

**MINUTES OF THE
FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2015
Johnson Center Meeting Room B (room 326), 2:30 – 3:30 p.m.**

Present: Jim Bennett, Charlene Douglas, Robert Dudley, Mark Houck, Tim Leslie, Keith Renshaw, Suzanne Slayden, S. David Wu, J.J. Davis

I. Approval of Minutes of November 20, 2014: The minutes were approved.

II. Announcements

Provost Wu noted three big initiatives underway: (1) campus-wide symposium to promote interdisciplinary research, (2) Education Innovation: efforts to shorten development cycle for education innovation – including interdisciplinary efforts which mirror symposium to promote interdisciplinary research; and (3) on line education: we have engaged two external consultants to study landscape of different strategies out there in different institutions and will pull together a faculty group to examine how we may benefit from this. He will report in more detail at the February 4th Faculty Senate meeting. Last week we held a half-day retreat with Deans and Directors. Discussion topics included promotion of interdisciplinary research; working group to announce campus-wide symposium; to invite faculty to discuss and find areas of synergy.

Discussion:

Do we still need to go through the Graduate Council?

Provost Wu: The (role) of the Graduate Council has not changed; “integrated studies” major currently in use may accommodate some programs. Not to go through SCHEV process, allows us to try different types of ideas.

The symposium on research implies failure of GMU faculty reaching out to other faculty?

Provost Wu: After about 30 town hall meetings among colleges and schools, consistent message expressed colleagues lack mechanism to reach out across the board and welcomed idea to have venues available to do this.

Sr. VP J.J. Davis: The Governor’s Budget should be out at end of the week. Lobbying in Richmond includes working behind scenes regarding compensation issues. BOV getting back data on graduate pricing, marketplace demands did a fairly robust tuition increase, platform from a marginal to an incentivized base. to work with Pivot, to walk through how we are moving to incentive-based system. Export control training is still in process across the science units.

Big searches going on: VP for Enrollment, VP for Compliance, Diversity, and Ethics, Deans for SPGIA and CVPA. Oil spill is contained, remediation efforts underway; did not get into groundwater, EPA has signed off on remediation efforts.

She also reported on a recent four day trip to Korea with Vice Rector Mendelsohn. The situation is promising, getting spring enrollment data. We want to certify agreements already in place; to get better understanding of ways to diversify research. There have been changes in both IFEZA and Korean government personnel, which J.J. sees as positive; they are critically interested in our success.

Summer School: J.J. met with Joe Scimecca to discuss concerns about summer school, such as how much revenue generated, how it is used. J.J.'s team is working on a report to answer these questions.

Student Government resolution in support of gender inclusion in Title IX: re LBTGQ – present wording covers everyone except transgender students. Resolution passed by student government.

President Cabrera to address Faculty Senate rescheduled to February 4, 2015 post BOV meeting, scheduling flexibility.

A resolution to honor Delegate David Bulova was distributed by email and will be included on the February 4th meeting agenda. The Virginia Conference of the American Association of University Professors has named Delegate David Bulova the 2015 recipient of the Colonel Michael S. Harris (Ph.D.) Award, given for exemplary service by a Virginia public official in support of higher education in the Commonwealth

Renell Wynn, Vice President for Communications and Marketing – “Branding”: Branding cost about \$50K, not millions. Could use in-house graphic folks, a lot of services you would employ in changes branding already here – did not have to contract it out. The CVPA website will be the first to be brought up to the new branding standard.

Faculty Enrollment in Courses: The old process required faculty to apply for admission. There is a new way for faculty to audit a class without applying as a student, will hear about that.

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

A. Academic Policies – Suzanne Slayden

The committee presented a motion to correct previously approved academic calendars for discussion and inclusion on the next Faculty Senate meeting agenda. (Attachment A)

B. Budget and Resources – Mark Houck

At our recent meeting, we discussed salary data requested, export controls, and the effect of Mason-Korea on the overall financial health of the university.

C. Faculty Matters – Keith Renshaw

We are wrapping up the qualitative comments for the 2013-14 Faculty Evaluation of Administrators, Summer School in progress – anticipate report in March.

D. Nominations – Jim Bennett

The election for Faculty Representatives to BOV Committees will be done well before final exams.

