

**GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY**  
**MINUTES OF THE FACULTY SENATE MEETING**  
**April 12, 2023, 3:00-4:15 p.m.**  
**Electronic Meeting**

*Number of attendees: 94 ([List of names](#))*

- I. **Call to Order:** Senate President Melissa Broeckelman-Post called the meeting to order at 3:03pm.
- II. **Approval of the Minutes of March 22, 2023 and March 29, 2023:** Approved with correction – add Zachary Schrag as present at the March 29 meeting.

III. **Opening Remarks**

- This is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Faculty Senate. We will be celebrating with a cake and champagne reception after the final meeting of the year on April 26 in Merten Hall 1201. Please attend the meeting in person if possible (there will still be a Zoom option) and encourage any past senators to attend so we can celebrate their efforts.
- If you're chairing a committee, look out for an email from Clerk Truman Deree soon asking for a final report for the year. We'd like to have these in time for the next meeting if possible.
- Congratulations to former Senate Chair Shannon Davis on receiving the 2023 David W. Rossell Quill award for her service to the university.

III. **Committee Reports**

**Senate Standing Committees**

- *Executive Committee* – issues will be addressed in other reports.
- *Academic Policies* – no report
- *Budget and Resources* – no report
- *Faculty Matters*
  - The Faculty Evaluation of Administrators survey is active and is being administered by Gallup. We want to make sure response rates are high, and the same safeguards will be in place, so please look out for this and respond. Consider sharing with your departments to increase response rates.
- *Nominations*
  - Announcement of BOV Faculty Representatives just went out. Thank you to all who stepped forward and congratulations to those nominated.

- We have lined up almost all members of the Grading Process Task Force, with representatives from almost every unit and administrative employees. Melissa will formally kick off soon.
- The list of individuals will go out over another form of communication.
- Organization and Operations
  - Bylaws clerical updates
    - When we edited Article IV of the bylaws, it used to have 10 bullets but now has 9. There is a reference in Article V that refers to the old section 10, which is now section 9. Motion proposed to allow the committee to make this clerical update to change the section numbers.
      - No discussion
      - **Motion carried by acclamation.**
  - University Standing Committee on Reimagining Faculty Roles and Rewards charge
    - Made correction to the charge proposed at last meeting to ensure the charge explicitly refers to tenure as a safeguard of academic freedom, as voted on by the Faculty Senate at the December 7 meeting. The new language is in red in the charge language in the [Appendix](#).
    - No discussion on the addition of this language.
    - No discussion on the charge as a whole.
    - Motion to approve the charge **carried by acclamation.**
  - Please review the agenda for the next meeting when it comes out, as there will be charge updates for Writing Across the Curriculum and Mason Core.

### Other Committees/Faculty Representatives

- [Admissions Committee](#)
- [Undergraduate Council](#)
- [Writing Across the Curriculum](#)

### **IV. New Business**

- Tom Wood for Effective Teaching Committee
  - There has been some confusion around the new online student evaluation of teaching (SET) reviews in BlueRA. We have been listening to faculty and students and looking at other efforts to evaluate teaching, such as peer review etc. More to come on this, but please let us know if you have thoughts/opinions on these issues.
    - MBP: Thank you for everything your committee is doing around teaching. Students really appreciate being included in these conversations.

- Kim Eby: Teaching Excellence Awards
  - It is always an honor at this busy time in the semester to celebrate our award winners. There are awards for full time, adjunct, and online faculty. Please celebrate with us.

## V. Announcements

- Provost Ginsberg
  - University Libraries and Mason Publishing just announced the publication of a new book reflecting on the 50 years of the university: *1-2-3 University: Reflections on the First 50 Years*.
  - Mason Forensics Team, led by Department of Communications faculty Dawn Lowry and Tyler Watkins and graduate student Peter Figueroa, won second place in the national 43<sup>rd</sup> American Forensic Association National Speech Tournament. This is a great achievement – it is important to recognize our student and faculty success in national events that are not sports-related.
  - Commencement is controversial but it is not controversial to celebrate students. Faculty should set the tone and attend.
  - Fentanyl overdoses are a major tragedy that affects communities. The FDA has now made Narcan, an antidote for overdoses, available to the public and it will be available on our campuses. There will be three training sessions and I encourage people to take it. It is like CPR training and the drug is easy to administer as a nasal spray.
  - Next week we are launching a billion-dollar philanthropic campaign to support the university. I am really pleased that the campaign will be launched with a gala event at Tysons Corner.
  - Special thanks and shout out to an important colleague, Bethany Usher, who has been appointed the next Provost at Radford University. I want to take this opportunity to thank Bethany for her years of service and important contributions to the success and development of our students and congratulate her on this wonderful opportunity.
  - We continue to wait for resolution of the budget stalemate in Richmond. It may go on for several more months and may be resolved over the summer. We hope it is resolved because it affects university funding. We are in a holding pattern right now.
  - This has been a very quick semester – we are 3 weeks out from the end. I want to thank all of you for what you do on behalf of Mason and for your students and peers.
  - Questions
    - Thank you for the update about the situation in Richmond. Some of the steps the university is taking to mitigate the situation are affecting positions funded through sponsored programs. Why are

these positions going through the same approval process when the funding is already approved?

