

**GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY**  
**AGENDA FOR THE FACULTY SENATE MEETING**  
**OCTOBER 9, 2013**  
**Robinson Hall B113, 3:00 - 4:15 p.m.**

**I. Call to Order**

**II. Approval of the Minutes of September 4, 2013**

**III. Announcements**

President Cabrera

Mason Dreamers

Mason Lobbies – Kevin Jackson, Student Government

Attachment A

**IV. New Business - Committee Reports**

**A. Senate Standing Committees**

*Executive Committee*

*Academic Policies*

Approval of Academic Calendar 2017-18

Attachment B

*Budget & Resources*

*Faculty Matters*

*Nominations*

Kumar Mehta (SOM) is nominated to serve as Faculty Senate representative to the University Smoking Policy Working Group.

Monique Van Hoek (COS) is nominated to serve on the Salary Equity Study Committee.

Yvonne Demory (SOM) is nominated to fill a vacancy on the Academic Policies Committee.

*Organization & Operations*

**B. Other Committees**

*Faculty Handbook Committee*

**V. Other New Business**

Resolution in Support of Providing Benefits for Same-Sex Couples

Attachment C

**VI. Remarks for the Good of the General Faculty**

**VII. Adjournment**

## Attachment A



### Mason Lobbies 2013

- **Overview**
  - For the first time, Mason's undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, staff, administration, and alumni are coming down to Richmond to collectively advocate for the same set of issues and policy proposals on behalf of the Mason community.
  - Mason Lobbies 2013 is an idea that originated within GMU's Student Government (SG), but quickly found support from the Office of State Government Relations, the office of Alumni Affairs, the Graduate and Professional Student Association (GAPSA), members of the Faculty, Staff, and Mason families.
  - The event will take place on February 7, 2013 during the annual meeting of the Virginia Assembly. We currently have funds allotted to bring down 60 students. The interest from students to participate has been overwhelming as we hope to show Richmond that we truly are one school, with one voice.
- **Why Lobby?**
  - Other large institutions in the commonwealth consistently send contingents of students to the General Assembly as Mason has seen state funding decrease, and it is time for us to go to Richmond and speak up for ourselves the same way that other large institutions do annually. In the last 40 years, Mason has grown exponentially and has managed to develop so that we are as competitive and innovative as we are now without the same funding that other universities are getting. Imagine how successful we can be if we were funded like UVA and Virginia Tech.
- **Logistics**
  - The following components hope to bring the following numbers during the third week of the Spring Semester to advocate on behalf of Mason:
    - Student Government: 50-75 undergraduate students
    - GAPSA: 20 graduate students
    - Alumni Association: 20-35 alumni
    - Faculty/Staff: at least 15-20
    - Administration: President Cabrera and State Government Relations Department
- **The Issues**
  - Salary increases for faculty and staff
    - Allows Mason to continue to hire the best of the best so that students are truly gaining a competitive edge in academia.
    - Enhances the value of the degree of "the Mason Graduate"
  - Stabilized State Funding to create a more fairer tuition rate
- **Student Training Program**
  - Student Government will be working with various individuals to create a student lobbying training program that will teach us how to present ourselves in front of legislative officials.

