I. Approval of Minutes of August 16, 2019: The minutes were approved.

II. Announcements

Reminder: FS Reception at Mathy House: Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2019, 5:30 – 7:30 pm.

Provost Wu to begin monthly Lunch with the Provost on October 2. Will be drop in to have casual conversation, at the Mason Club. Pam Shepherd, the new Director for Communications for the Provost Office, has goal to help facilitate Provost’s communication strategies, such as establishing a Twitter account and on other social media for Provost Wu. Presence on these platforms will assist Provost Wu to be aware of other messaging from campus, as well as be accessible to faculty and staff through Twitter messaging as well. The main aim is to use Provost’s account to amplify faculty and students’ work.

Discussion/Questions:
Would Provost Wu’s use of Twitter and direct messaging be subject to public records? Requests and communications go through gmu.edu are subject to FOIA, are social media platforms private platforms? What are the implications of using of using a for-profit platform to engage with him as a means to communicate? Questions regarding record keeping obligations, transparency need considered while considering benefits of accessibility through direct message, and as a way to amplify research, a good use of that space.

During Rector’s visit to the Faculty Senate meeting in October, will implement 15 minutes limit. -- Questions for rector will be solicited in advance and ask for follow-up electronically, as needed. Similarly, time limit will be maintained for the Provost. We will move the discussion with the Provost to the final 15 minutes of the meeting. Instead of soliciting questions in advance, we will encourage faculty to attend his lunches to raise and discuss any issues they want--The change in order of the agenda is to allow for Senate business to be attended to and conclude during the allotted time. To this end, all announcements will be moved to the end to read into the record as they are and talk about them only if time permits.

General Faculty Meeting: suggestions included reading days in December, less likely to be cancelled than spring term; not to conflict with faculty/staff holiday party or to follow the party? As a social event? Estimate 500-1,000 people – the JC Cinema, Dewberry Room?
Faculty Senate Meetings AY 20-21: For AY 2020-21 we were going to move to Merten 1200 – a tiered space. We have been able to secure Merten 1201 (Hazel Conference Room) – has enough space, to angle tables, enables us to do telepresence – received confirmation yesterday. Will that be a permanent space? Sr. VP Kissal suggested contacting Bill Dracos, (Associate VP for Business Services, Auxiliary Enterprises) to fit your needs moving forward. Research 163 is another telepresence space. There is not a lot of tiered space left on campus. In Merten 1200 we can see each other when we speak. This will also open up a classroom space for next year.

III. Progress reports, business, and agenda items from Senate Standing Committees

A. Academic Policies – Suzanne Slayden
   AP is discussing the minimum hours of out of class work accompanying the contact hours according to the Carnegie definition.

B. Budget and Resources – Tim Leslie
   No agenda items for meeting. Met with Rene O’Neal, new VP for Strategic Budget and Planning, to talk about the budget model. We are currently eyeing a detailed release of AY19 data for February 2020 FS meeting. There is a new Budget Advisory Panel to involve working groups.

   HR did finally update all of our titles. We are also discussing issues of salary and retention with HR.

C. Faculty Matters – Bethany Letiecq
   Faculty Matters has not quite met. Evaluation procedures with Provost, President and Deans and align processes with Provost evaluations – changed some of the timelines with it. Also, to look into evaluation of chair, study leaves, and workload policy: how decided across the university, is external money part of their contract? No Faculty Matters agenda items for October.

D. Nominations – Melissa Broeckelman-Post
   No items to report for October.

E. Organization and Operations – Lisa Billingham
   We are working with Lester Arnold to do research on ombuds structures, in partnership with working group. We will also review committee charges, how they are structured, and to collect charges for committees where we facilitate election of a person and to create a common location for them.

IV. Other Committees/Faculty Representatives
   Mason Core – Melissa Broeckelman Post
Faculty Fellow Samaine Lockwood getting faculty feedback on Mason Core – three deliberate dialogues in conjunction to collect data and look at end of 5-year cycle winding up. To come back to FS in the spring and ask FS to authorize a plan.

