

**MINUTES OF THE  
FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING  
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2014  
Johnson Center Meeting Room B (room 326); 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.**

**Present:** Jim Bennett, Charlene Douglas, Robert Dudley, Mark Houck, Timothy Leslie, Joe Scimecca, Suzanne Slayden, Provost S. David Wu, Sr. Vice President J.J. Davis, Linda Harber, Vice President for Human Resources/Payroll and Faculty/Staff Life.

**I. Approval of Minutes of October 23, 2014:** The minutes were approved as distributed.

**II. Announcements**

Provost Wu plans to distribute a message to the campus community, reflecting on his first couple of months at Mason and laying out the next steps he sees as important. After going through a budget “doom and gloom” cycle, we need to put our eyes back on the university’s message and strengths, to value and grow. He anticipates message will be distributed after the Thanksgiving holiday. In response to a question about the enrollment growth envisioned by the Strategic Plan, Provost Wu noted his general approach is not so much as a specific agenda to push out, rather setting the stage for discussion to take place, to set up internal dialogue, with more transparent review process for important decisions.

Sr. VP J.J. Davis is working on a variety of items which might interest some faculty. Linda Harber has led a comprehensive effort on a proposed state supported financial retirement option for some faculty. Linda provided a brief slide presentation of work-in-progress; she also encouraged and answered numerous questions from Executive Committee. If the proposal is implemented, information will be distributed to faculty early in the spring term, including details about faculty eligibility and deadlines.

Summer School: The Faculty Matters Committee will meet with the Summer School. We expect a report from Summer School for the March 5<sup>th</sup> Faculty Senate meeting. Problems in the way summer school is funded persist; some faculty may be discouraged initially from teaching summer school and do not request support from department chair.

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

**A. Academic Policies – Suzanne Slayden**

The Academic Calendar for 2017-18 will be presented for approval by the Faculty Senate.

**B. Budget and Resources – Mark Houck**

We are working on scheduling our next meeting.

**C. Faculty Matters – Joe Scimecca**

The Sick Building Survey (Robinson Hall) did not find anything, so we will follow-up with a questionnaire for those who are in the building. We are working on the summary of qualitative statements for the Faculty Evaluation of Administrators survey. As noted above, there have been disincentives from some deans, colleges, and chairs to discourage faculty from teaching summer school. We wish to meet with Sr. Vice President J.J. Davis to see what we can do.

**D. Nominations** – no report.

**E. Organization and Operations** – no report.

**IV. Other Committees/Faculty Representatives** - no report.

## V. New Business, Updates, and Discussion

Academic Integrity and the Honor Code – LaShonda Harris, Director Academic Integrity has asked for an opportunity to discuss new procedures with the Faculty Senate at the December 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

Dr. Aurali Dade, VP for Research Integrity and Assurance will also make a brief presentation at the December 3<sup>rd</sup> Faculty Senate meeting. Questions and concerns raised by Executive Committee members include: Why were only faculty from the College of Science and Volgenau School of Engineering required to take the training? Training not a reflection on trainer as individual, but goal to pass the blame from institution to individual faculty. Prohibitions on contacting international faculty collide with VSE criteria for full professors requiring international reputation; the number of items you cannot disclose are done by every engineering faculty member. Some faculty are born on different continents; suggested use of webinar to condense basic points, and sensitivity to academic concerns, not a corporate environment. Also noted GMU has been out-of-compliance with export control rules – 22 corrective measures needed to get government (approval); a very serious issue. Provost Wu remarked export-control laws have changed a lot over the past ten years. When we lose status, everyone loses it. Institution cannot pass liability onto individuals. Sr. VP Davis added as an institution, we have not put in enough training; we did a voluntary disclosure and must take steps so that we are coming into compliance. We lacked an export control policy and also acknowledged cultural issues between corporate and academic venues. We have to do a better job in overall research compliance. The more faculty are included in decisions affecting them, the better off faculty will be. Provost Wu agreed to provide introduction for Dr. Dade's presentation. He encouraged faculty to also look at Stanford University website as they were early in taking this issue on. With exception of a very few western European countries, practically everyone else is under controls – there is a defined list of technology that is controlled, understanding where boundaries are can be quite tricky.

## VI. Agenda Items for December 3, 2014 FS Meeting

- Draft FS Minutes November 5, 2014
- Provost Wu
- Academic Integrity and the Honor Code – LaShonda Harris, Director Academic Integrity (*Announcements*)
- Dr. Aurali Dade, VP for Research Integrity and Assurance (*Announcements*)
- Linda Harber, Vice President Human Resources/Payroll and Faculty/Staff Life (*Announcements*)
- Reports from the Faculty Senate Standing Committees:
  - Academic Policies
    - Academic Calendar 2017-18
  - Budget and Resources
  - Faculty Matters
    - Summer School
  - Nominations
  - Organization and Operations
- Other Committee Reports

Respectfully submitted,  
Meg Caniano  
Faculty Senate clerk