

Detailed Notes on the ECS Meeting of March 28, 2025

Chair's Report

- *On Reach Higher:* All are encouraged to attend the [Reach Higher Celebration \(April 17 at 2:00 p.m.\)](#) and the [Beyond 2025: Reach Higher Foresight Sessions \(March 26-28\)](#). The foresight sessions will include activities to identify and explore external factors – such as political, economic, social, and technological trends that could shape GVSU's approach to the future. Two sessions will focus specifically on academic visioning, open to all, with an emphasis on teaching, learning, and research within the context of Reach Higher.
- *On the Provost Position:* Chair Karasinski and Vice Chair Sergeant met with President Mantella, who shared her thoughts and asked for feedback on considering changing Provost Drake's appointment from acting to permanent and her plans to reach out to UAS members for feedback. She had also conferred with the members of the Provost's Cabinet. President Mantella expressed her understanding of the importance of faculty confidence and trust in the provost, and her respect for UAS members as faculty representatives, and her meeting with the UAS leadership and then sending an email to all UAS members was appreciated. Here is [the form to provide feedback on appointing Provost Drake to the position](#).
- *On the New Programs Council:* The New Programs Council supported the creation of three new units in the Padnos College of Engineering: Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering, Electrical and Computer Engineering, and Integrated Engineering.

Provost's Report

- *On Student Scholar's Day:* The theme for the 29th Annual Student [Scholars Day](#), to be held on April 9, 2025, is Redefining Boundaries: AI and the Evolution of Science, Tech and Culture. More than 500 student presentations have been guided by 141 faculty.
- *On Presidential Fellowships:* Applications for [Presidential Fellowships](#) are due April 18.
- *On the COACHE Survey:* Workshops around the COACHE Survey will be held late in May.
- *On the Appointing Officer Weekly Meetings to Discuss the Federal Landscape:* The GVSU plan is to stay aware but not overreact. It was noted that the University of Michigan has immediately closed their DEI offices, but that is not an action GVSU will take.

Student Senate President's Report

- *On Disability Training for Faculty and Staff:* Student Senate passed a bill on disability training for faculty and staff.
- *On Admissions Standards and Retention:* Student Senate passed a bill on admissions standards and retention.
- *On Student Senate Elections:* More than double the number of students voted in this year's Student Senate election compared to last year. Evan Jackson was elected as the new Student Senate President and Ty Vanlerberghe was elected as the new Student Senate Vice President.

New Business

- *On the HLC Quality Initiative Proposal:* Sean Lancaster, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs, share information about the HLC Quality Initiative Proposal. HLC requires institutions in years five through nine to propose and conduct a quality initiative. We are in year five. A 4500-word submission will go to HLC this summer. GVSU's topic is Barrier-Free Access to Experiential Learning: A Systemic Approach for Empowered Educational Experiences at GVSU. ECS unanimously moved to support with recommendation to UAS.
- *On the APSC & OEMC Memo to Clarify Definitions of Certificates and Badges:* This memo proposed the following definitions. A *certificate* is a record of achievement that recognizes a student's completion of a coherent and meaningful academic experience. A certificate includes anywhere from 12 to 18 academic credits at the undergraduate level and anywhere from 12 to 24 academic credits at the graduate level. The certificate is posted to the academic transcript. A digital badge, or *badge*, is a record of achievement that recognizes a student's completion of a coherent and meaningful academic experience. The proposed definitions for certificates and badges eliminate overlap in credit hours between the two micro-credentials. It was noted that this joint memo from two Standing Committees is a good example of shared governance. ECS moved to support with recommendation to UAS, with one abstention from the ECS member who also is Chair of OEMC.
- *On the APSC Memo on Synthetic Media:* APSC was charged to assess the feasibility of a university-wide policy statement on synthetic media (SM). The committee determined that this is feasible and needed. Their survey of faculty revealed the following "faculty must-haves" for a policy on synthetic media: final decisions about appropriate use of SM must be left up to the individual instructor; clear expectations regarding how SM should be cited at GVSU, or stated that the decision will be passed on to the instructor; a cautionary note about bias often found in SM; and

adaptability statement allowing for future growth/change of the policy; clear expectations for student use of SM and consequences of violating these expectations; and a faculty-based statement on appropriate SM use and attribution, as well as any pertinent privacy issues. It was noted that “AI” is a more widely-understood and recognized term than “SM.” ECS unanimously moved to task the ATC, FTLAC and Digital Literacy to gather information on the Synthetic Media initiative and Task Forces at GVSU related to AI to synthesize the information, including the APSC recommendation, to guide development of AI instructional policy.

