GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY
AGENDA FOR THE FACULTY SENATE MEETING
APRIL 1, 2020
Electronic Meeting*, 3:00 – 4:15 p.m.

I. Call to Order

II. Approval of the Minutes of February 5, 2020 and February 12, 2020

III. Committee Reports

A. Senate Standing Committees
   Executive Committee - Shannon Davis
   Welcome to Interim Provost Mark Ginsberg
   Master Planning meeting report

   Academic Policies – Suzanne Slayden
   Budget and Resources
   Faculty Matters
   Nominations
   Organization and Operations

   Attachment C

B. Other Committees/Faculty Representatives
   Faculty Handbook Revision Committee – Suzanne Slayden
   Attachment A

   Mason Core Committee – Melissa Broeckelman-Post
   The Mason Core Committee will review course proposals and resubmissions
during our March and April meetings. Instead of having our planned retreat to
review faculty and student feedback and assessment during our March meeting,
the Mason Core Committee will postpone our retreat until May and will bring
recommendations for next steps to the Faculty Senate next fall.

IV. Unfinished Business

   Motion to Change Declaration of Credit/Non-Credit Date - Danny Menasce
   Attachment B

* WebEx Log In
https://gmu.webex.com/gmu/j.php?MTID=me8b66a314a99d5d15d0f2d66e375f118
Join by phone
+1-415-655-0003 US Toll (access code: 611 089 833)
Join from a video system or application
Dial 611089833@gmu.webex.com

Blackboard Log In
Should we need to use Blackboard Collaborate, Senators are asked to log in to Blackboard and use the Faculty Senate
Organization to enter the Collaborate session. Guest (not Senator) access:
https://us.bbcollab.com/guest/b69fb9a6fc27495eab83e3076ed3db9
V. New Business

VI. Announcements

- **Board of Visitors Meeting on Financial Plan** -- On April 2, 2020 the Executive Committee of the Board of Visitors of George Mason University will meet and host a Public Comment Session to receive public input on proposed undergraduate tuition and mandatory fee increases for the 2020-2021 academic year (as mandated by Virginia codes § 23.1-307.D and § 23.1-307.E). At this session, Carol Kissal, Senior Vice President for Administration and Finance, will present the proposed FY 2021 Financial Plan. Following this presentation, the Board will receive public comment on tuition and mandatory fees. The full agenda and meeting materials are available on the ‘Meeting Agendas & Materials’ page on the Board website. While the meeting will be held in person, there will be a live stream of the meeting; Senators as well as the general faculty are encouraged to attend.

- **Faculty Conduct Working Group** – Senators are reminded to review three work products from the working group: Human Resources & Payroll Department – Procedures for Handling Investigations into Alleged Violations of University or Commonwealth Workplace Policy (Draft), Compliance, Diversity and Ethics Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Grievance Procedure (Draft of revised policy), and Working Group Recommendations, including Educational Plan and submit questions/comments to Shannon Davis (sdaviso@gmu.edu) by April 6. Revised documents will be made available for final deliberation and vote during April 22 Faculty Senate meeting.

- **QEP** - As part of Mason’s reaffirmation of accreditation, we must develop a Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), which is a five-year initiative focused on improving student outcomes/student success. Information about the top 4 topic proposals, as well as a recording of the entire presentation session given on 3/26/20, will be posted to the QEP website. There, you can also find a link to provide comments/feedback and to rank the proposals. Ranking and feedback must be received by 4/17/20. The final QEP topic should be announced by the end of the semester. If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Matt Smith (msmit55) or Dr. Oscar Barton (obarton2).

- **Faculty Senate Mason FACTs Update** -- As many of you know, we have contracted with Interfolio to invest in two tools that will facilitate the work of our faculty, our academic programs, and Mason as a community. These are a Renewal, Promotion, and Tenure (RPT) content management system and a Faculty-180 (F-180) database.

The RPT Implementation Team has been meeting weekly this academic year to oversee the build of our existing promotion and tenure process into the RPT tool. We are moving our face-to-face final testing of the system to a virtual environment. We expect the testing will be completed by the end of April, keeping us on target for launching the use of the RPT for promotion and tenure cases coming up in the
2020-2021 academic year. As we have seen over the past few weeks, having a stable, secure virtual online environment for this important process is more critical than ever.

The F-180 Leadership Team has been meeting weekly to oversee the configuration and implementation of this faculty database. While we continue to make progress forward, we are expecting some delays in our original timeframe due to necessary diversion of critical individuals and resources to focus on our COVID-19 continuity planning.

