Senators Present: Jim Bennett, Charlene Douglas, Star Muir, Joe Scimecca, Suzanne Scott, Peter Stearns, Susan Trencher.

I. Approval of Minutes of March 25, 2014: The minutes were accepted.

II. Announcements
Provost Stearns reported the proposed changes to the Faculty Handbook have passed by the BOV, and is optimistic they will be approved.

Faculty Senators Meeting with Provost Elect Wu – Thursday, May 22, 2014 4:00 p.m.

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

A. Academic Policies – no report.

B. Budget and Resources – no report.

C. Faculty Matters – Joe Scimecca, Chair
Universal Background Check Report (April-2013-March 2014) requested from Human Resources. Charlene will contact them to follow up. The Faculty Evaluation of Administrators 2013-14 survey is underway.

D. Nominations – Jim Bennett, Chair
Faculty Representatives to BOV Committees Elections: Four representatives (one to each of the BOV committees) will be elected. We expect to send the call for nominations out tomorrow with ballots following ten days later. Faculty may be nominated to serve on one committee only.

E. Organization and Operations – Star Muir, Chair
Star distributed the draft 2013-14 log-in sheet to committee members for review and updates. Some items will cycle from one year to the next. Issues discussed included

Time Limit for Graduate Degree Completion – Star summarized meeting with Cody Edwards, Associate Provost for Graduate Education, in which we asked for better communication of Graduate Council decisions and emphasized the need for a representative on the Graduate Council on the (Faculty Senate) Academic Policies Committee. Graduate Council has representatives from various units. Time Limit policy adopted by the Graduate Council addressed issues involving entire community; should also be approved by the Faculty Senate, no clear authority or jurisdiction. If someone proposes changes to policy, should have brought to school’s representatives to the Graduate Council. CHSS did not receive this information, although there were town halls and information solicited. For future reference, if a group of department chairs feel time limits unreasonable, then they need to propose change and put it to
the Graduate Council. CHSS now pushing for clear process to identify exceptions, as some graduate students would not meet this deadline. Cody Edwards attended the November 25, 2013 Executive Committee meeting to discuss these issues.

A former department chair in CHSS noted the CHSS chairs voted against the proposed time limits, asserting the Graduate Council was out of compliance with its own by-laws requiring representatives be elected by the graduate faculty; CHSS to change its bylaws to include one elected faculty member, and one appointed member, CHSS Dean for Research, to serve as its representatives to the Graduate Council. How are other schools representatives to the Graduate Council chosen? When the Graduate Council voted to change the regulation, it was not compliant with regulations when vote was made.

Star acknowledged many departments in CHSS have different issues. In the selection of representatives to the Graduate Council, need to be really clear and have clear communication of what Graduate Council does. In the short term, policy decided through process of Graduate Council and is set to go into the catalog. For the future, he suggested a digest be published to announce decisions with a period of review to get input. Some units do not have issues with the changed policy.

Committee Review Report with Charge Amendments were distributed for review:

**Suggested revisions to the Admissions Committee charge:** As O&O did not propose revisions at this time, suggestions included oversight of process, perhaps to contact a counterpart or two at another institution; perhaps no need to revise language in charge at this time.

**Proposed revisions to the Effective Teaching Committee charge:** Importance of review of student evaluation forms presented to the Faculty Senate, need for validation of questions, cited examples in which students do not know what you mean. There is much concern about the use of these instruments.

**Proposed revisions to the Non Traditional, Interdisciplinary, and Adult Learning Committee to Adult Learning and Executive Education Committee:** How would faculty teaching contract courses add to their teaching load? Faculty member to create course but adjunct faculty teach it in CHSS. Suggested insertion “and course development” to “program development” to make sure the committee has jurisdiction to look at this. Provost Stearns hopes that the new budget will permit hiring a new director of Executive Education under the School of Management. President Cabrera is interested in adult degree completion, way beyond CIS, timely in terms of great national interest. Suggestion made to insert “and the School of Management” in the proposed modified charge so that the first sentence reads “To work with the Provost’s Office, Office of Continuing Professional Education, and the School of Management...”.

