
Detailed Notes on the ECS Meeting of November 15, 2024

Chair's Report

- *On the 12th Annual Teach-In: Power, Privilege, and Difficult Dialogues:* The 12th Annual Teach-In was held on Wednesday, November 13 on the Pew Campus and Thursday, November 14 on the Allendale Campus. Lisa Surman provided data on the Teach-In reporting there were 1,269 participants over two days.
- *On Memos to ECS:* At the next ECS meeting, ECS will have acted on all memos submitted with no outstanding memos.
- *On the ECS Meeting of 11/22/24:* The agenda for the ECS Meeting of 11/15/24 will include discussions on a Multi-Year Taskforce on the Evaluation of Teaching, FPPC Memos on Merit Ratings in Workday and Faculty Working 100% Remote, an amendment to the Online and Microcredential Education Council Bylaws, Appointments to the Centers Evaluation Committee, and Helping HR Staff Support Faculty and Staff.

Provost's Report

- *On a Provost's Cabinet:* Provost's Cabinet has been focusing on the search for the Dean of the Padnos College of Engineering.
- *On Senior Leadership Team:* The SLT is focused on the next steps for the COACHE survey results and Reach Higher reflection and planning. SLT also met with leaders from Student Senate.
- *On Meeting with College Leadership Teams and Standing Committees:* Acting Provost Drake has met with College Leadership Teams, as defined by the Deans, and standing committees. Good conversations have been held, especially around significant focus, COACHE, research, and concerns about supporting international students. ECS members shared that ECS should have a conversation about significant focus, and SAVP Aboufadel offered to provide slides to help the discussion.
- *On Lakers Ready:* SAVP Ed Aboufadel shared that Lakers Ready included information on personnel procedures and Blue Dot, as this had been requested by UAS last year.
- *On Questions from ECS:* ECS members raised questions about the new federal administrations potential actions related to the Department of Education; Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion; and international student and faculty/staff ability to obtain the needed permissions to live/work/study in the United States. Acting Provost Drake shared that Stacie Behler, Vice President & Chief Public Relations and Communications Officer, has suggested that we need to wait and see. VP Behler will keep SLT apprised. ECS will also invite VP Behler to a future meeting.

Student Senate President's Report

- *On the Election:* Student Senate aims to support all students and promote respectful engagement after the election. They are trying to help everyone come together and treat each other with kindness. This is the first election in which many students have voted.
- *On Meeting with the Senior Leadership Team:* Student Senate met with SLT to discuss priorities and build stronger partnerships.
- *On the Student Solutions Summit:* Student Senate is hosting the Student Solutions Summit this Thursday, November 21st from 5-6:30pm. This is an opportunity to directly engage with Student Senate so that we can hear issues students are facing, their priorities, and to discuss what Student Senate has been working on. There will be free food for students that attend! Please encourage your students to attend.
- *On the Teach-In:* Student Senate supported and promoted the Teach-In. Student Senate President Quinten Proctor and UAS Chair Courtney Karasinski presented together, which was a great demonstration of shared governance and collaboration between faculty and student leadership.
- *On the Cook Leadership Academy:* ECS members asked if the Student Senate will nominate members, and Student Senate President Quinten Proctor shared that he will provide nominations and participated in the Cook Leadership Academy himself, which was valuable.

New Business

- *On the University Curriculum Committee (UCC) Memo on Research Intensive Course Designation Process:* This memo recommended that the Research Intensive Course Designation Process occur through SAIL to promote accurate record-keeping and facilitate collaboration between academic and non-academic units. Other course designations, such as Supplemental Writing Skills and Community Based Learning, occur through SAIL. The motion to support with recommendation to UAS passed unanimously. It was noted by ECS members that this was a great example of how shared governance can work well. The Research Intensive Course Designation was approved at UAS, there was not clarity on the process for approval, but the appropriate Standing Committee recognized the need to make a recommendation and did so.

