

**GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY**  
**MINUTES OF THE FACULTY SENATE MEETING**  
**APRIL 26, 2017**  
**Robinson Hall B113, 3:00-4:15 p.m.**

**Senators present:** Alan Abramson, Mark Addleson, Jim Bennett, Lisa Billingham, Doris Bitler Davis, Virginia Blair, Melissa Broeckelman-Post, Richard Craig, Shannon Davis, Betsy DeMulder, John Farina, David Gally, Michele Greet, Jesse Guessford, Dimitrios Ioannou, Bijan Jabbari, Larry Kerschberg, David Kravitz, David Kuebrich, Timothy Leslie, Bethany Letiecq, Kumar Mehta, Linda Monson, Robert Pasnak, Daniel Polsby, Jeremy Rabkin, Keith Renshaw, Pierre Rodgers, Joe Scimecca, Suzanne Slayden, June Tangney, Susan Trencher, Girum Urgessa, Jenice View, S. David Wu, John Zenelis, Stanley Zoltek.

**Senators absent:** Peggy Agouris, Kevin Avruch, Kenneth Ball, Dominique Banville, Deborah Boehm-Davis, Henry Butler, Ángel Cabrera, Carol Cleaveland, James Conant, Rick Davis, Charlene Douglas, Pamina Firchow, Pamela Garner, Mark Ginsberg, Rebecca Jones, Diana Karczmarczyk, Chris Kennedy, Anne Magro, Kevin McCrohan, Daniel Menascé, Elavie Ndura, Thomas Prohaska, Mark Rozell, Catherine Sausville, Iosif Vaisman.

**Visitors present:** LaShonda Anthony, Director, Office of Academic Integrity; Cameron Carter, Director Student Outreach, CHSS; Tom Clemons, Associate Professor, Systems Engineering and Operations Research, VSE; Eve Dauer, University Registrar; Sr, Vice President Pat Donini, Assistant Vice President, Human Resources; Nicholas Fisch, Student Senate Faculty Senate Liaison; Daniel Garrison, Director of Distance Education, VSE; Michelle Lim, Human Resources Faculty Initiatives Manager; Mary Oberlies, Chair, Librarians' Council, University Libraries; Bethany Usher, Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education; Katlyn Weiser, Student Senate.

**I. Call to Order:** Chair Keith Renshaw called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

**II. Approval of the Minutes of March 1 and April 5, 2017:** The minutes of March 1 and April 5, 2017 were approved.

**III. Announcements**

Provost Wu presented a quick overview of the interesting and exciting academic year coming close to the end. Highlights from Provost Announcements this year include:

- Mason becoming an R1 Research University: high priority for us as an institution
- To highlight desire to create a diverse and inclusive academic community remains a top priority for us.

- A number of initiatives over the year, some triggered by interesting political season. By popular request, we put together facilitated course discussions with faculty and staff how to handle concerns expressed in the classroom. Not to have political overtone, announcement of services provided
- Travel ban had significant campus impact.
- On faculty side – the Adjunct Faculty Task Force convened last year, completed their survey and some of the findings have been implemented already.
- Term Faculty Task Force formed with collaboration of the Faculty Senate. Now at work; will come back in early fall to address term faculty issues.
- Multidisciplinary Research Symposia – presented three years in a row; topics included health, security, and data analysis followed by seed grant program. Follow up symposia on health for two years; more faculty grants funded by it. Seed grants presented their outcomes. There were 68 posters at Symposia, Provost Wu was thoroughly impressed.
- In addition to Multidisciplinary Research, putting together Curriculum Innovation Impact Grants, with an early fall deadline. There will be a workshop on May 22<sup>nd</sup> to bring all interested parties to campus to create an opportunity for people to work together. What we do in research and what we teach in class should be the flip sides of a coin. Took a little while to get here, but we had a Task Force to work on procedural background for Curriculum Innovative ideas. So when you come up with good ideas, there is a way to make it happen.

