I. Call to Order

II. Approval of the Minutes of September 30/October 14, November 2 and November 4, 2020

III. Opening Remarks – Shannon Davis, Chair

IV. Committee Reports
   A. Senate Standing Committees
      Executive Committee – Shannon Davis, Chair
      • Motion to extend Alternative Grade Mode approved for Fall 2020 for entire academic year 2020-21 (Spring 2021), Summer 2021, and retroactively to Summer 2020. Appendix A
      • Motion to provide Mason Korea non-voting representation on Faculty Senate Appendix B
      Academic Policies – Suzanne Slayden, Chair
      Budget and Resources - Tim Leslie, Chair
      Faculty Matters – Bethany Letiecq and Solon Simmons, Co-chairs
      Nominations – Melissa Broeckelman-Post and Richard Craig, Co-chairs
      Organization and Operations - Lisa Billingham, Chair

   B. Other Committees/Faculty Representatives Appendix C
      Admissions Committee
      Adult Learning and Executive Education Committee
      Effective Teaching Committee
      Faculty Conduct Working Group
      Faculty Handbook Revision Committee
      Graduate Council
      Grievance Committee
      Mason Academic Assessment Council
      Mason Core Committee
      Master Plan Steering Committee
      Recreation Advisory Committee
      SACS-COC Reaffirmation Committee
      Undergraduate Council

V. New Business

VI. Announcements
   • Provost Ginsberg
   • Sr. VP Kissal
• Update from the Office of Academic Integrity: Faculty who have determined that there is a need to contact the company Chegg regarding materials for their courses being accessed by students need to stay in communication with the Office of Academic Integrity. Specifically, faculty should contact the Office of Academic Integrity at the beginning of each month for an updated support letter to be submitted to Chegg when asking for assistance with investigations. Outdated letters will not be honored by the company. More information can be found on the Office of Academic Integrity website.

• COACHE Update  
  Appendix D

• Mason FACTS Update  
  Appendix E

• Mason Holidays at Home  
  Appendix F

• Reminder of Faculty Senate Meetings in Spring 2021 (all via Zoom)
  • February 3, 2021 – Rector Hazel to address the Faculty Senate
  • March 3, 2021 – President Washington to address the Faculty Senate
  • March 31, 2021 (if needed)
  • April 7, 2021
  • April 28, 2021

VII. Remarks for the Good of the General Faculty

VIII. Adjournment
ELECTRONIC MEETING

Topic: Faculty Senate Meeting (December 2, 2020)
Time: Dec 2, 2020 03:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Primary Electronic Meeting Venue - Zoom:

For security purposes -- all attendees *MUST* login using any valid zoom account to join the meeting.

IMPORTANT: Faculty Senators must login using their GMU login/password from https://gmu.zoom.us/ to be recognized.

Join Zoom Meeting
https://gmu.zoom.us/j/95632117797?pwd=aUlZZDRNS08vQlUyRmF1dmJlaExkUT09

In case of problems with joining the meeting, use the following information to join –
Meeting ID: 956 3211 7797
Passcode: 618604
One tap mobile
+13017158592,,95632117797#,,,,,0#,,618604# US (Washington D.C)
+12678310333,,95632117797#,,,,,0#,,618604# US (Philadelphia)

Dial by your location
+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C)
+1 267 831 0333 US (Philadelphia)
Meeting ID: 956 3211 7797
Passcode: 618604
Find your local number: https://gmu.zoom.us/u/aq3tnjUdU

Join by SIP
95632117797@zoomcrc.com

Join by H.323
162.255.37.11 (US West)
162.255.36.11 (US East)
115.114.131.7 (India Mumbai)
115.114.115.7 (India Hyderabad)
213.19.144.110 (Amsterdam Netherlands)
213.244.140.110 (Germany)
103.122.166.55 (Australia)
149.137.40.110 (Singapore)
64.211.144.160 (Brazil)
69.174.57.160 (Canada)
207.226.132.110 (Japan)
Meeting ID: 956 3211 7797
Passcode: 618604

Backup Electronic Meeting Venue – Blackboard Collaborate (in case of problems with Zoom)

