

Detailed UAS Notes from September 27, 2024

President's Report

- *On the Context for the President's Report at the First UAS Meeting of the Year:* During the Winter 2024 semester, President Mantella met with nine UAS members regarding communication and collaboration. It was decided that it would be useful to have President Mantella attend both the first and the last UAS meetings of the year in this spirit, whereas traditionally the President attended the last meeting of the year. These are planned times to connect, but the President is interested in connecting at other points in the year as well.
- *On the Priorities for the Academic Year:* President Mantella shared that the priorities for the academic year are people-centered culture; empowered learning and dynamic teaching; expanded and inclusive learning community; fully-leveraged technology; expanded capacity for discovery, inquiry, and innovation; and vibrant campus life.
- *On People-Centered Culture:* A new Vice President of People, Equity, and Culture, Robert Shorty, is starting on Monday 9/30. The COACHE survey provided feedback on this, and the engagement and participation in the survey was appreciated. Feedback is a gift. The goal is to create a stronger GVSU.
- *On Expanded and Inclusive Learning Community:* It is difficult to know the impact of FAFSA issues and free community college. There has been a 12% increase in community enrollment, which had been declining.
- *On Fully-Leveraged Technology:* Momentum continues around the Blue Dot ecosystem. The new College of Computing contributes to leveraging technology.
- *On Vibrant Campus Life:* The distribution of services in Allendale and Grand Rapids is being explored to ensure that students on the Grand Rapids campuses have access to services. Athletics is being integrated into the next strategic plan.
- *On Empowered Learning and Dynamic Teaching and Expanded Capacity for Discovery, Inquiry, and Innovation:* President Mantella shared that Acting Provost Drake can share more about these areas.
- *On Strategic Planning:* Reach Higher 2025 had bold objectives, and there will be continuity with the next plan, with deeper integration of the mission, vision, and values.

Provost's Report

- *On Academic Affairs' Priorities:* The priorities of the Division of Academic Affairs are aligned with the University's priorities. Academic Affairs has been leaning into our student success, and has expanded the number of class sections with Structured Learning Assistance and the number of advisors. Strategies to support the teacher-scholar model continue. Academic Affairs is partnering with Omni, collaborating on Blue Dot, and engaging in reflection and visioning on Reach Higher. The Gray DI work will help us make data-informed decisions. There will be workshops on Gray DI.

Chair's Report

- *On the 12th Annual Teach-In: Power, Privilege, and Difficult Dialogues:* The 12th Annual Teach-In will be held on Wednesday, November 13 on the Pew Campus and Thursday, November 14 on the Allendale Campus. More information on the Teach-In can be found [here](#). All are highly encouraged to participate.
- *On the Faculty Fora for Fall 2024:* Faculty fora will be held via Zoom on October 16 2:30-4 and October 17 10-11:30 on the topic of AI in teaching. All faculty are encouraged to attend.
- *On the COACHE Survey:* Areas of concern that were identified in the COACHE report included Governance: Shared Sense of Purpose and Governance: Understanding the Issue at Hand. In looking at the report, the following areas under "shared governance" also appeared concerning: productivity, trust, and adaptability. It will be important to think about how to improve these areas so faculty feel included and confident in our shared governance processes.
- *On the ECS Meeting of 10/04/24:* The agenda for the ECS Meeting of 10/04/24 will include Discussion on Multi-Year Taskforce on Evaluation of Teaching; Discussion on Taskforce on Faculty Support of Student Voting; UTC Policy on AI; Discussion on COACHE Survey; Review and Discussions on the OEMC Memos on Faculty Certification for Online/Hybrid Teaching and Multiple-Modality Course Delivery; Review and Discussions on the GEC Memos on Digital Literacy Rubric and Digital Skills Learning Objective; and Selections for the Omni Collaborative Advisory Group.

Student Senate President's Report

- *On Bill to Create a Student Legal Services Department:* Student Senate will create a taskforce to discuss the creation of a Student Legal Services Department
- *On Restructuring Last Year:* Last year the focus was on restructuring. This year there are 44 dedicated members, who are energized and engaged.

New Business

- *On the Consent Agenda:* Approval of the Consent Agenda, which included UAC memos on Process for Reviewing Externally Accredited Programs and Federally Funded Programs Exemption Status and FFPAC Memo on Active Learning Spaces, was unanimously supported.
- *On the Presentation on Open Enrollment:* Tammie King, Benefits Manager, presented on Open Enrollment. Pet insurance will now be available. There are no changes to dental or vision benefits. There is an increase in the deductible.
- *On Updates to BOT Policies Due to the Split of PCEC:* Interim Dean Tim Born provided highlights of the changes needed in Board of Trustee Policies due to the split of PCEC into PCE and CoC. The motion to support passed unanimously.
- *On Update on Title IX and Pregnancy Policy:* Associate Vice President for Inclusion and Equity Kathleen VanderVeen provided an update on Title IX and the Pregnancy Policy. Kevin Carmody is not returning to GVSU, so AVP VanderVeen has accepted the role of Title IX Coordinator. Beginning in September, we have one policy on Discrimination, Harassment, and Misconduct, and mandatory reporting is required, expanded beyond sexual harassment. Training will be offered on the new pregnancy policy. If a student discloses a pregnancy, resources will be shared with the student and a form will be signed noting the sharing of resources. This is only if a pregnancy is disclosed, we do not guess whether or not students are pregnant.
- *On the Review and Discussion on Research Intensive Course Designation:* This proposal from the OURS passed ECS last year, and UAS had requested changes. A robust discussion took place. Faculty expressed concerns that teaching research intensive courses would become a requirement, Acting Provost Drake provided assurance that there will not be pressure from administration to increase the number of these courses. This designation was sought by faculty already teaching courses that are research intensive. They would like recognition for this work. The designation could also add transparency for students as they register for classes. Concerns were raised about the opportunity for affiliate faculty to say “no” to teaching research intensive classes. Questions were raised about where this would be found in policy, and it seemed as though it would be in Catalog Copy, but additional details about processes are needed. The motion to support the proposal with an amendment allowing capstone courses to apply for the research intensive designation passed.
- *On the COACHE Survey:* Positives and concerns revealed by the COACHE survey were briefly discussed. Positives were relationships within departments and the clarity of tenure and promotion requirements. Concerns included the need for everyone to work better together. Progress is being made toward this but there is still work to do. It was appreciated that President Mantella came to UAS and had a listening session with UAS members last year. It was worrying that service and teaching were rated lower than research. The COACHE Steering Committee is organizing sessions to discuss the results, and faculty are encouraged to attend.
- *On the FFPAC Memos:* Time prevented discussion of the FFPAC memos, which will be discussed under old business at the next UAS meeting.
- *On the Multi-Year Taskforce to Support Student Voting:* Time prevented discussion of this taskforce. This will be discussed at the next UAS meeting under old business. The taskforce is meant to make recommendations that will be in place before the 2028 general election and beyond.