
Detailed Notes on the ECS and UAS Meetings of April 18, 2025

Chair's Report

- Welcome to the new [UAS members](#) Merritt Delano Taylor (also on ECS), Len O'Kelly (also on ECS), Imran Mazid, Sally Ross, Agnieszka Szarecka, Paul Yu, Jie Du, Daniela Marini, Christina Quick. A sincere thank you to the outgoing members of UAS Charles Ham, Alexander Wilson, Richard Yidana, Charles Pazdernik (also on ECS), Faye Yang, Gwyn Madden (also on ECS), Barb Hooper, and Christine Smith.
- New Programs/Academic Units Council voted to support minors in Artificial Intelligence, Software Engineering, and Human Centered Computing in the College of Computing and a master of science in Applied Electromagnetic Compatibility in the Padnos College of Engineering.
- VP Topic is interested in suggestions for an FAQ document for the [AI policy](#). Suggestions can be sent to Christine Renner, Vice Provost for Instructional Development and Innovation. VP Renner is a member of the University Technology Council.
- Thank you for a great year!

Provost's Report

- Annie Bélanger is moving from her position as Dean of University Libraries into the President's Office.
- The new Vice Provost for Research and Innovation (VPRI) and Executive Director of the Center for Scholarly and Creative Excellence is expected to be announced around May 1. A celebration for Bob Smart will be held Monday April 21 from 3-5pm in the Thornapple Room.
- A welcome reception for Dr. Adebayo Ogundipe, Dean of the Padnos College of Engineering, will be held May 5 from 4-6 pm at the Shape Corp. Innovation Design Center on the Pew Campus.
- The Provost met with faculty and staff to share her vision and answer questions. A second conversation will be held on Wednesday April 23 from 2-3pm in the Alumni House.
- The Provost expressed appreciation for Provost Cabinet and the University Academic Senate for their work this year.
- Senior Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs Ed Aboufadel shared that the faculty complaint process has been revised, as some faculty had difficulty navigating the process. This had been discussed with UAS Chair Courtney Karasinski, who agreed that there were no content changes, only changes to headers and language around the steps in the process to add clarity.
- A question was asked about changes to the Steelcase Library, specifically around how students, faculty, and staff would be impacted and whether sufficient input has been sought. It was shared by SAVP Aboufadel and Provost Drake that the changes were initiated by the University Libraries and there was consultation with the Deans. There was examination of the use of the physical space in the library, and it was found that the current set-up was not a good use of resources. A universal testing center will be added.

Student Senate President's Report

- The Student Senate has finalized its Cabinet membership.
- Student Senate President Evan expressed appreciation for the UAS support of the Student Senate's bills and shared that he looks forward to continued collaboration.

New Business: ECS

- *On the Review and Discussion on Faculty Facilities Planning Advisory Committee (FFPAC) Memo on Classroom Issues and Innovations:* FFPAC has been charged every three years to survey faculty on this topic. Key themes revealed this year included active learning classrooms needing more mobile furniture. The full report was published in *Lakers Ready*. SAVP Aboufadel noted that the Academic Space Committee meets monthly and this report from FFPAC helps the Academic Space Committee continue their work. The ECS voted unanimously to place this item on the consent agenda for UAS in the fall.
- *On the Review and Discussion on Faculty Facilities Planning Advisory Committee (FFPAC) Memo on Installing Blinds in DCIH:* There are concerns about visibility through the large windows in these classrooms, which conflicts with shelter-in-place protocols directing faculty to move students out of the line of sight during emergency situations. The project cost is estimated at \$25,000–\$30,000, covering electrical work, materials, and installation. These funds would be allocated from the Capital Maintenance Fund (CMF), specifically from the classroom update budget, which also supports technology and furniture upgrades. The ECS unanimously voted to place this item on the UAS agenda in the fall.
- *On the Review and Discussion on the University Assessment Committee (UAC) Memo on Membership:* The UAC proposed to decrease its size from 28 to 25 members, with one member each from Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies, College of Computing, Padnos College of Engineering, the Kirkhof College of Nursing, and the University

Libraries; two members each from the College of Health Professions and Seidman College of Business; three from the College of Education and Community Innovation; eight members from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and five from co-curricular programs. ECS voted to place this on the UAS consent agenda in the fall.

- *On the Review and Discussion on the University Assessment Committee (UAC) Memo on Bylaws:* The proposed changes reflect the proposed changes in membership and include wording changes to remove specific reference to strategic plans, which UAC stopped reviewing pre-COVID and to self-studies. UAC requests that review of items beyond assessment plans and assessment reports be referred to as “reports” and not by a specific name. ECS voted to place this item on the UAS consent agenda in the fall.

New Business: UAS

- *On the Student Senate Bill to Recommend Optional Course Marking Procedures to Increase Classroom Transparency:* This bill requests that the University (1) requests that the University establishes an optional course marking system in the class registration process that conspicuously highlights or creates an icon for the course options that require materials amounting to no-cost or low-cost, with low-cost being considered at or below three times the Michigan minimum hourly wage; and (2) takes all possible measures to ensure that students are made aware of any additional supply costs associated with the courses that they choose to partake in; and (3) provides all necessary support to the Registrar’s Office and University Libraries in order to create a sustainable course marking program that provides unique educational alternatives and bolsters classroom engagement. The UAS voted to support.
- *On the Student Senate Bill on Health Vending Machines:* This bill requests that the University install health vending machines on the Allendale, Pew, and Health campuses providing students with access to life-saving and preventative resources, including but not limited to, Narcan, menstrual products, condoms, emergency contraceptives, pregnancy tests, and over-the-counter medications; and collaborate with our campus health center to integrate additional educational materials and resource information to reduce stigma surrounding substance use, sexual health, and seeking help, ensuring students feel supported in accessing these essential resources. The UAS voted to support.
- *On the Election of UAS Leadership:* For the first time, the election was held by the full UAS, rather than only the Executive Committee of the Senate (ECS). A suggested procedure with verbal statements by candidates (in addition to the written ones circulated on Monday) and a question and answer period had been placed on the consent agenda by the ECS, but was requested to be moved from the consent agenda to the regular agenda for discussion. It was decided by the body to have only the statements, and not the question and answer period. Courtney Karasinski was re-elected as Chair and Anne Sergeant was re-elected as Vice Chair.
- *On the Review and Discussion of the SHGR Taskforce Report:* A brief discussion was held, and it was moved and supported to have additional discussion around these recommendations at the ECS summer retreats.