Once activated – A Blackboard announcement will clearly indicate the venue has been moved from Zoom
Collaborate Ultra:
Faculty Senators must login into Blackboard and join meeting to be recognized
- Organizations: Faculty Senate
- Menu: “Collaborate Ultra”
- Click on meeting link

Guests must use the following link to join:

https://us.bbcollab.com/guest/6d83e373afff4c86982579ee6a10666b

Dial-in for Collaborate: +1-571-392-7650 (PIN: 221 532 2011)
Appendix A

Motion to extend Alternative Grade Mode approved for Fall 2020 for entire academic year 2020-21 (Spring 2021), Summer 2021, and retroactively to Summer 2020.

**Rationale:** Mental health experts recommend consistency for students who are facing challenges, and this policy adds a degree of certainty about whether there will be an alternative grade mode available to students in the upcoming semester from the very beginning of the semester. By instituting the same policy for the entire academic year, we can reduce uncertainty for students and faculty and avoid coming back to the same conversation again for the spring semester. Since Summer 2020 fell between two semesters with alternative grade mode, it seems fair to offer the same option to students during that term as were available in the adjacent terms.

In order to allow students affected by the coronavirus pandemic to all have access to the same grade mode options, the Executive Committee recommends approval of the following motions:

**Motion 1:** The alternative grade mode that was approved for Fall 2020 shall be extended to include Spring 2021.

**Motion 2:** The alternative grade mode that was approved for Fall 2020 shall be extended to include Summer 2021.

**Motion 3:** Students who took courses in Summer 2020 shall also be able to retroactively select the alternative grade mode for those summer courses until the final day of the fall semester.
Appendix B

George Mason University Korea Faculty Representative to Faculty Senate

On April 4, 2018, the Faculty Senate briefly discussed creating a faculty representative or liaison from George Mason University Korea (GMUK) to the Faculty Senate. Subsequent discussions between the Faculty Senate Executive Committee and the Provost’s Office determined that faculty serving at GMUK are currently represented on the Faculty Senate by the Senators elected from the faculty members’ home Colleges/Schools. Although based in Korea, these faculty are able to vote in elections for Faculty Senators, as well as to stand as candidates for election as a Senator (while acknowledging the difficulties of the time-difference between campuses). Adding elected members to the Faculty Senate from the GMUK unit would mean those programs represented at GMUK would have greater representation in the Senate than is allowed by the Senate Charter. GMUK is in the process of creating their own local faculty governance structure, with bylaws to be approved in the coming months.

However, the interests of the whole of GMUK as an academic partner contributing to the education of students graduating with a Mason degree are not currently represented on the Senate. The Faculty Senate has the fundamental responsibility to speak and act for the General Faculty on matters that affect the University as a whole, of which GMUK is a part.

In order to allow for both an intellectual and administrative connection between the Faculty Senate and faculty based at GMUK, the Executive Committee recommends approval of the following motion:

George Mason University Korea will be afforded membership on the Faculty Senate, with the Faculty Chair of the GMUK Faculty serving as the non-voting ex-officio representative from GMUK.
Appendix C

Reports from University Committees/Faculty Representatives to Committees

Admissions Committee (Submitted by Tim Curby, Chair – November 17, 2020)

The Admissions Committee had a joint meeting with the O&O Committee on October 30th to consider possible changes to the Admissions Committee. The focus of the changes would be to enable it to be more active and would potentially involve changes to the charge of the committee. Tim Curby (Psychology Department) was elected chair. We agreed that the Admissions Committee would meet again to hear from the directors of undergraduate and graduate admissions to get an overview of admissions processes at Mason. That meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday December 1st.

Adult Learning and Executive Education Committee (Submitted by Evelyn Tomaszewski, Chair – November 30, 2020)

Report of the Adult Learning and Executive Education Committee

Earlier in October, the Committee elected Evelyn Tomaszewski to serve as Chair.

The committee met on November 19, 2020,

Committee members in attendance: Virginia Hoy, Robert Pasnak, Ioulia Rytikova, Kammy Sanghera, Evelyn, Tomaszewski.

