
Detailed Notes on the UAS Meeting of April 11, 2025

President Mantella's Report

- President Mantella recognized the difficult times as a country and in higher education. She stated that she is happy to be leading this institution at this time. She noted that we are striving for transparency in a world in which too much communication can be damaging. The weekly appointing officer calls, during which information on executive orders is shared, have been expanded to include UAS leadership. There is a website that shares relevant information, and the Provost has used Lakers Ready to share information and post the link to the [information hub](#).
- President Mantella shared the importance of regional public universities. She noted that Grand Rapids has grown in the percentage of adults who hold bachelor's degrees or higher, and GVSU has been a large contributor to that growth as our students remain in the area after graduation.
- President Mantella shared the importance of staying true to our mission. She acknowledged that there are ways higher education can make improvements, and we should be open to improving. She noted the importance of uniting in our work. She stated that we do not need false harmony or acrimonious attacks. We need to give each other grace and assume positive intent. She is open to a shared definition of shared governance as we work together toward our future.
- President Mantella shared that she is appointing Acting Provost Jennifer Drake to Provost and Executive Vice President of Academic Affairs. She consulted with the Senior Leadership Team, Provost's Cabinet, UAS leadership, and UAS and there was strong support for this appointment. A time will be scheduled for faculty to meet Provost Drake and hear her vision.

Chair's Report

- Due to the full agenda, the Chair did not give a report.

Provost's Report

- Provost Drake shared that she came to GVSU because of the mission, vision, and values. She appreciated that this is a relationship rich institution, living the teacher-scholar model and integrating liberal and professional education. Times are challenging but we are ready to build a future.

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 UAS and congratulated on their positions. Quinten Proctor was congratulated on his years of service and his title of Student Senate President Emeritus. He is the second Student Senate President to be awarded emeritus status.
- *On the Student Senate Leadership Elections:* Last year, 820 students voted in the election. This year the number more than doubled with 1734 voters. Student Senate elected their new Cabinet.
- *On Meeting with Representatives in Washington:* The outgoing Student Senate Cabinet members met with representatives in Washington. The appreciated this opportunity, provided by Stacie Behler, Vice President, Chief Public Affairs and Communications Officer, and Secretary to the Board of Trustees.
- *On Student Senate Bills:* Student Senate passed bills on disability awareness training for faculty and on admissions and retention.

New Business

- *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 (Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering, Electrical and Computing Engineering, Integrated Engineering) 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. Curriculum committee chairs are eligible to serve on the College Personnel Committee, but unit heads are not. UAS voted to support these College Personnel Committee descriptions.

- *On the Election of University Academic Leadership:* UAS voted in favor of the proposed bylaws change stating that the full UAS, rather than ECS, will elect the Chair and Vice Chair of the UAS. This change will take effect this year. Due to this decision, the ECS and UAS meetings on 4/18 will be held as follows: ECS 3:00-3:30, UAS 3:30-5:00.
- *On the Student Media Advisory Board Changes:* Shared Governance (SG) and Board of Trustees (BOT) policies were approved for the Student Media Advisory Board. Seven (7) faculty representatives will be appointed to terms of up to three (3) years by the decision of the Director of the School of Communications and the Director for Student Life. These appointments will be confirmed Executive Committee of the Senate (ECS).
- *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. UAS voted to support the recommendations in the 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? UAS moved to support this recommendation with the friendly amendment of making a single taskforce to begin the work.
- *On the Shared Governance Leadership Taskforce:* This taskforce was charged to "Collate the information from COACHE, the Admissions Taskforce, the SHGR Taskforce, and previous UAS discussions and individual faculty members and identify actions with timelines we would like to see from the Senior Leadership Team. Bring this to UAS in April." The taskforce made the following recommendations. 1) (Immediately): Working jointly, the BOT, SLT, and UAS inventory and audit existing policies related to shared governance, examine shared governance best practices, and develop an overarching shared governance policy and structural framework involving all three constituencies by revising existing policy or developing new policy. 2) (Ongoing): The BOT, SLT, and UAS commit to regularly (e.g., annually or biennially) discussing shared governance effectiveness and the extent to which policy or structure should be revised. A shared governance survey, task force, and/or retreat are useful for this purpose. 3) (Ongoing): More strategic and broader leadership development across all three constituencies. 4) (Mid-term and ongoing): Feedback mechanism to consider leadership effectiveness as related to shared governance of key formal leaders of each constituency group on a regular basis, used to highlight areas of strength and areas for continued growth. This information should inform interventions to address continuing areas of concern. This feedback should be collected from knowledgeable representatives from each constituency group. After a shared governance policy and structure are developed, a process should be developed for this purpose that is aligned with said policy and structure, and faculty should have the opportunity to engage in this feedback process as deemed appropriate. 5) (Immediate): Endorse the 8 recommendations in the SHGR Task Force Report. 6) (Ongoing): Opportunities for informal collaboration and communication. Each member of the SLT should interact regularly with faculty. This may be informally but should also occur as ex-officio of a standing committee. It is important that members of the SLT form relationships where they can receive honest and frequent feedback. The UAS moved to accept the report and forward it to the COACHE Steering Committee.