More information can be found online at Mason FACTs. Please direct all questions or comments to Molli Herth, Program Manager, Faculty Affairs and Development at mherth@gmu.edu.

- **Open Educational Resources and Other Low-Cost and No-Cost Learning Materials – University Libraries**

With the sudden shift to online teaching, Open Educational Resources (OERs) assume even greater relevance to student learning. For some time, University Libraries has been developing capabilities that we are deploying at this critical time to help faculty discover, access or even develop open/low-cost resources to help keep education affordable for students and accessible in a virtual learning environment.

There are several ways you can make educational resources accessible and affordable to your students:

- Find existing OERs to adopt or customize using the nationally recognized Mason OER Metafinder (https://mom.gmu.edu)
- Choose a textbook, other books, or journal articles where the library already offers free digital access. Place the item in the Libraries’ E-Reserves system and then link to the item on your Blackboard site or include a link in your course syllabus.

Other immediate options include:

- Choose a standard textbook, put a physical copy on reserve, then let your students know how to access it. (During the COVID-19 pandemic crisis, library staff will endeavor to digitize portions of textbooks for online availability to students.)
- Let your students know about the TextSelect program that puts expensive textbooks on reserve in the library each semester. (Online availability to students during present crisis, same as above.)

As faculty plan learning materials for their courses, they are encouraged to:

- Let University Libraries help you find funding for a course redesign grant to feature open or low-cost resources in your course.
- Work with the Libraries’ Mason Publishing unit to develop and publish an OER for your course(s). Contact Andrew Kierig at akierig@gmu.edu to get started.

More broadly, with the immediate and ongoing actions outlined and recommended above, the Libraries are also coordinating the university’s compliance with recent Virginia law in this area (Virginia Code, § 23.1-1308, 2019). To learn more about OERs support at Mason, please see: https://oer.gmu.edu

VII. Remarks for the Good of the General Faculty

VIII. Adjournment
Attachment A

Faculty Handbook Revision Committee

Proposed Revisions to the Faculty Handbook

Faculty Senate meeting

April 1, 2020

The proposed revisions to Sections 2.6 and 3.1 were presented to the Faculty Senate on March 4, 2020. After discussion during the meeting, the committee made one small revision to each Section. The revisions text is linked to http://www.gmu.edu/resources/facstaff/senate/FacultyHandbook/fac-hndbk-rev-2020.htm.

On behalf of the Committee, it is moved

That the Faculty Senate approve the proposed changes to the Faculty Handbook with no further revisions at this time other than those necessary to correct typographical and grammatical errors.

[Note: A motion to "refer to the Faculty Handbook Committee with instructions" is in order.]

If the changes are approved by the Faculty Senate, they will be submitted to the Board of Visitors for final approval at its May meeting.

Committee members: Girum Urgessa (VSE), Cynthia Lum (CHSS), Suzanne Slayden (COS)
Attachment B

Motion to Change Declaration of Credit/No Credit Date
Brought forward by Senator Danny Menasce

Replace the first paragraph of page 3 on the Emergency Grading Accommodations document:

"For Undergraduates: As of March 25, 2020, Mason will expand the grading categories to include Credit/Non-credit grades for undergraduate students. If Option 1 is chosen, undergraduates will have until at least May 11, 2020 to choose the Credit/Non-credit option for undergraduate courses (100-400 level) they are registered in the Spring 2020 semester. This deadline may be extended by the University if circumstances warrant."

with the paragraph below:

"For Undergraduates: As of March 25, 2020, Mason will expand the grading categories to include Credit/Non-credit grades for undergraduate students. Undergraduates will have until the last day of classes to choose the Credit/Non-credit option for undergraduate courses (100-400 level) they are registered in the Spring 2020 semester."
Emergency Selective Withdrawal Period Extension

Background

Catalog AP 1.5.1  During the Selective Withdrawal period, degree- and non-degree-seeking undergraduate students may withdraw from one or more courses without the dean's approval and at the student's discretion. Students may selectively withdraw from a maximum of three courses during their entire undergraduate career at Mason. The withdrawal period is from the 6th week to the end of the 9th week of the semester. The Spring 2020 Selective Withdrawal period ends on Friday, Apr. 6.

Motion: The selective withdrawal period is extended to the last day of classes, May 11, 2020. Undergraduate students may withdraw from any classes in which they are enrolled in Spring 2020 semester. These withdrawals will not count toward the maximum of 3 courses during their undergraduate career. The notation "XW" will appear on their official transcript.

Notes

Undergraduate students should consult their advisor and Financial aid; withdrawals may have academic and/or financial implications.

Policies related to graduate students will be considered separately by the Graduate Council.