Because of the majority of the members are new to the committee, it was agreed that members need a clearer understanding of current programs at Mason that might and should inform the committee’s work. The committee invited Marc Austin and Brett Josephson to our meeting to provide some overview adult learning and executive education at Mason.

Brett and Marc provided an overview of their respective programs, and discussed with members past successes and current initiatives. Each identified how their programs are promoted/marketed, and discussed how the Committee’s effort can support the work efforts of each program.

Effective Teaching Committee (Submitted by Tom Wood, Chair – November 24, 2020)

Effective Teaching Committee Update

December 2020 Faculty Senate Meeting

Tom Wood, Chair (CHSS), Gabriele Belle (COS), Gregory Grimsby (CVPA), Patrick McKnight (CHSS), Cheryl Oetjen (CHHS), Esperanza Román-Mendoza (CHSS), Kristien Zenkov (CEHD)

The ETC has been focused on faculty support during the transition to the online student evaluation of teaching to Blue and has produced working documents to assist faculty during Covid semesters. In
collaboration with the Office of Institutional Effectiveness and Planning (OIEP) and the Stearn’s Center we are encouraging the development and use of individual questions by faculty on their SET course evaluations, other formative assessment techniques, self-assessment and peer-review of teaching. Realizing that traditional set questions will have limited value for comparison during COVID-19 semesters, we are encouraging appropriate scrutiny of data for faculty evaluation, promotion and hiring practices. Members of the ETC have been reaching out to faculty to help prepare for the SET and annual reviews of teaching during the fall of 2020, and to provide support and resources. Attached are working documents we developed in this effort. These documents are being constantly updated to help meet current challenges.

Assessing Teaching Effectiveness during COVID-19

Peer Observation and Peer Evaluation

Suggested Open Ended Questions for BLUE
https://documentcloud.adobe.com/link/review?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:1f3bbf65-f015-4ce1-a7e8-fc6b3997f7c1

Self-Evaluation Questions for Faculty
https://documentcloud.adobe.com/link/review?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:01d26358-c308-4e93-afa4-a416e1ec4a38

Faculty Conduct, Policies and Procedures Working Group (Submitted by Shannon Davis, Suzanne Slayden and Girum Urgessa – November 23, 2020)

The Faculty Conduct Policies and Procedures Working Group is coordinating with Human Resources and the Provost’s Office to finalize the Human Resources & Payroll Department – Procedures for Handling Investigations into Alleged Violations of University or Commonwealth Workplace Policy. The Working Group anticipates presenting these procedures to the Faculty Senate in February 2021. The working group continues to discuss sanction guidelines and educational components that will be distributed to the community to accompany the release of the procedures. Updates to the Compliance, Diversity, and Ethics investigation procedures are still under discussion by the working group as well.

Faculty Handbook Revision Committee (Submitted by Suzanne Slayden, Chair –November 12, 2020)

The Faculty Handbook Revision Committee has scheduled eight meetings for the 2020-2021 academic year. The main work of these meetings is to incorporate the Term Faculty Committee recommendations into the Faculty Handbook. The FHRC plans to present proposed revisions to the Faculty Senate in Spring, 2021.
The meeting began with two announcements made by the Associate Provost for Graduate Education, Dr. Laurence Bray:

1. The Council of Graduate Schools will hold the Annual Meeting on December 2-4, 2020. The meeting will be virtual.
2. President Washington has asked The Office of Graduate Education to explore a few graduate school models for the possibility of creating a Graduate School at Mason.

Graduate Faculty Electronic Application Training Sessions with ITS: The first one was held on Thursday, November 19, 3:00-3:30pm and the second will be on Tuesday, December 1, 2:00-2:30pm. A recording will be posted on the graduate faculty webpage. Concerns were expressed regarding controlling the flow and expectations of requests; as a solution, the Associate Deans will submit an updated list of approved initiators to the Office of Graduate Education every semester. The information will be uploaded into the system, giving access to all initiators approved to submit graduate faculty status requests.

Lists of classes last taught over 3 years ago and graduate certificates with low or no enrollment over 2 years were shared and units were asked to review their courses and certificate programs. Units should consider redesign or deactivation when applicable.

