I. Call to Order

II. Approval of the Minutes of November 6, 2019

III. Unfinished Business
   Report from Faculty Senator Working Group re: Presidential Search  Attachment A

IV. Committee Reports
   A. Senate Standing Committees
      Executive Committee
      Academic Policies  Attachment B
      Budget and Resources  Attachment C
      Faculty Matters
      Nominations
      Organization and Operations

   B. Other Committees/Faculty Representatives
      Effective Teaching Committee – Student Evaluation of Teaching (SET) Pilot update

V. New Business
   Chosen Name and Pronouns Policy - Jeannie Brown Leonard and Josh Kinchen  Attachment D
   Faculty Activity and Collaboration Tools (FACTS) – Kim Eby and Molli Herth

VI. Announcements
   Save the Date! General Faculty Meeting: January 29, 2020, 3-4:30p, JC Cinema
   Provost Wu

VII. Remarks for the Good of the General Faculty

VIII. Adjournment
Attachment A

FACULTY SENATE PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH PROCESS WORKING GROUP PROPOSAL

On November 6, the Faculty Senate passed a motion to create a working group (Bethany Letiecq, Keith Renshaw, Solon Simmons) to “develop a set of possible methods to ensure that faculty have an opportunity to meet with each finalist in the Presidential Search.”

The Working Group conducted an open-ended survey and consulted with additional faculty colleagues regarding possible methods for meeting the language of the handbook. After engaging in extensive review discussion of several parameters, the working group now moves that the Faculty Senate:

1. Rank order (by ballot) the options for each of three domains related to the search process. There are 3 options for two of the domains, and 2 options for the final domain. Options will be ranked in order of preference, with the option of ranking one or more as “unacceptable.” Any option that receives a majority of “unacceptable” votes would not be included in the statement.

The domains and accompanying options are:

a. Domain 1: Open/Confidential meeting
   i. Finalists meet with faculty in a completely open meeting
   ii. Faculty who participate in the meeting sign a ‘code of ethics’ similar to that used by the search committee, which includes a statement about respecting confidentiality of finalists.
   iii. Live meeting is held in some way that hides the identity of the finalist (e.g., in the style of a “chat room”)

b. Domain 2: Meeting Participants
   i. Meeting is open to all general faculty (with option to participate remotely)
   ii. Meeting is open to a set number of general faculty on a “first-come, first-serve” basis, with no option to participate remotely
   iii. Meeting is open to Faculty Senators only (in line with Section 1.3.1 of the Faculty Handbook that states, “The General Faculty delegates by Charter to the Faculty Senate the responsibility for shared academic governance at the university level.”

c. Domain 3: Style of “Q&A” session
   i. Open Q&A session after the presentation, where any faculty can ask questions on a “first-come, first-serve” basis
   ii. Engage in a “question development” process, whereby a set of questions is selected and then asked by faculty representative(s) on the Search Committee (or another appropriate faculty representative)
2. Vote to endorse the following statement entitled (“Faculty Senate Statement on the Presidential Search Process”), which would incorporate the final rankings of options listed above.

Faculty Senate Statement on the Presidential Search Process

With regard to the process of a search for a University president, the Faculty Handbook (Section 1.2.5) states, “The search and selection process must include opportunities for the General Faculty to meet with candidates who are finalists for the presidency.”

On November 6, the Faculty Senate passed a motion that calls for “…a public forum for each finalist where s/he is invited to give a presentation to include the General Faculty, as well as students and staff, followed by a question and answer period;” for “faculty, students and staff [to] be invited to submit feedback regarding each finalist to the search committee”; and for “this phase of the search … [to] be of adequate duration to allow for the search committee’s consideration of such feedback.”

In line with the Faculty Handbook and with this motion, the Faculty Senate views the following as viable methods for meaningfully engaging faculty input in the search process:

1. Multiple finalists should engage in the process of meeting with faculty.
2. Each finalist should have a live (synchronous) meeting with the faculty – this meeting can be held in person and/or remotely.
3. All faculty who participate in a meeting with a finalist should be given an opportunity to provide feedback to the search committee, which the search committee would then incorporate into their final report and recommendations to the BOV.
4. The meeting would be held in one of the following formats, listed in order of preference:
   a. [Top-ranked “Open/Confidential” option listed here]
   b. [Second-ranked “Open/Confidential” option – if viewed as acceptable – listed here]
   c. [Third-ranked “Open/Confidential” option – if viewed as acceptable – listed here]
5. The meeting would be open to one of the following groups of faculty, listed in order of preference:
   a. [Top-ranked “Meeting Participants” option listed here]
   b. [Second-ranked “Meeting Participants” option – if viewed as acceptable – listed here]
   c. [Third-ranked “Meeting Participants” option – if viewed as acceptable – listed here]
6. The meeting will include a presentation to the faculty, followed by a Q&A session that is run in one of the following ways, listed in order of preference:
   a. [Top-ranked “Q&A Style” option listed here]
   b. [Second-ranked “Q&A Style” option – if viewed as acceptable – listed here]
Attachment B

Academic Policies Committee Agenda Item for Faculty Senate Meeting, Nov. 6, 2019

Background: In Fall 2018, the Drop Deadline was temporarily changed from the end of the 5th week of course meetings to the end of the 3rd week, with an Unrestricted Withdrawal period during weeks 4-5. During the Unrestricted Withdrawal period, students may withdraw from courses without permission or limit (excepting where there might be financial aid or program requirements for enrollment). The Selective Withdrawal period was unchanged for weeks 6-9 and is limited to 3 such withdrawals for undergraduate degree-seeking and non-degree students.

