
Detailed Notes on the ECS Meeting of November 22, 2024

Chair's Report

- *On Meeting with AVP Cathy Buyarski about Late Adds:* Chair Karasinski met with AVP Cathy Buyarski about the challenges of students being added late to courses. Both agreed that caution should be exercised when allowing students to enroll in courses after the first week of class, as students who have missed course content may not be successful in passing the course, despite efforts from faculty to support the students.
- *On the Reach Higher Collaborative Network:* The Reach Higher Collaborative Network met and discussed the plans for broad engagement with the campus community for the next iteration of the strategic plan.
- *On the New Programs Council:* The New Programs Council approved prospecti for a minor in disability studies in the College of Health Professions and a new unit for environmental science in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.
- *On the Straw Poll and Meeting with President Mantella:* A straw poll was distributed to UAS members regarding support for potential actions by UAS regarding faculty concerns about the senior leadership team (SLT). President Mantella and Acting Provost Drake met with a group of ECS members to discuss concerns. A robust discussion was held around this item. Different perspectives were shared by ECS members regarding the appropriateness of the straw poll and the need to be intentional with our actions. Votes of no confidence, which were part of the straw poll, were discussed at length and concern was expressed by some over creating an antagonistic, rather than collaborative, relationship with SLT. Entertaining votes of no confidence now, when the COACHE Survey results are being discussed, was of concern for some ECS members as well. Other ECS members shared that they have heard a desire for no confidence votes from colleagues who are feeling as though faculty do not have a voice. The conversation made clear that there is disagreement among faculty on the best way to move forward and more discussion is needed. Appreciation was expressed for Acting Provost Drake for her efforts to work with faculty and SLT.
- *On the UAS Meeting of 12/06/24:* The consent agenda for the UAS Meeting of 12/06/24 will include discussions on Academic Policies and Standards Committee (APSC) memos on Repeat Course Approval Policy and Academic Integrity and the Graduate Council (GC) memo on New Admissions Policy. The full agenda will include discussions on the Online Education and Microcredential Council (OEMC) memo on Faculty Certification for Online/Hybrid Teaching; APSC memos on Credits for Minors and OER; Faculty Personnel Policy Committee memo on Faculty Working 100% Remote; GC memos on Graduate Student Experience, Graduate Admission Change, and Equity in Graduate Faculty Workload; University Curriculum Committee (UCC) memos on Research Intensive Course Designation Review Process and Market Research; and potentially adding a UAS meeting to the Winter 2025 schedule.

Provost's Report

- *On the Search for the Dean of the Padnos College of Engineering:* It is expected that an offer will be made before Thanksgiving. The Provost is excited about the pool of candidates.
- *On the EPIIC Grant:* An email from Acting Provost Drake sent on 11/20/24 invited faculty to participate in a survey, which is tied to GVSU strategy to build research capacity, and a GVSU consortium grant award from the National Science Foundation; Enabling Partnerships to Increase Innovation Capacity (EPIIC). Faculty are encouraged to participate in the anonymous survey, which is estimated to take 10 minutes, by December 13.
- *On the Search for the Vice Provost for Research and Innovation and Executive Director:* An email was sent on 11/21/24 about the search. The search [website](#) has more information.
- *On the COACHE Survey:* SAVP Ed Aboufadel shared that the COACHE Steering Committee meets on Mondays at noon, and that President Mantella has approved the distribution of the COACHE results. More information about COACHE and the GVSU results can be found [here](#).

Student Senate President's Report

- *On the Student Solutions Summit:* The Student Solutions Summit had a reasonable turnout, especially given competing events, and it received positive feedback. This event may be repeated in future semesters.
- *On Exam Jam:* Student Senate is preparing for Exam Jam, formerly known as Exam Cram. Exam Jam has a more positive connotation than Exam Cram.

New Business

- *On the Discussion of the Faculty Personnel Policy (FPPC) Memo on Merit Ratings in Workday:* This item had been discussed previously without consensus on moving faculty evaluation ratings from 3 categories to 5. It was noted that Workday can be changed in the future if a new policy is written. The current policy has 3 categories, although some units use more. It was decided that a potential charge to FPPC could be to consider the number of categories for faculty ratings and write policy language. The motion to receive, accept, and file the report was supported.

- *On the Discussion of the Faculty Personnel Policy (FPPC) Memo on Faculty Working 100% Remote:* This memo recommended that faculty will not be hired to work 100% remote, but faculty may have temporary flexible work arrangements for specific needs. The motion to support with recommendation to UAS passed.
- *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 were shared to ECS members for further discussion. It was decided that the Chair and Vice Chair will draft a charge for the taskforce to discuss at the next ECS meeting based on the conversation.
- *On the Online Education and Microcredential Council (OEMC) Memo on Bylaws Amendment, Appointments to the Centers Evaluation Committee, and Discussion on Helping HR Staff:* These items were not discussed due to time and will be placed on the agenda of the next ECS meeting under Old Business.