Fall 2020 Alternative Grading and Related Topics: It was noted that for Spring, 2020 and Fall, 2020, accumulation of (9) credits of C grades or XP grades, normally considered unsatisfactory credits, will not trigger termination eligibility as they usually would. The GC proposed adding a statement about the importance of academic advising to the guidance on the Registrar’s page, and consider limiting of amount of XP grades a student can receive.

Awards Updates: The Office of Graduate Education shared award updates and indicated that about half of the current Dissertation Completion Grant applicants were not eligible due to not being in full-time status as required. The Office of Graduate Education will share a list of ineligible students, as well as the list of last year’s 11 awardees who did not graduate as scheduled, with units to gather input and see what can be done to prevent these issues going forward. Additionally, Provost PhD Awards will no longer be available for the future as the funding will be repurposed to support additional Presidential Scholars.

Catalog Updates: Mr. Tom Butler shared catalog updates and stated that while SCHEV submissions can be made at any time, workflows will stop until a letter of SCHEV approval is received. Additionally, Mr. Butler will share the language to substitute for the “SCHEV-pending phrase” when describing potential programs in external materials.
Policy Enhancements:

AP.6.1.5 Institutional Credits (NEW): Proposed

Graduate students at Mason are required to successfully complete more than half of the minimum required credits towards their degree program at Mason. See AP.6.5 for Credit by Exam, Reduction of Credit or Transfer of Credit opportunities.

- Currently, the institutional credits requirement does not show as applicable to all graduate programs. Previously, residency requirement (now eliminated) had put a cap on all graduate programs.

AP.6.4.4 Voluntary Resignation from Graduate Academic Program revision: Proposed

Degree-seeking students may officially resign from their academic program with the approval of their department chair or program director and the dean or director of the school, college, or institute. The Voluntary Resignation form must be approved by the student's program and Student Accounts, then submitted to the Office of the University Registrar for notation on the transcript. Resignations after the drop period will result in grades of W on the student's transcript for that semester and removal from any future registered courses. Program resignation is final.

- Need to align with form which states the above policy but then gives programs the choice on whether to apply immediate grade of W to that semester's courses
- Is there a need to provide programs and students a choice of whether to stay in their courses? If so, the policy should be re-worded accordingly.

AP.6.9.2 Time Limit (Master’s) and AP.6.10.1 Time Limit (Doctoral): Proposed

Discussion

Graduate Council Bylaws Update: An update of Graduate Council bylaws from the current version was proposed which better frames the role of the Graduate Council, and clarifies the language. Ms. Deveneau read a letter of request from GAPSA seeking approval for GAPSA’s President to evolve from a graduate council non-voting contributor to a voting member.

Dissertation Credits Working Group: Dr. Thomas Flores, Chair of this group, proposed changes to existing academic policy that are intended to better support doctoral students while maintaining unit flexibility. The main change is a reduction of required 999 credits from 6 (currently) to 3, which means changing the number of credits associated with full time status.

Respectfully Submitted by Cristiana Stan, Faculty Senate Representative to the Graduate Council 2020-2021
Grievance Committee  (Submitted by John Farina, Chair – November 12, 2020)

There are no cases currently before the Grievance Committee.

Mason Academic Assessment Council (Submitted by Shannon Davis and Sheena Serslev, OIEP)

The Mason Academic Assessment Council includes representation from all Schools and Colleges. The faculty and staff representatives are peer-reviewing the annual assessment reports for academic programs. The review process will be completed by Tuesday, December 1, after which time the Office of Institutional Effectiveness and Planning will aggregate the reviews and reach out to academic programs with feedback from the committee. Emphasis will be placed on continuous improvement strategies that serve to enhance the student learning experience.