Since then, the Academic Policies Committee has discussed the change with the administration and received data on student drop and withdrawal activity. The Committee has also solicited comment from students, faculty, and administrators. There have been few to no negative comments regarding the changes. Data are shown in the chart below.

Motion: The Academic Policies Committee recommends that for a 15 week semester, the deadline to drop a course is at the end of 3 weeks of course meetings and the deadline for Unrestricted Withdrawal is at the end of 5 weeks of course meetings. The deadlines for drop and withdrawal for courses of different duration will be proportional to those for the 15-week semester.
Attachment C

George Mason University Faculty Senate

Resolution in Support of In-State Tuition for All Virginians

November 25, 2019

WHEREAS, The availability of in-state tuition for all Virginia residents attending public colleges and universities provides “a pathway to better jobs and opportunities that benefit students and the state”\(^1\) as a whole; and

WHEREAS, During the 2015 legislative session, Virginia’s General Assembly “recognized the importance of providing access to college for all Virginians”\(^2\) and rejected a proposal that would have taken away access to in-state tuition for those with Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals status; and

WHEREAS, Current uncertainty about the future of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and Temporary Protected Status (TPS) programs creates the risk that Virginia students who are currently enrolled in Virginia colleges and universities could lose DACA or TPS status. These students could also lose access to in-state tuition\(^3\). Unless state policies change, the termination of DACA and TPS would result in students who currently receive in-state tuition being shifted to out-of-state tuition rates that they would have little hope of affording; and

WHEREAS, Virginia policymakers could mitigate the potential impact of this loss on DACA- and TPS-approved students and their families by expanding in-state tuition access to all Virginia residents regardless of immigration status. “Doing so would also provide more affordable access to Virginia colleges and universities for Virginia residents whose immigration status does not otherwise fall into the categories currently required for in-state tuition. At least eighteen states, including Colorado, Oklahoma, and Texas, have made this choice in order to boost the educational attainment of their workforces and help all families in their states succeed”\(^4\); and

WHEREAS, Analyses of prior bills submitted to the general assembly have reported no negative fiscal implications for the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, George Mason University’s mission is to be an “inclusive academic community committed to creating a more just, free, and prosperous world”\(^5\);

BE IT RESOLVED, The Faculty Senate of George Mason University supports legislative action in Virginia to provide in-state tuition to all Virginians regardless of their immigration status.

BE IT FURTHERED RESOLVED, The Faculty Senate of George Mason University will share this resolution with the Faculty Senate of Virginia and the VA Conference of the AAUP and urge inclusion of in-state tuition for all Virginians as a topic of advocacy for Virginia Higher Education Advocacy Day.

\(^2\) Ibid.
\(^3\) Ibid.
\(^4\) Ibid.
\(^5\) [https://catalog.gmu.edu/about-mason/university/](https://catalog.gmu.edu/about-mason/university/)
I. Scope

This policy applies to all University students and employees.

II. Policy Statement

Students and employees may designate and use a Chosen Name and Pronouns for University purposes, except when use of a Legal Name is required by the University or by law.

Students and employees may designate a Chosen Name and Pronouns in University information systems only when such systems allow for such designation.

The University will ordinarily use a Chosen Name and Pronouns in university communications and reporting except when use of a Legal Name is required by the University or by law. By way of example but not limitation, Chosen Names will be reflected on class rosters, in Blackboard, in Patriot Web (including Degree Works), timesheets, and in directory listings including email address.

Legal Names shall be used for billing, verification of enrollment, payroll (W-2s), official transcripts, communication with external authorities, or as otherwise required by the University or by law. The University may identify students and employees by both Legal Name and Chosen Name at any time.

Students and employees may not use a Chosen Name for any kind of misrepresentation. Students and employees may not use profanity in a Chosen Name.

III. Definitions
Legal Name: means the first, middle, and last name of an individual that is recorded on the individual’s birth certificate, driver’s license, passport, or other legal documents.

Chosen Name: means a first name other than the legal first name by which the student or employee prefers to be identified, which has been designated by the student or employee in the Banner system.

Pronouns: means (for the purposes of this policy) he/him/his, she/her/hers, they/them/their.

IV. Compliance

Students and employees are expected to use a person’s Chosen Name and encouraged to use designated Pronouns.

V. Forms

Students and employees may designate a Chosen Name and Pronouns in Banner through the Patriot Web site.

VI. Dates:

A. Effective Date:

This policy will become effective upon the date of approval by the Senior Vice President for Administration and Finance and the Provost and Executive Vice President.

B. Date of Most Recent Review:

September 15, 2019

VII. Timetable for Review

This policy, and any related procedures, shall be reviewed every three years or more frequently as needed.

VIII. Signatures

Approved:

_________________________  ______________________
Senior Vice President for Administration and Finance  Date

Approved:

_________________________  ______________________
Provost and Executive Vice President  Date