

## **ORGANIZATION AND OPERATIONS ANNUAL REPORT**

### **GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE 2020-21**

**April 2021**

#### **Committee Members:**

Lisa Billingham (CVPA) Chair, Virginia Blair (CHHS), Carol Cleaveland (CHHS), Larry Kerschberg (VSE), and Jessica Scarlata (CHSS)

The committee focused this academic year on 1) continued research for the Faculty Ombudsperson position, 2) examining Faculty Senate Bylaws and Committee Charge changes, and 3) the annual calculation of Faculty Senate representation and 4) consideration of further research in changes and review of the Faculty Senate Charter and Senate Standing Rules. Our committee continues to review the overall processes of the Faculty Senate related to its charge.

#### **Faculty Ombudsperson**

The O&O Committee continued research regarding the Faculty Ombudsperson position that was approved by President Gregory Washington in Spring 2021. The Chair of O&O has continued to work in concert with Chief of Staff, Ken Walsh, and Lester Arnold, Vice President for Human Resources and Payroll, to provide requisite data to create a search committee for the position and relevant dispositions related to the search. As of the date of this report, a list of proposed faculty search committee members has been filed with the Chief of Staff, and a late semester search is moving forward with the plan for a completed search and new Ombudsperson Office to be created Fall 2021. The Chair of O&O, Lisa Billingham, through support from the President's Office, attended the International Ombudsman Association Conference (IOA), to continue research for the successful opening of the office.

#### **Faculty Senate Bylaws Revisions and Committee Charges**

The charge of the Organizations and Operations committee includes the oversight of changes to processes and committee charges for Senate and University Standing Committees. A call was placed in the fall to committee chairs across campus to seek revisions to committee charges. Several committee charges have been edited, including the charges for Organizations and Operations, Mason Core Committee, and the Admissions Committee. Members of O&O will continue working with committee chairs in Fall 2021 as more changes are being discussed at the time of this report.

A full faculty meeting was called by President Gregory Washington on March 17, 2021 to vote on changes to the Faculty Senate Charter. As a result of the changes proposed and approved during the meeting, the composition of the Faculty Senate apportionment will be approved in the Faculty Senate Bylaws rather than through the University President calling a meeting of 10 percent of the University Faculty as in the past.

**The Allocation of Faculty Senators** for 2021-22 was calculated and announced at the March 3, 2021 meeting. There were no changes in representation by college. 51 senators have been assigned for election. There is a change in the total senator allocation, due to the addition of an approved representative from College UN, to allow non-represented faculty to have a voice in the Faculty Senate. A non-voting member from the Mason Korea Campus will also be elected for the upcoming 2021-22 academic year.

### **Proposed Committee Topics to Address in 2021-22**

There is still work to be completed related to Standing and University Committee Charges. The O&O Committee should continue work to consider the Standing Rules of the Faculty Senate and the Senate Bylaws. In addition, creating a representative to connect with the Ombudsperson Office for reports to the Faculty Senate is also requested for consideration.

The Chair would like to thank the Committee for their input and work with the distillation of committee charge changes and changes to the Faculty Senate Bylaws.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Billingham, Chair