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Detailed Notes on the ECS Meeting of April 4, 2025

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**Chair's Report**

- *On Reach Higher:* All are encouraged to attend the [Reach Higher Celebration \(April 17 at 2:00 p.m.\)](#).
- *On UAS Leadership Elections:* ECS members interested in running for Chair or Vice Chair of UAS should send statements to Lisa Surman by April 11.
- *On Meeting with Chair of Academic Technology Advisory Committee (ATAC):* Chair Karasinski met with Parag Uma Kolsage, Chair of ATAC, to share information about standing committees of the UAS, as ATAC will be a standing committee of the UAS beginning in the 2025-26 academic year.

**Provost's Report**

- *Conference on Work-Based Learning:* The Provost attended a conference on work-based learning. She noted that GVSU has strength in that space.
- *On Federal Grants:* GVSU had two faculty grants rescinded. The University is working to mitigate the impacts, such as impacts on graduate assistantships and faculty research.

**Student Senate President's Report**

- *On New Student Senate Leadership:* Evan Jackson, the new Student Senate President), and Ty Vanlerberghe, the new Student Senate Vice President, were introduced to ECS and congratulated on their positions

**New Business**

- *On the Election of University Academic Leadership:* A document with suggested bylaws changes and a suggested procedure was circulated. There was consensus within ECS that the full UAS should elect its leadership. Concerns were raised around the speed with which this change is being proposed, with some members noting awkwardness around the timing of making a change shortly before this year's election. It was noted that more education is needed as new members join ECS and UAS, which may help members feel empowered. Discussion on this item also included discussion on how members prefer to receive information and communication, with some preferring to connect via email between meetings and others finding email communications between meetings confusing and resulting in not everyone having the same information. It was decided that the *new* UAS should decide how it wants to elect the leadership; thus, it was moved and supported that the proposed bylaws language and election procedures be placed on the consent agenda for UAS on 4/18. As noted in [SG 8.2.4.1](#), "An item will be removed from the consent agenda and considered separately on request from any UAS member, either prior to the meeting by advance communication with the Chair or during the meeting itself."
- *On the Student Media Advisory Board Changes:* This item had been discussed at ECS previously, and SG and BOT policy language was presented. It was discussed that having the Board of Trustees have authority over the Student Media Advisory Board could result in censorship, which has happened at other institutions. Ultimately, ECS voted to support with recommendation to UAS, noting that we will keep an eye on potential censorship issues.
- *On Rescheduling Final Exams Due to Weather:* This memo recommended charging the Academic Policies and Standards Committee to look into revising the guidance that in-seat final exams are moved to Saturday when the University closes due to weather or similar circumstances. It was noted that students may assume the semester is over on Friday and have travel plans on Saturday. It was also noted that Saturdays are holy days in many religions. ECS voted to place this item on the UAS agenda.
- *On the Equity and Inclusion Committee (EIC) Memo on the Relationship between EIC and the Activation and Accountability Leadership Team (AALT):* This memo recommended that EIC continue to work with the AALT Student Engagement Cohort to gain student perspective as related to their student-focused charges. With potential cooperation with Padnos International Center and Office of Multicultural Affairs, EIC and AALT should work together to incorporate action-based items regarding BIPOC student taskforce recommendations and other related work through sub-teams or initiatives. The EIC chair or representative should always have a seat on AALT to keep the conduit of communication open. EIC and AALT should cooperate on AALT initiatives regarding GVSU personnel. ECS voted to place this memo on the UAS agenda and share the memo with the SHGR taskforce and the Provost.
- *On the Review and Discussion on Pew Faculty Teaching and Learning Center Advisor Committee (FTLCAC) Memo on Training for Faculty Teaching First-Year Students:* FTLCAC recommended the following to FTLC: assure wide access to strong-start initiative resources, develop a "quick-start" guide for faculty to quickly view best-practices as they design their syllabi that builds on the existing "Tips for Teaching First Year Students at GVSU," investigate providing support for acquiring grants to start Learning Assistant programs at GVSU, outline or provide sample lesson plans (1-2 days) that could be placed inside any course on "how to college," and support units in identifying

discipline-specific milestones for first-year students. ECS voted to accept and file the memo and thank the committee for its work.

- *On the Review and Discussion on FTLCAC Memo on SoTL Support:* This memo noted that FTLCAC had collaborated with Pew FTLC to designate someone from the office to support the review of SoTL applications; communicated with Matt Ruen (University Libraries) on helping with marketing the launch; and designed a rubric for the SoTL committee to use to review applications beginning next year. ECS voted to accept and file the memo and thank the committee for its work.
- *On the Undergraduate Research Council Memo on the Strategic Plan to Augment Research, Scholarship and Creative Activity (SPARCA):* This memo recommended that the SPARCA focus on ensuring the strategic plan protects the experience for undergraduate student researchers and GVSU's focus and recognition for quality education; freeing up faculty time and providing necessary resources to organically enhance research, scholarship and creative activity productivity; ensuring that mentoring student research is valued in promotion and tenure; and safeguarding and increasing internal university funding for supporting undergraduate student research. ECS voted to place this memo on the UAS agenda.
- *On Bylaws Language for Votes of Confidence, No Confidence, and Censure:* Bylaws language that included definitions of and procedures for votes of confidence, no confidence, and censure was proposed. Questions were asked about why these votes would come through UAS and not the full faculty, the response was that there is a referendum procedure in the bylaws that involves the full faculty. UAS members are elected to represent the faculty. The proposed procedures include the Chair of UAS informing the full faculty, which helps to mitigate that concern. Questions also were asked about what it would mean to lose a vote of confidence. ECS voted to put the proposed bylaws language on the UAS agenda. In consultation with Provost Drake and SAVP Aboufadel, Chair Karasinski and Vice Chair Sergeant decided that this item will be placed on the UAS agenda in the fall, as discussion now shortly before the meetings around the COACHE survey results might adversely impact those meetings. The work around crafting this language is appreciated and the memo will be given full consideration.