Website with information about the Mason Academic Council mission, vision, and membership: https://oiep.gmu.edu/institutional-effectiveness/assessment-council/

Mason Core Committee (Submitted by Melissa Broeckelman Post, co-chair – November 24, 2020)

Mason Core Committee Report

November 5 and 19 meetings

Courses approved for inclusion in the Mason Core:

- RELI 212: Religions of Asia (GU)
- RELI 370: Judaism (GU)
- PHYS 170: Introductory and Modern Physics I (NSL)
- PHYS 270: Introductory and Modern Physics II (NSL)

Courses rolled back to the home department for revision & resubmission:

- RELI 314: Chinese Philosophies and Religious Traditions (GU)

Discussions:

- We were asked to review the Global Gateway equivalencies. Sometimes courses at the host institution only transfer as 2-credit courses, and the program asked the MCC where these could fulfill Mason Core requirements for courses that normally need to be 3 credits. The MCC denied the request and has asked the Global Gateway program to either identify 3-credit courses that students can take or identify sets of classes that together would transfer to Mason as at least three credits in order to fulfill this requirement.
- An assessment task force was elected at the November 5 meeting and asked to return with a proposal for how we might plan Mason Core assessment moving forward so that courses are being re-reviewed on a regular basis to ensure that they continue to align with the Mason Core outcomes. Courses that have the Mason Core attribute will go through a simplified assessment process similar to the current course approval process that involves submitting a syllabus, assignments (not student work samples), and a 1-2 page report summarizing evidence that the
course continues to meet the Mason Core outcomes and that the course is being updated to meet student needs where outcomes achievement gaps are observed. This process will include substantial faculty development, will give faculty flexibility to assess their courses in ways that are consistent with their disciplinary expertise, and will include support for individual faculty and faculty teams to complete the assessment.

- Courtney Adams Wooten shared a draft of updated course description and learning objectives for ENGH 101 that better reflects what the course does. These updates are going through the appropriate departmental and college-level approvals first, but the committee was in full support of the revisions.
- The committee looked at the Honors College articulation table that is used when students leave the Honors College. The committee will invite Honors College faculty to join us for a future meeting for further discussion.

Master Plan Steering Committee (Submitted by Shannon Davis, Zachary Schrag, and David Wong – November 19, 2020)

Master Plan Steering Committee Report

The Agenda for the October 14 meeting of the Faculty Senate (http://www.gmu.edu/resources/facstaff/senate/FS_AGENDA_10-14-20_FINAL.pdf) included our summary of the scenarios currently being considered as part of the master planning process. The consultants expect to present those scenarios to the Mason community at an online town hall on Tuesday, December 8, from 1:00 to 2:30 pm. The administration plans to advertise this event widely once the official invitation is ready.

We encourage faculty senators to attend that town hall and to advise their colleagues to do so. We expect that this will be a particularly significant presentation, addressing the largest choices facing the university.

Recreation Advisory Committee (Submitted by Esther Peters – November 19, 2020)

The GMU Recreation Advisory Committee met on October 29. Graduate Assistant positions, one each for Aquatics, Outdoor Adventures/the EDGE, and Well-being, will be posted on jobs.gmu.edu and NIRSA Bluefish, application deadline January 3, to start in August 2021. The Membership Survey Results were discussed, noting that most feedback was positive, and the reservation system and other actions taken to provide safe experiences are supported. Reduced hours will be announced to start the week of Thanksgiving until January 25. Additional lifeguards are being hired. The proposal for opening locker rooms for swim patrons only and having cubbies at the RAC was discussed. [WILL THIS HAPPEN? WHEN?] Modified Team Sports (4 vs 4 Volleyball, Soccer short sided, Cornhole) have been proposed, which will require players to wear masks. Suggestions for next semester in Recreation included more team sports for on-campus students, although basketball is not likely, outdoor classes in Yoga and Zumba when the weather gets warmer, and need to have changing rooms, showers, and later reservation hours for faculty/staff with Mason wanting more faculty on campus; however, still concerns about cleaning them. Please contact Esther Peters, Joel Martin, or Robert Pasnak if you have questions, concerns, or suggestions for Mason Recreation.
SACS-COC Reaffirmation Committee (Submitted by Shannon Davis, November 13, 2020)

The SACSCOC Reaffirmation Leadership Team and Planning Group continues to collect unit/school specific information for inclusion in the report. Members have been recently focused on reviewing narrative language for the report. More information on report progress will be shared at the December Board of Visitors meeting.