**Proposed revisions to the Salary Equity Study Committee charge:** Additional suggestions included identifying time in rank, and whether faculty made their career here or elsewhere, imbalances in cost of keeping (retaining) faculty, and historical costs.
Other general suggestions included need to encourage faculty to make time for university governance; to better define broad committee charges such as the Admissions Committee, and the need to engage committee chairs, to understand they have an affirmative obligation to go out into the university community, not wait for issues to come to them.

University Standing Committee Chairs elected: Hugh Sockett (CHSS) for Academic Initiatives, Paula Petrik (CHSS) for UPTRAC.

IV. Other Committees/Faculty Representatives
Mason Core Committee – Capstone Experience to replace Synthesis Requirement to consider again in the fall.

V. New Business, Updates, and Discussion
Change in Summer Session Length: Chair Douglas reported on a recent meeting in which no malfeasance was intended in changing term lengths from five to six weeks without knowing consequences. For next year summer school will end as it has in the past, and faculty will have option whether to teach five or six week courses. Units can work out for themselves changing lengths of classes, not a Faculty Senate issue.

Resolution of Appreciation for Provost Peter Stearns will be distributed to Executive Committee members for input.

Revisions to the charge of the Faculty Handbook Revision Committee: In response to a comment about the “constant state of change” of the Faculty Handbook, Provost Stearns felt the Handbook has to be changed from time to time. Some Executive Committee members offered suggested revisions to the Handbook Committee’s charge such as replacing standing committee with an ad hoc committee and/or to meet once every three years. Please send proposed revisions to Star Muir.

VI. Agenda Items for April 23, 2014 FS Meeting
- Draft FS Minutes March 5 and April 2, 2014
- Provost Stearns (Announcements)
- Faculty Senators Meeting with Provost-Elect Wu – Thursday, May 22 - 4:00 p.m. (Announcements)
- Carnegie Institution Community Engagement classification Task Force – J Muir (Announcements)
- Annual Reports of the Faculty Senate Standing Committees, University Standing Committees, and Ad Hoc Committees (Other Committees – Annual Reports)
- Request for Approval of Emeritus Status for Dr. Victoria Salmon - Attachment A (Other New Business)
- Election of Faculty Senate Chair 2014-15 (Other New Business)
- Universal Background Check Report from Human Resources (Other New Business)

Respectfully submitted,
Meg Caniano
Faculty Senate clerk

ATTACHMENT A – see pp. 4-5
Date: April 2, 2014

Memo To: Faculty Senate
Charlene Y. Douglas, President

From: William Reeder, Dean
College of Visual and Performing Arts

RE: Request for Senate approval of Emeritus status for Dr. Victoria Salmon

After many years of service, Dr. Victoria Salmon is retiring from George Mason University. We are requesting Senate approval to confer Emeritus status to Dr. Salmon.

Dr. Salmon has served as the founding Associate Dean of Graduate Studies for the College of Visual and Performing Arts. Prior to coming to the College, she was a leading administrator in the Higher Education program. Her employment over the years at Mason has been as Admin Faculty and she is not tenured, hence the need for Senate Approval. Provost Peter Stearns concurs with this request.

As Associate Dean, Dr. Salmon developed the College’s first PhD and DMA degree offerings in Music, a Master of Arts in Teaching and MA in Graphic Design in the School of Art, and a newly authorized MA in Computer Game Design.

She is currently designing MFA offerings in Theater, Arts Management, Film and Video Studies and in Computer Game Design, which should see completion before she formally retires. She has also developed MAIS offerings in Theater Education and in Film and Video Studies. And, she has been central to the growth and development of the Masters in Arts Management, and MFA programs in Dance and Art. Enrollment in graduate
programs in the College has grown from under 90 students when Dr. Salmon started to almost 260 students today. Financial support for graduate students has risen from less than $40,000 annually to over $250,000.

The importance and value of these efforts to the College cannot be overstated. In addition to her Associate Dean’s role, Dr. Salmon has maintained a robust teaching schedule and has provided leadership for CVPA’s international programs and activities. She has served on a large number of dissertation committees in both CVPA and the Higher Ed program. Finally, she has been an active fundraiser for the School, and has introduced some of the College’s most generous donors to our work.

We heartily request Senate approval for this request of Emeritus Status for Dr. Salmon and would gladly speak further on her behalf. With Senate approval, Provost Stearns has indicated willingness to support this request with the BOV.

Respectfully Submitted,
William Reeder