- *On the Graduate Council Memo on Culminating Experiences:* The memo recommended that the culminating experiences continue with additional review. The process is working well. The motion to receive, accept, and file the report passed unanimously.
- *On the Graduate Council Memo on the Graduate Student Experience:* This memo recommended increasing the visibility of the non-academic activities available. It recommended asking the Campus Life Committee to work with graduate students. Graduate Council Chair Amy Campbell noted that graduate students would like more student life activities that differ from some of the activities that undergraduate students seek. Access to a gym downtown had been a request that has now been granted. Food options are a concern for students and faculty. It was suggested that a guide could be created for students, especially a guide for food options that represent a variety of cultures. It was noted that vending machines are often not restocked in a timely manner. Parking issues were raised. Acting Provost Drake shared that VP Jenny Hall-Jones is looking into the vibrant campus community, and Graduate Council could collaborate with her. Amy Campbell noted that it would be helpful to bring the Graduate Student Organization into these conversations, and Student Senate President Quinten Proctor noted that Student Senate has a Graduate Student Liaison. The motion to support with recommendation to UAS passed unanimously.
- *On the Graduate Council Memo on the Change in Graduate Admissions Policy:* This memo, which was related to the language proficiency portion of graduate admissions policy, proposed changing "...native language is not English..." to "*primary language or their language of instruction in school is not English....*" This change updates language to reflect current terminology and removes barriers for students who have demonstrated proficiency in English by completing a degree program in English. Faculty shared that "language of instruction" can mean different things; in some cases, this means all instruction was provided in English; in others, it means exams were taken in English, but other instruction could have been provided in another language. However, the consensus was that leaving the policy as it is could have more adverse impact than making this change to remove barriers. The motion to support with recommendation to UAS passed unanimously.
- *On the Graduate Council Memo on the New Graduate Admissions Policy:* Three-year bachelor's degrees are common in some fields in universities outside the United States. The proposed policy states that applicants holding a three-year baccalaureate degree from an institution outside of the United States are eligible for admission to GVSU graduate programs, provided that the degree qualifies them for admission to an academic graduate program in the country where the degree was earned. All current GVSU graduate program admissions criteria must still be met. Admitting students with three-bachelor's degrees from other countries has been the practice of Graduate Program Directors, and the new policy aims to provide clarity. The Higher Learning Commission (HLC), GVSU's accrediting body, has recently said that three-year bachelor's degrees are acceptable. The motion to support with recommendation to the UAS consent agenda passed.
- *On the Graduate Council Memo on Graduate Faculty Workload:* This memo recommended that deans, unit heads, and graduate program directors (GPDs) work collaboratively to develop graduate faculty workload policies, especially as related to independent studies, master's and doctoral projects, theses and dissertations, and supervision and/or coordination of experiential learning experiences (e.g., internships or clinicals). College deans should review the current workload assignment for graduate program directors to ensure that it is equitable, and adequately reflects the responsibilities required for the role. To ensure that GPDs can remain active in their scholarship, course re-assigned time should be offered. Faculty should not be required to use their significant focus for GPD duties. College deans should evaluate the role of service in affiliate faculty member's workload and collaborate with the affiliate Faculty Advisory Committee and faculty members to develop clear guidelines regarding service activities. The provost should review each college's graduate workload policies to ensure faculty receive equitable workload credit for comparable tasks and activities. The motion to support with recommendation to UAS passed unanimously.
- *On the Discussion of the Multi-Year Taskforce on the Evaluation of Teaching:* Faculty Personnel Policy Committee (FPPC) had found that developing the system for the evaluation of teaching was a larger task than the committee could handle. Much work has been done by Standing Committees and taskforces, including FPPC, LIFT-Management Committee, Equity and Inclusion Committee, and the Equity in Personnel Policies taskforce. Documents from these groups will be shared to ECS members for further discussion at the next ECS meeting. The following potential charges were suggested and will be further discussed. 1. Write a new LIFT survey based on updated definitions of teaching that better reflects what is in the handbook. 2. Look at examples of questions that only students can evaluate. 3. Write a guideline for peer evaluation based on examples from around campus. 4. Write guidelines for self-evaluation using examples from around campus. 5. Provide education for decision-makers.