V. New Business, Updates, and Discussion

- Request from the libraries for a faculty member (senator) to become part of a working group on communication regarding our relationship with the big publishing houses. Budget and Resources will work on this.
- Presidential Search Committee: The website for the Presidential Search will go live next week. Position description is finished, very exciting. Announcement of another university-wide conversation around the search process – happening in late October. Open to all constituencies: faculty, staff, students, Fairfax community, alumni association, foundation, local legislators as well.
- Investigation of Allegations of Faculty Misconduct: Lester Arnold will talk about this at next FS – for a big outline and discussion where we are and something for discussion at the November meeting.
- Faculty Senate Representative to the Term Faculty Committee: Faculty Matters will work on this.
- Reaffirmation Planning Group – proposed by Matt Smith, new GMU Director of Accreditation: Shannon as FS Chair has agreed to meet once a semester.
- OER (Open Educational Resources) Policy: conversation with John Zenelis. not a policy, but how GMU response to legislature’s requirement … John Zenelis will come to the Faculty Senate in the spring to make a five-minute presentation.
- Michelle Marks to update FS and EXC on discussions happening around online undergraduate education, for November FS meeting.

Discussion:
Some have heard that Wiley may pursue undergraduate education. This came up at Mason Momentum but a rethinking of what we can do consistent with our mission. Also, financial mission.
Two different topics – online graduate and who you partner with.
The School of Business is already offering sections of online classes for undergraduates who are enrolled at GMU (not in partnership with Wiley).

- Salary Equity Study Committee Follow Up: SD happy to connect SES with B&R, to look at partnership with B&R.

Q: what data are SES looking for?
Discussion: We have a meeting with the Department of Labor: missing demographics for school and unit. Hired Brietline (a contractor) doing work, not by name but broad categories. Gender pay equity issues and recent pay equity increase. It would also be useful to look at, how merit pay is determined.
Q: Equity internally or benchmark with other schools?
A: with CUPA data among other and no matter how we benchmark data, we will find the same answers and see if there is a significant issue.
There was general agreement that faculty at Mason are underpaid.
For SES to be empowered to talk with CK's office on this – a way to create solutions.
CK approach that we are responsible for doing that work and responsible for sharing that work.
Q: In the past who benefitted from this?
A: Salary distribution is informative for us, to look at differentials across the university. This is important work – when we see pay band issues and share information, FS recognized as a body to do this, helps us, lest we struggle to get resources from Commonwealth (of VA).

- Remaining item from last year: Social Media issues: one school trying to find talking points for faculty – where students complaining about faculty on social media.
University policy more focused on administrators, not faculty members....to have guidelines? Wary of this
Where does the university free speech policy come from? If you feel free speech violated, you can (issue?make) a complaint. Academic freedom different from Free Speech – University broad free speech community – Faculty Matters will take this up.
To include responsibilities of computing – university resources, using university computers off network, may conflict with existing Responsible Use of Computing Policy.
This is happening vis a vis free speech stuff, also connects how faculty being censured by deans likely in violation of their due process rights of academic freedom.
- Email server use by non-Mason affiliates; - we received feedback from Senators.
After some discussion, the Executive Committee agreed to go into factfinding mode – clarifying, refining , to ask for additional feedback.

VI. Agenda Items for October 2, 2019 FS Meeting
- Draft FS Minutes September 4, 2019
- Rector Davis
- Provost Wu
- Unfinished Business:
  - Technology Policy Committee Annual Report AY 18-19
  - Criminal Background Checks Report
  - Honor Committee Report
- Committee Reports
  Executive Committee: (1) Email server use by non-Mason affiliates: some FS contacted us, going into factfinding mode – clarifying, refining , to ask for additional
feedback. (2) Faculty conduct working group – VP Lester Arnold to provide a procedural report
Mason Core
Effective Teaching Committee

The meeting adjourned 1:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kumar Mehta
Secretary