- We are approving these but we're asking them to go through the same process so that we can verify the funding source. There shouldn't be any problem getting these approved aside from taking time for the extra check but let me know if there are issues.
- Related question: Is there a timeline for catching up on the backlog of approvals for these positions?
  - I look at them every day. There are a couple of steps before they get to me, but I am moving through them as soon as I get them.
- Shout out as a university marshal. I hope everyone will show up to graduation and support our students even though it is a controversial ceremony this year.
  - Controversies aside, this is a day to celebrate with students and families.
- I want to re-emphasize the importance of the Narcan training and encourage everyone to take it and carry it on you. Question about graduation – I am hearing from students about a possible walk-out and wanted to ask about this and how to handle it.
  - The President met last week with a delegation of students, we also had a delegation come to a BOV dialogue session and they have just selected the student speaker, which is an important part of the equation. I want to be sure that students have a voice and that it isn't suppressed, but at the same time it's also used responsibly. It's important to allow students to express their voice in the same way we said the governor is allowed to express his and hope that whatever that expression is, it's conducted responsibly.
- Thank you again to everyone for all you do and good luck with the end of the semester.

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

- Zachary Schrag: Bike to Mason Day is coming up on April 20 at all campuses, including Mason Korea (some campuses are on different days). Check or reach out for information about bike routes to campuses, etc.
- Lisa Billingham: Mason musical showcase coming up this Saturday at 1pm and 8pm at the Hylton Center. Next weekend: Mason Opera, various recitals.

**VII. Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 3:32pm. The spillover meeting scheduled for April 19 is cancelled and the final meeting of the semester will be on April 26.

Respectfully submitted,  
Charlotte Gill, PhD  
Faculty Senate Secretary

## **APPENDIX A SENATE STANDING COMMITTEES**

### **Organization & Operations**

1. Motion to authorize O&O Committee to make clerical adjustments to the Bylaws in preparation of final version:

*The Organization & Operations Committee moves that the Co-Chairs of the Organization & Operations Committee be given authority to make updates to section numbers in the Faculty Senate Bylaws as needed, to accommodate the changes to the bylaws that were approved on March 22, 2023.*

2. Updated draft charge for the Standing Committee on Reimagining Faculty Roles and Rewards:

#### **University Standing Committee on Faculty Roles and Rewards**

##### **DRAFT LANGUAGE**

The University Standing Committee on Faculty Roles and Rewards is charged with ensuring that the processes and timelines proposed to achieve the five goals laid out in the Task Force on Reimagining Faculty Roles and Rewards final report of Fall 2022 are implemented. These goals include:

- *Creating transparent workload guidelines that are equitable and inclusive of all faculty appointment types.*
- *Redesigning RPT guidelines that represent more inclusive frameworks for all faculty work.*
- *Developing a strategy for implementing continuous contracts for full-time instructional and clinical faculty.*
- *Clarifying the relationship between the annual review criteria and the RPT criteria.*
- *Creating a robust culture of faculty cohesiveness through career development for all.*

The Committee shall report to the Faculty Senate on the progress toward these goals at least once each year and shall confer and collaborate with the appropriate committees and campus offices.

**The committee shall recognize tenure as a major safeguard of academic freedom, the quality of education offered, and the continuity and stability of the institution.**

### **Composition**

- Chair or designee of the Faculty Matters Committee (co-chair);
- Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs and Development (co-chair);

- Chair or designee of the Faculty Handbook Committee;
- Three tenure-line I/R faculty, elected by the Faculty Senate;
- Three term I/R faculty, elected by the Faculty Senate;
- One Associate Dean of Faculty Affairs (or similar role, appointed by Provost);
- One representative from Research Council (appointed by Provost); and
- Two Local Academic Head/Department Chairs (one elected by the Faculty Senate, one appointed by Provost)

The committee shall be co-chaired by the member from the Faculty Matters Committee and the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs and Development.

