

Detailed ECS Notes from October 04, 2024

Chair's Report

- *On the 12th Annual Teach-In: Power, Privilege, and Difficult Dialogues:* The 12th Annual Teach-In will be held on Wednesday, November 13 on the Pew Campus and Thursday, November 14 on the Allendale Campus. More information on the Teach-In can be found [here](#). All are highly encouraged to participate.
- *On the Faculty Fora for Fall 2024:* Faculty fora will be held via Zoom on October 16 2:30-4 and October 17 10-11:30 on the topic of AI in teaching. All faculty are encouraged to attend.
- *On the Benefits Committee Meeting:* The Chair of Vice Chair of UAS sits on the Benefits Committee. There is a meeting next week, and UAS Chair Karasinski will bring up the discussion of benefits for fertility treatments in the meeting, and will report on the meeting at the next ECS meeting.
- *On the ECS Meeting of 10/11/24:* The agenda for the ECS Meeting of 10/11/24 will include Discussions on Faculty Appointments to Omni Collaborative Advisory Group; FPPC Memos on Review of BOT 4.2.7, Release Time and Faculty Evaluation, Optimum Membership, Faculty Awards in Personnel Processes and Annual Evaluations, External Advocate in Personnel Processes, Core Competencies and Implications in Faculty Policies and Processes, and CHP CPC Representation; CECI Personnel Policies; Faculty Fora on AI; and a Workday Student Progress Update.

Provost's Report

- *On Expressive Activity:* SLT revisited the Expressive Activity Policy. Next week is designated a “week of rage” by activists.
- *On Gray DI:* ECS members are invited to a session on Gray DI next week. Additional sessions will be held for other members of the campus community.
- *On the COACHE Survey:* The Provost and members of SLT met with members of the COACHE Steering Committee. There was good discussion on how to be collaborative. Administrators will not be present at the October sessions on COACHE. They want to listen to faculty but the first round of discussion should be for faculty without administrators present.
- *On Reach Higher Collaborative Leadership Network:* The first meeting was held. This group was formerly known as President's Council. The emphasis is on continuity of the plan and celebrating success. The plan is built around broad engagement.

Student Senate President's Report

- *On Meetings with Administrators:* Student Senate President Proctor met with Acting Provost Drake and learned more about the Structured Learning Assistance course sections. Members of ECS expressed support for these course sections. The College representatives on Student Senate met with their College Deans. Student Senate and administrators are building partnerships.
- *On Elections:* Student Senate President Quinten Proctor met with VP of Student Affairs Jenny Hall-Jones engaging students are their feelings on elections. Many students prefer to engage online and are less comfortable engaging about elections and politics in person.
- *On the Ferris State Game:* When Student Senate President Proctor and VP Hall-Jones met, they also discussed encouraging positive engagement at the upcoming football game against Ferris State.
- *On Course Cost Markings in Banner:* Student Senate President discussed transparency on cost markings in Banner. SAVP Aboufadel shared the website that lists additional fees for courses. ECS also discussed the need for students to know the true costs of courses, ideally including materials, as they need this information to best plan their financial aid and budgets. Many faculty praised the work of the University Libraries, who have materials available and provide support to faculty, including funding, for use and creation of Open Educational Resources. It was noted that many courses are taught by adjuncts, who may not know what they are teaching until shortly before the semester starts; and also course assignments can change for affiliate, visiting, and tenure-track faculty, too. Models with course coordinators who share resources to keep sections of the same courses consistent in regard to materials and costs were discussed. It was noted that this conversation demonstrated the dedication of the faculty to supporting students. There was a question about where lab fees are used in the university, as these do not go back to the units.

