

## SUMMARY OF UAS BUSINESS FOR NOVEMBER 22, 2019 MEETING

The Executive Committee of the Senate (ECS) met twice in November to discuss business of the University Academic Senate (UAS). These meetings were held on the following dates: November 1 and November 8. At these meetings, ECS either acted on behalf of UAS or supported motions with recommendation to UAS.

### A. ACTING ON BEHALF OF UAS:

ECS reviewed the following and acted on behalf of UAS (per SG 1.01 Section 3.1):

- A new charge in favor of expressing the Laker Impression of Faculty Teaching Management Committee (LIFT-MC) concerns in policy was added to the FPPC's charges for 2019-2020. FPPC was charged with evaluating the six issues identified by LIFT-MC in its final report of April 2019. In particular, LIFT-MC raised issues of inconsistent use of LIFT data and high variability across colleges (and even units) in how LIFT data are used and interpreted. ECS charged FPPC to frame a policy proposal that would regulate the use of numerical benchmarks for evaluating teaching effectiveness.
- ECS made a decision on disseminating the LIFT-MC final report to all faculty. This report is available on the LIFT website, where faculty would have to log in to get the report. A joint message was sent from the Provost and the Faculty Governance Chair earlier this week on November 11, to announce the availability of the LIFT-MC final report.

### B. PENDING UAS ACTION:

ECS made specific motions on the following business items with a recommendation of support to UAS:

- Request for Senate Endorsement of MLK Commemoration Week. This comes with a motion of support with recommendation from ECS.
- Graduate Council (GC) Memo on Policy for Culminating Experience Projects (SHORE Log Number: 1128-2019). This comes with a motion of support with recommendation from ECS.
- Faculty Salary and Budget Committee (FSBC) Memo on Annual Salary Adjustment Request for 2020-2021 (SHORE Log Number: 1132-2019). This comes with a motion of support with recommendation from ECS.
- Student Senate Resolution on Creation of Prayer/Meditation Center at the CHS. ECS supported the concept of the Student Senate Resolution in principle, but passed a motion to support an alternate resolution (**Resolution A** below) with recommendation to UAS.
- Student Senate Resolution on Opposing the Grand River Waterway Project. ECS supported the concept of the Student Senate Resolution in principle, but passed a motion to support an alternate resolution (**Resolution B** below) with recommendation to UAS.

**Resolution A:** The Executive Committee of the Senate supports the ongoing use of university resources to provide a prayer/meditation center on each of the three campuses with a recommendation to UAS.

**Resolution B:** The Grand Valley State University Academic Senate, on behalf of the Faculty, formally state our opposition to the Grand River Waterway Project that proposes to extensively dredge portions of the lower Grand River, based on potential to harm the student learning and living experience, and substantial scientific evidence (for a review, see [O'Keefe 2019](#)) that dredging would harm the river ecosystem. With over two kilometers of river frontage adjacent to the Allendale Campus and over ten

square kilometers of woodland along the river, the Grand River is a tremendous living laboratory for many departments and programs including but not limited to Biology, Geology, Anthropology, Natural Resources Management, and the Honors College. Faculty regularly engage students in immersive classroom and research experiences and many classes are involved in long-term studies in the river floodplain and ravines. Alteration of the river and riparian zone as a result of dredging and subsequent erosion could negatively impact student learning outcomes. The proposed dredging would alter the riverbed, dewater important riparian wetlands and habitat adjacent to the river, potentially release contaminants stored in the sediments, destroy historic structures and archeological sites, and increase shoreline erosion caused by large boat traffic. The University's oldest varsity sport, rowing, established in 1964 uses the Grand River as an athletic training and competitive venue. Under the proposed dredging project, the river would be unsafe as a venue as the racing shells can be capsized by swells of only 6 inches. Due to the significant harm to academic, athletic, and recreational student life at GVSU, the Faculty oppose the dredging proposal known as the Grand River Waterway Project.