GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY
AGENDA FOR THE FACULTY SENATE MEETING
APRIL 5, 2017
Robinson Hall B113, 3:00 – 4:15 p.m.

I. Call to Order

II. Approval of the Minutes of March 1, 2017 and February 1, 2017 as amended.

III. Announcements
President Cabrera
Provost Wu
Sr. VP Davis

IV. Committee Reports
A. Senate Standing Committees
   Executive Committee
   Academic Policies
   Budget and Resources
   Faculty Matters
   Nominations
   Ginny Blair (CHHS) is nominated to serve on the Academic Integrity Advisory Committee AY 2017-18
   Organization and Operations

B. Other Committees/Faculty Representatives
   Annual Faculty Senate Evaluation of the President and Provost  Attachment A

V. New Business
   Wiley contract: Michelle Marks, Vice President for Academic Innovation and New Ventures  Link to Fact Sheet/FAQ
   Student Senate Resolution to Support Open Textbooks  Attachment B

VI. Remarks for the Good of the General Faculty

VII. Adjournment
1. During the past calendar year has the President or Provost announced initiatives or goals or acted upon issues that fall under the charge of your Committee? If so, was your Committee consulted by the President or Provost in a timely manner before the announcement or action? If not, do you believe your Committee should have been consulted? Would it have been helpful to have had the input of your Committee from the outset?

Responses from Faculty Senate Standing Committees:

**Academic Policies:** The Provost's office is attempting to integrate the academic year calendars for the Wiley on-line courses and the regular academic year courses. The calendar that was given to the committee for AY 2020-2021 was accompanied by a message suggesting that the calendar was ready to be presented to the Faculty Senate for approval (the Faculty Senate approves the Academic Year calendars 3 years in advance). However, this was not the case and many errors were discovered in the calendar by the committee. Other questions about the calendar could not be immediately answered by the Provost's office. The Academic Policies committee expended a great deal of time and effort on this, and believes the calendar should have been checked more thoroughly before being given to the committee.

**Faculty Matters:** With regard to the Task Force on Term Faculty, the Provost and his office were responsive to the interest of the Faculty Matters Committee in being represented among task force members. This was accomplished by appointing a Faculty Matters Committee member to the task force.

**Nominations:** The response, essentially, is ‘no’. The Provost's office establishes various committees and task forces. In recent months this office has created an Adjunct Faculty Committee and continues to guide the work of the Term Faculty Task Force. In this regard, from the standpoint of the Nominations Committee, the work of the Provost and his staff is entirely satisfactory. They have discussed with the Faculty Senate Executive the circumstances and/or terms and conditions of the committees and task forces for which they are responsible, asking for advice when necessary.

Responses from University Standing Committees:

**Academic Appeals:** Not applicable.

**Adult Learning and Executive Education:** No, no initiatives announced in the past calendar year fall under the charge of the Adult Learning and Executive Education Committee.

**Athletic Council:** No, there were no initiatives or goals that fell under the charge of this committee.

**External Academic Relations:** Don't believe so.

**Effective Teaching:** No.
Grievance: No.

Faculty Handbook: No initiatives or goals fell under the charge of the committee.

Mason Core: The President and Provost have been promoting the Mason Impact, which has the potential to influence the Mason Core. Although we weren’t initially consulted, with the appointment of Bethany Usher to fill the Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education role, and the chair of the Mason Core, we have been discussing how we can better align the two curricular initiatives.

Minority and Diversity Issues: The President and Provost have sent out eleven University Announcements related to Diversity and Inclusion in response to things happening on campus, nationally and internationally. The Committee was not consulted on any of them. Input from a Committee like ours could increase awareness and transparency in the University community.

University Promotion, Tenure, and Renewal Appeal (UPTRAC): N/A - No new actions last year that fall under the charge of UPTRAC.

2. Did your Committee seek information or input from the President or Provost or members of their staffs? If so, did they respond adequately and in a timely manner?

Responses from Faculty Senate Standing Committees:

Academic Policies: Yes, the committee did request more information. For the concerns expressed about changing the time of the Columbus Day holiday in the upcoming academic year calendars that have already been approved, there was no response. For the concern expressed about errors in the proposed 2020-2021 AY calendar, there was an immediate response. However, after that, there was no further communication by the Provost’s office to the committee.

Faculty Matters: In response to a request from the Faculty Matters Committee, the Provost submitted an activity report for faculty to consult in responding to the Faculty Evaluation of Administrators survey for 2016-17. The President’s office suggested we use the president’s updates to the BOV for his activity report.

Nominations: The committee asked for nominations of university staff to serve on committees. The responses were timely and the committee received the necessary information.

Responses from University Standing Committees:

Academic Appeals: The work of this committee occurs episodically and only after the Provost’s office has completed its review. So far this year, the committee has not sought information or input form the Provost’s office.

Adult Learning and Executive Education: At the start of AY 2016-2017, our Committee sought information from the Faculty Senate requesting clarification (more specifics) of the Committee charge. The response was timely and adequate.

Athletic Council: Yes and the response came promptly.
External Academic Relations: The office of governmental relations was prompt in responding to requests for information in preparation for higher education advocacy day. In addition, the vice president of governmental relations met with multiple members of the committee to help them prepare for this effort. Finally, other members of that office have been inclusive of our committee members in their reports and responsive to other requests for information and input.

Effective Teaching: Yes, OIRA/IRR has been collaborative and very supportive of our work.