- *On the AFAC Memo on Faculty Rank Nomenclature in Policy:* GVSU refers to tenure-line faculty as “regular” faculty, refers to others by rank (e.g., affiliate, visiting, adjunct). This nomenclature may suggest that non-tenure-line faculty are “irregular,” and *apart from*, rather than *part of*, the university community, and leads to confusion (not all are aware and think “regular” means all full-time faculty). The AFAC recommended that ECS charge the appropriate body with identifying a more precise and neutral descriptor for tenure-line faculty for use in all official University policies and communications. This change would reduce ambiguity and promote a more inclusive faculty culture. ECS unanimously moved to accept AFAC’s recommendation on faculty rank nomenclature in policy with our thanks, and further tasks FFPC with developing more accurate language than “regular faculty” in all GVSU policy (S.G. and B.OT.) with reference to AFAC memo.
- *On the COACHE Memo on Teaching and Service:* In this memo, the COACHE Steering Team recommended that UAS create two taskforces on the nature of work, one focused on service and one focused on teaching. The taskforces would assess the following questions. 1) What can we conclude from the COACHE data? 2) What can we not conclude and what do we need to learn to move forward? 3) What actions can be taken to increase faculty satisfaction with their work? ECS unanimously moved to support with recommendation to UAS.
- *On the Student Senate Bill to Recommend Optional Course Marking Procedures to Increase Classroom Transparency:* This bill requests that the University Requests that the University establishes an optional course marking system in the class registration process that conspicuously highlights or creates an icon for the course options that require materials amounting to no-cost or low-cost, with low-cost being considered at or below three times the Michigan minimum hourly wage; takes all possible measures to ensure that students are made aware of any additional supply costs associated with the courses that they choose to partake in; and provides all necessary support to the Registrar’s Office and University Libraries in order to create a sustainable course marking program that provides unique educational alternatives and bolsters classroom engagement. ECS unanimously moved to support with recommendation to UAS.
- *On the Student Senate Bill on Health Vending Machines:* This bill requests that the University install health vending machines on the Allendale, Pew, and Health campuses providing students with access to life-saving and preventative resources, including but not limited to, Narcan, menstrual products, condoms, emergency contraceptives, pregnancy tests, and over-the-counter medications; and collaborate with our campus health center to integrate additional educational materials and resource information to reduce stigma surrounding substance use, sexual health, and seeking help, ensuring students feel supported in accessing these essential resources. The ECS motion to support with recommendation to UAS passed with one “no” vote and 0 abstentions.
- *On the Padnos College of Engineering and the College of Computing College Personnel Committee Descriptions:* Because the former Padnos College of Engineering and Computing Sciences has split into the Padnos College of Engineering and the College of Computing, a description of the College Personnel Committee from each College was needed. These descriptions are as follows. For the College of Computing: The Personnel Committee shall be composed of six (6) tenured faculty members elected by the regular faculty, two (2) from the Department of Computer Science, two (2) from the Department of Information Sciences and Technologies, and two at-large. There can be a maximum of three members from one academic unit. The voting members for any personnel action are as follows.
- If the candidate is from Department of Computer Science: The two members from the Department of Information Sciences and Technologies, the two members from the Department of Computer Science, and all at-large members not from the Department of Computer Science. If the candidate is from the Department of Information Sciences and Technologies: The two members from the Department of Computer Science, the two members from the Department of Information Sciences and Technologies, and all at-large members not from the Department of Information Sciences and Technologies. For the Padnos College of Engineering: The College Personnel Committee will be composed of one elected tenured, Associate or Full professor from each unit and two at large representatives. No more than two representatives may come from the same unit. The chair of the committee will be elected from the elected members, by the tenure track faculty of the college. The College will determine, by a vote each Fall, whether the Dean will serve ex-officio on the committee. Curriculum committee chairs are eligible to serve on the College Personnel Committee, but unit heads are not. ECS unanimously moved to support with recommendation to UAS.
- *On the Discussion of the University Academic Leadership Elections Recommendation by the SHGR Taskforce:* A lengthy was held on this topic, with most ECS members supporting SHGR recommendation that the full UAS elect the leadership. Debate was held around making a change for the upcoming election. Some ECS members advocated for making a change for the upcoming 2025 election, as UAS members have asked for more of a voice, whereas others expressed concern around making a change too quickly. It was moved and supported that this discussion will be the first item on the ECS agenda for the meeting of 4/4.