#### Administrative adjustments:

Hearing complaints from (some) faculty about administrative bloat, Provost Wu took some direct steps to shrink upper administration. Cuts over four consecutive years added up to \$10M in permanent cuts. Some were triggered by the state, to take cuts from administration rather than academic units. Just cutting is not a way to success, restructuring necessary and continuing evaluation of those changes. He has made several announcements about this, including combining The Office of Global Education, International Enrollment, and Office of International Programs and Services. Other personnel adjustments included Bethany Usher becoming Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education, and Janette Muir is now Associate Provost for Academic Initiatives and Services. We are also reconfiguring Kim Eby's old position and about to announce a new "Associate Provost for Faculty Affairs and Development".

Provost Wu is paying attention to what you say. A lot going on, thank you for your great collaboration in making things happen.

## **Questions/Discussion:**

A Senator encouraged Provost Wu to read the INTO report. In his school there are concerns about 50 INTO students who were enrolled in courses: 49 received F's, 1 received a D. Concerned whether students can be successful, we have to get them better integrated into the campus community earlier.

Provost Wu noted this was the first time he heard this statistic and it is shocking to hear. We are watching this partnership, which is still in the early stage. Data needs to be collected in a more systematic way. The basic premise of operation is the focus on students with academic capability, but with English language difficulties. Thank you for bringing that up.

### **IV. Special Orders**

- Election of Faculty Senate Chair 2017-18

In the absence of the chair pro tem, parliamentarian Suzanne Slayden was nominated and elected as chair pro tem. The floor was open for nominations. Keith Renshaw (CHSS) was nominated, the nomination was seconded. No further nominations were made from the floor. The nominations were closed and Keith Renshaw was elected to serve as Faculty Senate chair. He thanked everyone and will be pleased to continue into the next academic year.

### **V. Committee Reports**

#### **A. Senate Standing Committees**

*Executive Committee – Keith Renshaw, Chair*

The Executive Committee's work includes staying available over the summer as is customary.

*Academic Policies – Suzanne Slayden, Chair*

#### **Academic Calendar**

The Provost's office is proposing a few changes to the 2017-2020 academic year calendars. These calendars, including the Summer Term 2018 calendar, were previously approved by the Faculty Senate. Please note that these changes are not related to alignment of the existing calendar with the calendar for online, 8-week module courses.

The Provost's office has submitted the Summer Term calendars for 2019 and 2020 for approval. (These had not been submitted earlier with the AY 2018-2020 calendars.)

The Provost's office will continue to submit the detailed Summer Term calendar in the academic year preceding the Summer Term.

**Motion:** The Academic Policies Committee recommends the Faculty Senate approve the changes to the 2017-2020 academic year calendars and approve the 2019 and 2020 Summer Term calendars:

**[George Mason University: Three Year Calendar: Fall 2017 – Spring 2020](#)**

Discussion/Clarifications:

In addition to the A,B,C sessions, there is also a 10 week "D" term. It is possible to do a full 15 week course during the summer; (such as INTO and Executive Education), does not take away from A,B,C sessions. There are not enough weeks in this calendar to do a 16 week summer term. We will see details for summer 2018 next fall. Chair Renshaw noted the only change from the calendars previously approved is the later conferral date. Chair Renshaw also confirmed this has nothing to do with the 16 week semester. No changes related to moving the dates of spring semester would take place prior to extensive, campus-wide conversations. We anticipate that these conversations will occur during the 2017-18 academic year. The Faculty Senate will continue to represent the faculty's interests in this matter.

**The motion was approved.**

[Annual Report](#)

[Link to annual report](#)

[Budget and Resources](#)

[Link to annual report](#)

[Faculty Matters](#)

[Link to annual report](#)

[Nominations](#)

[Link to annual report](#)

Office of Graduate Education committees:

Lisa Billingham (CVPA) was nominated to serve on the Ad Hoc Committee on Subsidized Health Insurance.

