS member and SHGR Taskforce member), Mary Bower-Russa (UAS member), Figen Mekik (ECS member, SHGR Taskforce member, and COACHE Steering Committee Member), Bob Hollister (FSBC Chair and SHGR Taskforce member), and Kyle Brink (COACHE Steering Committee Member).</p> <p>A Motion was made and seconded to accept the charge to this group and forward to them.</p>	<p>MOTION: The Executive Committee of the Senate accepts the charge to this group and forwards it to them.</p> <p>APPROVED Unanimously</p>
7. New Business	<p>a. Sherie Klee presented an overview of the International Education Committee (IEC) Letter that was distributed earlier. The letter requests the restoration of the funding for faculty-led study abroad experiences that was cut during COVID.</p> <p>A <u>Motion was made and seconded</u> to accept the letter from IEC, thanks the committee for their work, and forwards it to the Office of the Provost.</p> <p>b. Jennifer Pope provided an overview of the Equity and Inclusion Committee (EIC) Memo on Academic Impressions that was distributed earlier. They were charged to “Review Academic Impressions Trainings and make recommendations for people in leadership positions.” <i>Creating Equitable and Inclusive Meetings</i> is</p>	<p>MOTION: The Executive Committee of the Senate accepts the letter from IEC, thanks the committee for their work, and forwards it to the Office of the Provost.</p> <p>APPROVED Unanimously</p> <p>MOTION: The Executive Committee of the Senate accepts the report and places it on the UAS consent agenda.</p> <p>APPROVED Unanimously</p>

	<p>A <u>Motion was made and seconded</u> to ask EIC to review the committee ex-officio membership and bring it into alignment with the current GVSU structure.</p> <p>e. Raymond Higbea provided an overview of the recommendations from the SHGR Taskforce that was distributed earlier.</p> <p>Discussion was heard on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • having faculty standing governance committees conduct regular university strategic reviews with their relevant VP. • Select faculty governance committees engaging directly with the relevant vice president and the provost and report recommendations through memos. The relevant vice president and provost will collaboratively respond to recommendations. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing committees with relevant VPs or designees: FSBC, FPPC, FFPAC, Campus Life Committee, and EIC. Areas to develop faculty committees to engage more directly with the VP include IT, OMNI, Enrollment Management. • All shared governance committees, existing or new, should reflect the faculty composition of the University Academic Senate, have elected faculty representatives, provide release time for chairs and potentially vice-chairs, and include ex-officio representation from the relevant VP and Provost's Office. • UAS/ECS should conduct annual formal orientation or mentor for new members of the Senate and • explore opening the election of Chair and Vice Chair of the Senate to be done by the full senate. 	<p>MOTION: The Executive Committee of the Senate accepts the recommendations from the SHGR taskforce, thanks them for their work, and forward to UAS and the provost for internal discussion, feedback, and synthesization.</p> <p>APPROVED Unanimously</p>
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	A <u>Motion was made and seconded</u> to accept the recommendations from the SHGR taskforce, thank them for their work, and forward to UAS and the provost for internal discussion, feedback, and synthesization.	
8. Adjournment	The meeting adjourned at 5:03pm	