\*The overall composition of the committee MUST include representation from *at least* 6 different schools and colleges.

## **APPENDIX B OTHER COMMITTEES**

### **Admissions Committee**

Submitted by Megan Erb, April 4, 2023

Ms. Melissa Bevacqua from the Admissions Office provided a comprehensive presentation to the Faculty Senate Admissions Committee in late March regarding the state of Mason's enrollment for the freshman, transfer and graduate student populations. Overall, we have received a record number of admission applications for the Fall 2023 semester. Freshman applications are up 13.8% as compared to Fall 2022. Fall 2023 freshman deposits from committed students are up 9.6% as compared to this time last year, although out of state deposits are down 1.2%. Transfer applications are also up about 6.4% compared to Fall 2022 applications. Graduate student applications are up 9.7% from last year, although the yield rate has slightly declined every year since 2019.

Ms. Bevacqua discussed several admissions initiatives that have recently begun. A pilot program is being introduced within CEHD to help increase enrollment and provisionally admit students who might otherwise be borderline for admission. Additionally, a direct admit program is being piloted for qualified students from Alexandria City, Manassas, and Osbourn Park high schools.



## Undergraduate Council

Submitted by Krista Shires, March 16, 2023

More details about the Undergraduate Council's work this year can be found online at <https://ugc.gmu.edu/>. A summary of proposals reviewed for the year can be found below:

<b>Course</b>	<b>285</b>
Inactivated	106
Modified	131
New	48
<b>Program</b>	<b>81</b>
Inactivated	1
Modified	73
New	7
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>366</b>

<b>College/School</b>	<b>Number of Proposals</b>
BUS	9
CEC	43
CEHD	48
CHHS	2
CHSS	107
COS	56
CPH	18
CVPA	31
HNRS	6
INTO	33
SCHAR	13
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>366</b>

## Writing Across the Curriculum Committee

Submitted by Seth Hudson, April 5, 2023

WAC Report (April, 2023): Committee has sent a proposed charge change to O&O for consideration.

**April 12, 2023**

**LIST OF ATTENDEES**

**92 Total Listed Attendees (40 Senators and 52 Visitors)**

**2 Additional Visitors attended who chose not to be listed**

**40 Senators present:** Alan Abramson, Karen Akerlof, Jatin Ambegaonkar, Alok Berry, Lisa Billingham, Virginia Blair, Melissa Broeckelman-Post, Meagan Call-Cummings, Jamie Clark, Richard Craig, Tim Curby, Delton Daigle, Douglas Eyman, Daniel Garrison, Tim Gibson, Charlotte Gill, Liling Huang, Bijan Jabbari, Kerri LaCharite, Lisa Lister, Tamara Maddox, Alexandra Masterson, Kumar Mehta, Anna Pollack, Marvin Powell, Keith Renshaw, Greg Robinson, Pierre Rodgers, Esperanza Roman Mendoza, Catherine Sausville, Jessica Scarlata, Zachary Schrag, Solon Simmons, Cristiana Stan, Rebecca Sutter, Matt Theeke, Mohan Venigalla, David Wong, Thomas Wood, Jie Zhang

**12 Senators absent:** Dominique Banville, Michelle Boardman, Edward Gero, Victoria Grady, Eugene Kontorovich, Laurie Miller, Kathleen Roberts, Gene Shuman, Benjamin Steger, Kun Sun, Anne Verhoeven, Theresa Wills

**52 Visitors present:** Wayne Adams, LaShonda Anthony, Jaimie Appleton, Ann Ardis, Christina Brady, Lisa Breglia, Alecia Bryan, Tom Butler, Kimberly Davidson, Shannon Davis, Truman Deree, Matthew DeSantis, Kathleen Diemer, Kimberly Dight, Fatou Diouf, Vicki Dominick, Cheryl Druehl, Kim Eby, Kimberly Ford, Cynthia Fuchs, Mark Ginsberg, Marcy Glover, Thalia Goldstein, Roger Graham, Sara Heming, Caitlin Horan, Seth Hudson, Erin Iacangelo, Kristin Johnsen-Neshati, Ibrahim Kargbo, Nick Kirkvarro, Andrew Lane, Jordan Locke, Lori Mallette, Jennifer Meslener, Ilona Moore, Janette Muir, Jneva Norfleet, Sarah Parnell, Rachel Pepin, Shelley Reid, Lauren Reuscher, Marguerite Rippy, ChangGyo Ryu, Pam Shepherd, Antonio Stewart, Frank Strike, Girum Urgessa, James Willis, Bob Witeck, Elizabeth Woodley, Andrea Zach