Girum Urgessa (VSE) was nominated to serve on the Standing Committee on Graduate Scholarships.

No further nominations were made from the floor, nominees elected.

The Advisory Council for Redesigning the Student Experience is expected to complete its work in October. There was no limit to the number of nominees, and the following faculty volunteered to serve:

Dominique Banville, Associate Professor, CEHD

Kelly Dalton, Term Assistant Professor, School of Integrative Studies

Gretchen Hendricks, Term Instructor, School of Business

Jeff Kulick, Instructor of Marketing, School of Business

Noele Simmons, Term Instructor, INTO Mason

No further nominations were made from the floor and the nominees approved.

*Organization and Operations*

[Link to annual report](#)

## **B. Other Committees/Faculty Representatives**

### **Annual Faculty Senate Evaluation of President/Provost update**

#### Report from the Technology Policy Committee:

The Technology Policy Committee has excellent interactions with Marilyn Smith. She meets with the committee regularly during the academic year. She also brings her members of her senior staff with her who respond to our inquiries. She proactively supports us.

### **Resolution to extend the ad hoc Institutional COI committee**

**Motion:** To allow the Ad Hoc Committee on Institutional Conflict of Interest additional time to complete its work, members of the committee move that the date of the committee's final report be extended from the final meeting of the Spring semester of 2017 to no later than the final meeting of the Fall semester of 2017.

**The motion was approved.**

### **Annual Reports of the University Standing Committees:**

Academic Appeals

[Link to annual report](#)

Academic Initiatives

[Link to annual report](#)

Admissions

[Link to annual report](#)

Adult Learning & Executive Education

[Link to annual report](#)

Athletic Council

[Link to annual report](#)

Effective Teaching

[Link to annual report](#)

External Academic Relations

[Link to annual report](#)

Faculty Handbook

[Link to annual report](#)

Grievance

[Link to annual report](#)

Mason Core

[Link to annual report](#)

Minority & Diversity Issues

[Link to annual report](#)

Research Advisory Committee

[Link to annual report](#)

Salary Equity Study

The committee decided to defer the report to next Fall due to the lack of data available to the committee. The Office of Institutional Research and Assessment (OIRA) provided a summary data which committee determined to be insufficient for preparation of its report. Part of the problem is due to such data being considered to be confidential. The committee wishes to prepare the report which includes salary data without specifics related to

academic ranks, and preferably by gender, per department basis within GMU and across the US universities. It will be presented to the Faculty Senate in Fall 2017 semester.

Bijan Jabbari  
Chair, University Salary Equity Study Committee

Technology Policy	<a href="#">Link to annual report</a>
University Promotion, Tenure, and Renewal Appeal	<a href="#">Link to annual report</a>
Writing Across the Curriculum	<a href="#">Link to annual report</a>
Ad Hoc Institutional COI	<a href="#">Link to annual report</a>

Chair Renshaw thanked the committee for their substantive work and encouraged everyone to click on the links to check on their reports.

## VI. New Business

### **Student Senate Resolution regarding Open Textbooks**

The resolution was presented by Nick Finch, Student Senate liaison to the Faculty Senate and Katlyn Weiser, Student Senator.

#### **A Resolution to Support Open Textbooks**

##### **R. #14**

37<sup>th</sup> STUDENT SENATE

<sup>1st</sup> Session

##### **R. #14**

A Resolution to Support Open Textbooks

**IN THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT OF**

**GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY**

**September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2016**

Submitted by Senator Edwards

---

#### **Resolution #14**

*Be it resolved by the Student Senate of George Mason University –*

*Whereas*, the Student Government of George Mason University has recognized and opposed rising tuition costs, as illustrated by a Florida Virtual Campus survey of over 22,000 students, 65% of whom at one time did not purchase a textbook or dropped or withdrew from a course due to the cost of a textbook, and;

Whereas, the Student Government of George Mason University understands the financial constraints faced by our students to pursue higher education, and;

Whereas, the Student Government of George Mason University recognizes that the University Libraries has a program in place called “TextSelect” that offers the student body a means of managing these rising costs, and;

Therefore be it finally resolved, that the 37<sup>th</sup> Student Government of George Mason University supports an additional initiative proposed by George Mason University Libraries to encourage instructional faculty to adopt Open Textbooks and other open educational resources for the purpose of lowering the cost of higher education for all students.

