

Annual Report of the External Academic Relations Committee: AY20-21

Chair: Jim Olds, University Professor of Neuroscience and Public Policy, Schar School

The Committee met virtually by Zoom on November 20 and set out an ambitious agenda aimed at enhancing the role of faculty shared governance at Commonwealth public institutions including George Mason University. Among the areas of concern for the committee were the following:

- The COVID19 pandemic
- Transparency in decision making on the part of administrators, particularly presidents and provosts
- Supporting adjunct and term faculty colleagues
- Research competitiveness of Virginia R1's

The Chair and members of the Committee had ample opportunity to view the remarks of President Washington and other members of the BOV to gain perspective on these issues, and also had the opportunity to communicate with colleagues in Richmond, Blacksburg and Charlottesville.

Unfortunately, the continuation of the COVID19 pandemic resulted in the massive curtailment of the Committee's activities during the academic year. Nevertheless, the Committee believes that Mason's faculty were well represented to other Commonwealth institutions during this academic year.