Grievance: We provided two findings on cases before the committee. We received a response to one, many months after. We have never received a response to the other.

Faculty Handbook: The committee had extensive meetings with a representative from the Provost’s office regarding revisions to the Faculty Handbook. The Provost’s office has been accessible and responsive.

Mason Core: Because the Associate Provost is a key member of the committee, there is always close collaboration.

Minority and Diversity Issues: The Minority and Diversity Issues Committee met with Julian Williams of the Office of Compliance, Diversity and Ethics to discuss the issues, concerns and goals of the Office, and how the Committee might be of assistance or call on him for assistance. As a result, one Committee member has been included on the search committee for the new Director of Faculty Diversity Engagement.

The Committee also reached out and met with Rose Pascarell and Kahan Sablo from the Office of University Life as well as Eden King, the current University Presidential Fellow. The goal was to establish communication and offer our assistance with diversity and inclusion issues on campus.

University Promotion, Tenure, and Renewal Appeal (UPTRAC): Yes, the committee worked closely with the Provost office to get all the materials necessary for the UPTRAC deliberations. All the materials were provided to the committee in timely manner. In addition, the committee includes two tenured administrators and one alternate tenured administrator appointed by the Provost and the specific composition changes depending on the possible conflicts in a particular case. This situation plus the fact that the meetings happen in summer months makes scheduling a challenging process. The Provost office and the faculty senate clerk worked very hard to ensure that the meetings are scheduled appropriately and with all the members present.

3. Please suggest how you believe the President, Provost and/or their staffs might more effectively interact with your Committee in the future, if necessary.

Responses from Faculty Senate Standing Committees:

Academic Policies: The interaction would be more effective if calendars were correct before submission to the committee.

Faculty Matters: Fine as is.

Nominations: No need for improvement.

Responses from University Standing Committees:
Academic Appeals: So far this year, the committee has no record of interactions with the Provost’s office and therefore has no suggestions.

Adult Learning and Executive Education: It would be helpful to know what leadership intends to do with any findings generated by the Committee, in order to conduct more efficient and effect information searches.

Athletic Council: We have very good interaction with the President and Provost office as staff members of these offices attend the Committee and sub-committees meetings.

External Academic Relations: No suggestions at this time.

Grievance: They could respond to our findings and let us know what actions they have taken on the cases.

Faculty Handbook: No suggestions.

Mason Core: Not needed.

Minority and Diversity Issues: Maintaining open lines of communication is the best way to interact with the Committee. The Committee is reaching out to offer consultation on diversity and inclusion issues. Many events are occurring around campus that we are not aware of. If we were invited to participate in planning or to attend, we could get more involved, provide support and help advertise the events.

University Promotion, Tenure, and Renewal Appeal (UPTRAC): The UPTRAC is currently completing the development of guidelines that will help all parties to interact in a more efficient and better formalized manner. Also, the respective chapter of the Faculty Handbook was revised during the last year. The Faculty Handbook Committee did a great job on these revisions.

4. Please relate any additional information you may have regarding interactions between your Committee and the President or Provost or their staff.

Responses from Faculty Senate Standing Committees:

Academic Policies: The committee discovered that the Summer Term Calendar for 2016, as posted on the Registrar’s website, was changed by the addition of a new session, without notification to or approval of the Faculty Senate. It is the responsibility of the Academic Policies Committee to recommend the academic year and summer term calendars to the Faculty Senate for approval.

Faculty Matters: Nothing to add.

Nominations: Nothing further to add.

Responses from University Standing Committees:

Academic Appeals: Not applicable.

Adult Learning and Executive Education: Nothing further to add.

Athletic Council: As indicated above, the interaction is excellent.

Effective Teaching: Very supportive so far.
Faculty Handbook: The Provost and his representative were extremely helpful in proposing revisions to the Faculty Handbook.

Minority and Diversity Issues: The Committee has drafted and sent a Memo to the President's Diversity and Inclusion Leadership Council requesting information about their goals, progress made to date and how we can be of assistance to them.

University Promotion, Tenure, and Renewal Appeal (UPTRAC): The UPTRAC expresses deep gratitude to Meg Caniano for her extraordinary efforts in scheduling and organizing UPTRAC meetings and taking meeting notes.

Attachment B

A Resolution to Support Open Textbooks

R. #14

37th STUDENT SENATE
1st Session

R. #14

A Resolution to Support Open Textbooks

IN THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT OF
GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

September 22nd, 2016

Submitted by Senator Edwards

Resolution #14

Be it resolved by the Student Senate of George Mason University –

Whereas, the Student Government of George Mason University has recognized and opposed rising tuition costs, as illustrated by a Florida Virtual Campus survey of over 22,000 students, 65% of whom at one time did not purchase a textbook or dropped or withdrew from a course due to the cost of a textbook, and;

Whereas, the Student Government of George Mason University understands the financial constraints faced by our students to pursue higher education, and;

Whereas, the Student Government of George Mason University recognizes that the University Libraries has a program in place called “TextSelect” that offers the student body a means of managing these rising costs, and;

Therefore be it finally resolved, that the 37th Student Government of George Mason University supports an additional initiative proposed by George Mason University Libraries to encourage instructional faculty
to adopt Open Textbooks and other open educational resources for the purpose of lowering the cost of higher education for all students.

Passed the Student Senate: _____________

Attest:

___________________________  ___________________________

Speaker Caleb Kitchen  Clerk Ryan Powers