Passed the Student Senate: \_\_\_\_\_

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Speaker Caleb Kitchen

Clerk Ryan Powers

**A motion was made and seconded to endorse the Student Senate resolution.** The cost of textbooks has become high and many viable ‘open’ options have become available in recent years. Faculty are encouraged to consider the adoption of such textbooks, when appropriate, in their courses, to help students manage costs.

There is a need for more information; if no one is paid to produce books, none of us will be promoted. In some disciplines this may work, in others not. Some faculty use Blackboard to download open source pdf textbooks for class. Sensitivity to financial needs of students, particularly first generation commuter students who cannot afford to live on campus, nor pay for textbooks for classes which may cost over \$200 per book.

**The motion was approved.**

## **VII. Remarks for the Good of the General Faculty**

Some students who reached out for extra support at CAPS (Counselling and Psychological Services) were told to come back in the fall. We need to fund services adequately to address significant mental health concerns. At the height of the semester, we need to think about how to bolster services. Is it a shortage of revenues? Yes, there are reasons to think about referring out for a service; the need is there, all across the nation.

The local AAUP Chapter is honoring retired Professor Jim Sanford at a reception from 4:30-6:30 p.m. this afternoon at the Rathskellar. He is very deserving of being

honored for his contributions to shared governance. Most of you know him, everyone is invited to come.

**VIII. Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 4:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Charlene Douglas  
Secretary