Old Business:

- *UTC Policy on AI:* VP and Chief Digital Officer Miloš Topić discussed the University Technology Council Policy on AI and the feedback he received from ECS. He shared that ChatGPT brought AI to the forefront recently. UTC spent months researching the AI policies of many universities. UTC includes faculty

representatives, appointed by ECS, and other members from Academic Affairs; the membership can be viewed [here](#). This first AI policy was meant to be foundational and will be reviewed annually at a minimum. Graduate Council had created a similar policy for graduate projects, theses, and dissertations. On the ECS feedback that was provided, VP Topić shared that it was discussed and UTC did not want to be too prescriptive, especially in the classroom, but wanted faculty to have support. UTC decided to keep the document as it is but are open to expanding the process. UTC unanimously voted on to support this policy. It was noted that the Academic Technology Advisory Committee (ATAC), which is a faculty governance committee, was not consulted; it was shared that UTC has faculty members appointed by ECS to represent faculty. ECS members noted that reading the UTC policy resulted in questions and uncertainty around what is or is not allowed, which makes it difficult for ECS members to communicate about it to others. VP Topić noted that co-creation of the announcement of the policy will happen with ECS in order to capture faculty-specific information. ECS members from the Padnos College of Engineering and the College of Computing shared how the policy could impact the work done in these colleges. VP Topić asked ECS members to send him suggestions for wording of the policy that can be taken to UTC.

- *On the OEMC Memo on Faculty Certification for Online/Hybrid Teaching:* This memo recommended that faculty teaching online or hybrid courses engage in training every five years. Training can be accepted from other institutions as well. The motion to support with recommendation to UAS passed unanimously except for one abstention, as the Chair of OEMC is also an ECS member.
- *On the OEMC Memo on Multiple-Modality Course Delivery:* This memo noted that multiple-modality course delivery is relatively rare, and OEMC will monitor increases and discuss resources as needed. It was noted that the accounting graduate program does have multiple-modality courses. The motion to support with recommendation to the UAS consent agenda passed unanimously except for one abstention, as the Chair of OEMC is also an ECS member.
- *On SHGR Taskforce Charge:* The charge to the SHGR taskforce was written as follows: Propose recommendations for potential changes to the Faculty Governance Structure that are consistent with the responsibilities of the Senate (BOT 3.1.4.1) and its standing and other associated committees. In addition, make recommendations with attention to recent changes to and restructuring of the President's cabinet. Please engage with the results, Steering Committee, and evolving conversations around the COACHE survey. Update ECS in January 2025."
- *On Discussion on Benefits for Fertility Treatments:* A robust discussion was held on the desire to investigate the opportunity for GVSU to provide benefits for fertility treatments for all employees. It was noted that affiliate faculty sometimes are left out of benefits to employees or faculty, and it was clarified that the desire would be for affiliate faculty to have these benefits. Currently, University of Michigan covers fertility treatments, with a cap. Covering these costs could aid in recruitment and retention of faculty. GVSU covering fertility treatments could also start of wave in Michigan for more universities to cover these costs. Infertility impacts groups that have historically been marginalized, such as the LGBTQIA+ community; it also impacts cisgender heterosexual individuals. There was broad support for covering fertility treatments. Chair Karasinski will raise the issue at the Benefits Committee meeting. The ECS charges 1) FSBC with researching the cost of offering fertility benefits at comparable institutions; EIC with evaluating the impact on faculty/staff retention, equity and recruit at institutions that offer fertility benefits; and 3) after FSBC and EIC make their recommendations, forward those to ECS who will charge FPPC with crafting language and personnel policy for possible coverage for fertility benefits for benefit eligible GVSU employees.

New Business

- *GEC Memo on Digital Literacy Rubric and GEC Memo Digital Skills Learning Objective:* Carol "Griff" Griffin, Administrative Director of General Education and ex-officio member of GEC provided the history of GEC's work on digital literacy. They spent a year working on a definition of digital literacy for GEC and surveyed faculty teaching in general education about the desire to include a digital literacy objective. Although there is support for ensuring that our students achieve digital literacy when they graduate, General Education is not the right place for this. A need to educate faculty on what digital literacy is and how it applies broadly to each discipline was discussed by ECS. It was noted that students are at widely varying levels of digital literacy, and we cannot assume that they have the skills we are expecting. A motion was passed to thank the GEC for their work on digital literacy.

- *Selections for Omni Collaborative Advisory Group*: This item was not discussed due to time constraints and will be placed on the agenda for the ECS meeting of October 11, 2024 under Old Business.