E. Organization and Operations – no report.

IV. Other Committees/Faculty Representatives

V. Agenda Items for February 4, 2015 Faculty Senate Meeting

- Draft FS Minutes December 3, 2014
- President Cabrera

- Provost Wu
- Linda Harber, Vice President Human Resources/Payroll and Faculty/Staff Life (*Announcements*)
- Reports from the Faculty Senate Standing Committees:
 - Executive Committee: Resolution on Varsity Athletics
 - Academic Policies: Resolution to Shorten Academic Add Period
 - Budget and Resources
 - Faculty Matters
 - Nominations
 - Organization and Operations
- Other Committee Reports
- Resolution of Appreciation to Delegate David Bulova (*Other New Business*)
- Student Government resolution in support of Gender Inclusion in Title IX (*Other New Business*)
- Branding - Renell Wynn, VP for Communications and Marketing (*Other New Business*)

VI. New Business, Updates, and Discussion

(Draft) RESOLUTION ON VARSITY ATHLETICS - presented by Jim Bennett

WHEREAS for years George Mason University's support from the state has declined and is likely to continue to do so for the foreseeable future, and this reduced state funding has required cost-cutting measures that have affected the quality of instruction in various ways, e.g., unfilled vacancies, less staff support, and reduced funding for academic activities; and

WHEREAS significant tuition increases have been imposed on Mason's students to at least partially offset the loss of state funds while Mason's Varsity Athletic program is largely supported by student fees and these funds could be redirected to support the central mission of the University, i.e., instruction; and

WHEREAS Varsity sports are costly in terms of equipment, team travel for tournaments and competitions, recruiting travel and related expenses, coaching staffs, special tutoring for athletes, and scholarships, so that non-Varsity students are "taxed" to provide special benefits to a relatively small and elite group of Varsity athletes; and

WHEREAS students can participate in club sports (e.g., football and rugby) which require few University resources, so that the opportunity for participation in sports would still exist even if Varsity sports were converted to club activities; and

WHEREAS Varsity basketball, despite its substantial costs is viewed as essential to Mason's school spirit; thus basketball is exempted from any discussion of Varsity sports;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that information be provided to the Faculty Senate regarding the costs associated with each Varsity sport, the revenues each Varsity sport generates, and -- to the extent that such information is available -- the attendance at each event and the benefits arising from each Varsity sport. Also requested is information on how the overall costs of Mason's Varsity sports program have changed over time. This information would be the basis for a constructive dialogue between the Central Administration and the Senate regarding spending priorities of Varsity sports and instructional activities at the University.

Discussion: The resolution will be circulated among Executive Committee members for revision. General observations/comments at the meeting included:

- Instruction has taken hits, vacancies not filled, reduced support for other scholarly activities. Teams on the road are expensive, what does it cost? What do we get from it? What are our priorities?
- A complex issue – importance of athletic scholarships. Experiences of student athletes not as glorious as you may think it is.
- Not anti-sports, we have club sports as well, to think about expenditures. MIT had largest participation in sports – all club teams
- Important to talk to the President and BOV about our concerns.
- Past experiences at some Big Ten schools in which faulty hired and fired coaches
- How to best format financial data to illustrate expenses by sport?
- Alumni support for sports, Final Four excitement throughout campus.

The above resolution will be further edited by Jim Bennett.

Respectfully submitted,
Meg Caniano
Faculty Senate clerk

ATTACHMENT A

Academic Policies Committee

Feb. 4, 2015

Background

1. At the March 3, 2010 Faculty Senate meeting, a resolution was presented by the Academic Policies Committee and approved by the Faculty Senate for implementation in Fall 2011:

Resolution to Shorten Academic Add Period

Change catalog copy from: “The last day for adding a 14-week course is *two calendar weeks* after and including the first day of classes” to “The last day for adding a 14-week course is *eight calendar days* after and including the first day of classes.”

2. There have been periodic approvals of academic calendars by the Faculty Senate that incorporated the shortened Add period.

- For all Fall semesters since 2011, classes start on a Monday in August, one week before Labor Day. Eight calendar days would put the Add deadline on Labor Day Monday. The Add deadline is thus the next day, Tuesday, which is the 6th instructional day after and including the first day of classes.
- For Spring semesters, classes start either on the Tuesday after MLK Day or on the Monday a week after MLK Day. For years in which classes start the day after MLK Day, the Add deadline is 8 days; for years in which classes start a week after MLK Day, the Add deadline is 9 days. The Add deadline thus occurs on either the 6th or the 7th instructional day after and including the first day of classes.

There is no mention of the issue in any records of the Faculty Senate.

Example calendars for Fall and Spring semesters. (D_n = calendar day)

	Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.
Aug.		D_1 (Classes begin)	D_2	D_3	D_4	D_5	D_6
	D_7	D_8 Labor Day	D_9 (Add deadline)				
Jan.		MLK	D_1 (Classes begin)	D_2	D_3	D_4	D_5
	D_6	D_7	D_8 (Add deadline)				
or							
Jan.		MLK					
		D_1 (Classes begin)	D_2	D_3	D_4	D_5	D_6
	D_7	D_8 (Add deadline by policy)	D_9 (Add deadline approved)				

Motion

That the previously approved Academic Calendars be corrected so that the last day to Add conforms to the academic policy of March 3, 2010. The specific changes are:

- Tuesday, Jan. 31, 2017 to Monday, Jan. 30, 2017;
- Tuesday, Jan. 30, 2018 to Monday, Jan. 29, 2018; and
- Wednesday, Jan. 30, 2019 to Tuesday, Jan. 29, 2019.