## George Mason University: Three Year Calendar: Fall 2017 – Spring 2020

FALL SEMESTER	Fall 2017	Fall 2018	Fall 2019
First day of classes	Mon Aug 28	Mon Aug 27	Mon Aug 26
Labor Day (University closed)	Mon Sept 4	Mon Sept 3	Mon Sept 2
Last Day to Add (Census)	Tues Sept 5	Tues Sept 4	Tues Sept 3
Last Day to Drop	Fri Sept 29	Fri Sept 28	Fri Sept 27
<del>Saturday Classes in session</del>	<del>Sat Oct 7</del>	<del>Sat Oct 6</del>	<del>Sat Oct 12</del>
Columbus Day Recess (Classes do not meet)	Mon Oct 9	Mon Oct 8	Mon Oct 14
Monday classes/labs meet (Tuesday classes do not meet this week)	Tues Oct 10	Tues Oct 9	Tues Oct 15
Mid-term evaluation period for full-semester 100-200 level classes	Mon Sept 25 – Fri Oct 13	Mon Sept 24 – Fri Oct 19	Mon Sept 23 – Fri Oct 18
Selective Withdrawal Period – undergraduate	Mon Oct 2 – Fri Oct 27	Mon Oct 1 – Fri Oct 26	Mon Sept 30 – Fri Oct 25
Thanksgiving (Classes do not meet Wed; University closed Thurs - Sun)	Wed Nov 22 - Sun Nov 26	Wed Nov 21 – Sun Nov 25	Wed Nov 27 – Sun Dec 1
Dissertation/Thesis Deadline	Fri Dec 8	Fri Dec 7	Fri Dec 6
Last Day of Class	Sat Dec 9	Sat Dec 8	Sat Dec 7
Reading Day(s)	Mon Dec 11 – Tues Dec 12	Mon Dec 10 – Tues Dec 11	Mon Dec 9 – Tues Dec 10
Examination Period	Wed Dec 13 – Wed Dec 20	Wed Dec 12 – Wed Dec 19	Wed Dec 11 – Wed Dec 18
<del>Winter Convocation</del> -Winter Graduation	<del>Thu Dec 21</del>	<del>Thu Dec 20</del>	<del>Thu Dec 19</del>
Degree Conferral	<del>Thu Dec 21</del> Sat Dec 23*	<del>Thu Dec 20</del> Sat Dec 22*	<del>Thu Dec 19</del> Sat Dec 21*
SPRING SEMESTER	Spring 2018	Spring 2019	Spring 2020
MLK Day (University closed)	Mon Jan 15	Mon Jan 21	Mon Jan 20
First Day of Spring Classes	Mon Jan 22	Tues Jan 22	Tues Jan 21
Last Day to Add (Census)	Mon Jan 29	Tue Jan 29	Tues Jan 28
Last Day to Drop	Fri Feb 23	Fri Feb 22	Fri Feb 21
<del>Saturday Classes in session</del>	<del>Sat Mar 10</del>	<del>Sat Mar 9</del>	<del>Sat Mar 7</del>
Spring Recess (Classes do not meet)	Mon Mar 12 - Sun Mar 18	Mon Mar 11 – Sun Mar 17	Mon Mar 9 – Sun Mar 15
Mid-term evaluation period for full-semester 100-200 level classes	Mon Feb 19 - Fri Mar 23	Mon Feb 18 – Fri Mar 22	Mon Feb 17 – Fri Mar 20
Selective Withdrawal Period – undergraduate	Mon Feb 26 – Fri Mar 30	Mon Feb 25 – Fri Mar 29	Mon Feb 24 – Fri Mar 27
Dissertation/Thesis Deadline	Fri May 4	Fri May 3	Fri May 1
Last Day of Class	Sat May 5	Mon May 6	Mon May 4
Reading Day(s)	Mon May 7 – Tues May 8	Tues May 7	Tues May 5
Examination Period	Wed May 9 – Wed May 16	Wed May 8 – Wed May 15	Wed May 6 – Wed May 13
University Commencement	<del>Sat May 19</del> Fri May 18*	<del>Sat May 18</del> Fri May 17*	<del>Sat May 16</del> Fri May 15*
Degree Conferral	Sat May 19	Sat May 18	Sat May 16
SUMMER TERM	Summer 2018	Summer 2019	Summer 2020
First day of classes	Mon May 21	Mon May 20	Mon May 18
Memorial Day (University closed)	Mon May 28	Mon May 27	Mon May 25
Last Day to Add (Census)	Tues May 29	Tues May 28	Tues May 26
Last Day to Drop	Fri Jun 8	Fri Jun 7	Fri Jun 5
Selective Withdrawal Period – undergraduate	Mon Jun 11 – Fri Jun 29	Mon Jun 10 – Fri Jun 28	Mon Jun 8 – Fri Jun 26
Summer Recess (Classes do not meet)	Tue Jul 3	Fri Jul 5	Not Applicable
Independence Day Observance (University closed)	Wed Jul 4	Thu Jul 4	Fri Jul 3 – Sat Jul 4
Dissertation/Thesis Deadline	Fri Aug 3	Fri Aug 2	Fri Jul 31
Last Day of Class	Wed Aug 8	Wed Aug 7	Wed Aug 5
Examination Period	Thu Aug 9 – Sat Aug 11	Thu Aug 8 – Sat Aug 10	Thu Aug 6 – Sat Aug 8
Degree Conferral	<del>Sat Aug 11</del> Sat Aug 25*	Sat Aug 24	Sat Aug 22

**\*Proposed Changes (in green shading):**

Change Fall and Summer Degree Conferral dates to accommodate new sessions  
 Change Spring University Commencement date per President Cabrera  
 Change Winter Graduation name per President Cabrera  
 Delete notice of Saturday classes in session

**New calendar (in pink shading):**

Summer 2019  
 Summer 2020

*Updated 4/18/17*