**One School! One Voice!**

**ATTACHMENT B George Mason University  
Three Year Calendar: Fall 2015 – Spring 2018**

<b>FALL SEMESTER</b>	<b>Fall 2015</b>	<b>Fall 2016</b>	<b>Fall 2017</b>
First day of classes	Mon Aug 31	Mon Aug 29	Mon Aug 28
Labor Day (University closed)	Mon Sept 7	Mon Sept 5	Mon Sept 4
Last Day to Add (Census)	Tues Sept 8	Tues Sept 6	Tues Sept 5
Last Day to Drop	Fri Oct 2	Fri Sept 30	Fri Sept 29
Saturday Classes in session	Sat Oct 10	Sat Oct 8	Sat Oct 7
Columbus Day Recess	Mon Oct 12	Mon Oct 10	Mon Oct 9
Mon classes meet instead of Tues classes this day only	Tues Oct 13	Tues Oct 11	Tues Oct 10
Mid-term evaluation period for full-semester 100-200 level classes	Mon Sept 28 – Fri Oct 23	Mon Sept 26 – Fri Oct 21	Mon Sept 25 – Fri Oct 13
Selective Withdrawal Period – undergraduate	Mon Oct 5 – Fri Oct 30	Mon Oct 3 – Fri Oct 28	Mon Oct 2 – Fri Oct 27
Thanksgiving (No classes Wed; Recess Thurs - Sun)	Wed Nov 25 – Sun Nov 29	Wed Nov 23 – Sun Nov 27	Wed Nov 22 - Sun Nov 24
Dissertation/Thesis Deadline	Fri Dec 11	Fri Dec 9	Fri Dec 8
Last Day of Class	Sat Dec 12	Sat Dec 10	Sat Dec 9
Reading Day(s)	Not Scheduled	Mon Dec 12	Mon Dec 11 – Tues Dec 12
Examination Period	Mon Dec 14 – Mon Dec 21	Tues Dec 13-Tues Dec 20	Wed Dec 13 – Wed Dec 20
Winter Degree Date	Tues Dec 22	Wed Dec 21	Thu Dec 21
<b>SPRING SEMESTER</b>	<b>Spring 2016</b>	<b>Spring 2017</b>	<b>Spring 2018</b>
<i>January 1 Day of Week</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>
MLK Day - (no classes)	Mon Jan 18	Mon Jan 16	Mon Jan 15
First Day of Spring Classes	Tues Jan 19	Mon Jan 23	Tues Jan 22
Last Day to Add (Census)	Tues Jan 26	Tues Jan 31	Tues Jan 30
Last Day to Drop	Fri Feb 19	Fri Feb 24	Fri Feb 23
Saturday Classes in session	Sat Mar 5	Sat Mar 11	Sat Mar 10
Spring Recess	Mon Mar 7 – Sun Mar 13	Mon Mar 13 – Sun Mar 19	Mon Mar 12 - Sun Mar 18
Mid-term evaluation period for full-semester 100-200 level classes	Mon Feb 15 - Fri Mar 18	Mon Feb 20 - Fri Mar 24	Mon Feb 19 - Fri Mar 23
Selective Withdrawal Period – undergraduate	Mon Feb 22 – Fri Mar 25	Mon Feb 27 – Fri Mar 31	Mon Feb 26 – Fri Mar 30
Dissertation/Thesis Deadline	Fri April 29	Fri May 5	Fri May 4
Last Day of Class	Mon May 2	Sat May 6	Sat May 5
Reading Day(s)	Tues May 3	Mon May 8 – Tues May 9	Mon May 7 – Tues May 8
Examination Period	Wed May 4 – Wed May 11	Wed May 10 – Wed May 17	Wed May 9 – Wed May 16
Commencement	Sat May 14	Sat May 20	Sat May 19
<b>SPRING TERM</b>	<b>Summer 2016</b>	<b>Summer 2017</b>	<b>Summer 2018</b>
Summer Term Dates	Mon May 16 – Fri Aug 5	Mon May 22 – Fri Aug 11	Mon May 21 – Fri Aug 10

**AY Calendar 2017-18 Approved by Faculty Senate: TBD**

Senate approval needed for Academic Year 2017-18 only. The previous two years were approved last year.

## ATTACHMENT C

### **Resolution in Support of Providing Benefits for Same-Sex Couples**

#### **Sponsored by the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate**

Whereas the Board of Visitors of George Mason University has issued a resolution (March 24, 2010) concerning discrimination against all persons in their dealings with the University;

Whereas the Faculty of George Mason University believes that all employees and students of the Commonwealth deserve equitable treatment and statutory protection against discrimination;

Whereas the American Association of University Professors has vigorously advocated its support for non-discrimination policies, and that this support is joined by that of the Virginia Conference of the AAUP and of the AAUP Committee on Sexual Diversity and Gender Identity;

Whereas the Faculty Senate of George Mason University continues to support University Policy 1201 that promotes a culture of inclusivity and non-discrimination;

Whereas Mason strives to recruit and retain a diverse faculty with strong research and teaching records, in part by offering them the opportunity to participate fully in the Mason community.

Whereas peer institutions within our region, with whom we compete for faculty, offer comprehensive benefits to same-sex couples and their families;

Whereas the federal government no longer defines marriage as between one man and one woman and now recognizes as legally binding the marriages of same-sex couples who are married within states that have authorized same-sex marriage;

Whereas the IRS now recognizes as legally married all same sex couples who were married in states that recognize same-sex marriage, even if the couple does not reside in a state that recognizes same-sex marriage;

Whereas the United States military now offers equal benefits in housing, health care, and community life to all legally married members, regardless of the gender of the spouses;

Whereas the legally married same-sex partners of Virginia National Guard members will be eligible for the same federal benefits as opposite-sex married couples; and

Whereas the Faculty Senate of George Mason University supports full benefits for same-sex couples in the continuing pursuit of equity, justice, and non-discrimination;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Faculty Senate of George Mason University strongly urges the University to ensure the rights of same-sex married couples employed by the University by extending to these couples the same benefits that are offered by the University to other married couples.