Undergraduate Council (Submitted by Charlie Robison, November 30, 2020)

Undergraduate Council Meeting Notes
Submitted by Dr. Charlie Robison, Faculty Senate Representative

Call to order at 3:30pm, Wednesday, November 18th via Zoom

Primary issues discussed
• “Zombie” courses and minors
• SCHEV Program Approval Process
• CIM Forms Update
• New Business

“Zombie” courses and minors

Council members were urged to check on courses in their respective academic unit that have not been taught in 3 years. These “zombie” course should be deactivated and removed from the catalog. Members were also asked to examine minors for alignment with the United Nation’s Global Goal and Engineering Grand Challenges.

SCHEV Program Approval Process

Programs will no longer be added to the catalog with the label of “Pending SCHEV Approval.” SCHEV approval must be official before programs will be published in the catalog.

CIM Forms Update

Tom Butler spoke to the council about an additional form in CIM for a program to add program-level outcomes. This will assist as the University assesses university-wide outcomes. Also, these could be included with students’ diplomas to help them articulate the skills they gained through their degree.

New Business

Action Items

NEW PROGRAMS: APPROVED

COS New Program: Geology, BS/Earth Systems Science, Accelerated MS
MODIFIED PROGRAMS: APPROVED

COS Modified Program SC-BS-CHEM: Chemistry, BS
COS Modified Program SC-BS-GEOL: Geology, BS
VSE Modified Program VS-BS-ME: Mechanical Engineering, BS

NEW COURSES: APPROVED

CHSS New Course ECON 398: Internship
CHSS New Course ECON 491: Capstone in Economics
CHSS New Course ECON 493: Capstone Internship
COS New Course CHEM 471: Solid State Chemistry
COS New Course FRSC 450: Practical Forensic Skeletal Biology
VSE New Course CS 487: Introduction to Cryptography

MODIFIED COURSES: APPROVED

COS Modified Course GGS 309: Introduction to Weather and Climate
COS Modified Course GGS 354: Data Analysis and Global Change Detection Techniques

Announcements

MODIFIED COURSES: APPROVED

BUS Modified Course BUS 498: Capstone Course: Advanced Business Models
CEHD Modified Course EDSE 241: Characteristics of Students with Disabilities who Access the General Curriculum
CEHD Modified Course EDSE 341: Language Acquisition and Reading and Writing Development
CEHD Modified Course EDSE 353: Individualized Behavior Supports
CEHD Modified Course EDSE 441: Instructional Strategies for Reading and Writing
CEHD Modified Course EDSE 445: Clinical Practice and Seminar 1: General

INACTIVATED COURSES: APPROVED

CHSS Inactivated Course ECON 498: Internship
Appendix D

Mason COACHE – Kim Eby, Associate Provost for Faculty Development (11/13/20)

The Mason COACHE Leadership Team has finalized four Summary Reports that are now available to the Mason faculty community. These reports focus on term faculty, associate professors, underrepresented minority faculty, and faculty engaged in interdisciplinary/multidisciplinary research and scholarship. They provide an overview of the COACHE work and specifically share trends and action items that emerged from our qualitative data collection at the end of spring 2020.

The Summary Reports can be accessed at the following link: https://oiep.gmu.edu/data-analytics-research/survey-results/coache/ Please note that Two-Factor Authentication is required.

The Leadership Team also shared the work of the COACHE Faculty Engagement Initiative with President Washington and Provost Ginsberg at our November meeting. It was a productive conversation and both indicated support for the work of this initiative.

Appendix E

Mason FACTS Update

Molli Herst, Program Manager for Faculty Affairs and Development
Office of the Provost

Review, Promotion & Tenure (RPT)

- Synchronized RPT Promotion & Tenure Template training has concluded for all four access roles and 400 Faculty were trained.
- Online toolkits and asynchronous training materials were published October 1, 2020 to the Mason FACTs website for continued post training support and reference.
- Survey feedback has been favorable and indicated alignment with RPT guidelines, ease of use, and achievement of system preparedness.
- Tenure upon hire and external evaluation templates have been drafted and are awaiting testing for a Spring 2021 launch.

Faculty 180 (F-180)

- Base Data Files are being uploaded to the database testing site for Full Time Instructional Research faculty.
- Unit specific configuration sessions concluded Fall 2020 and customized requests are being adapted in the system.
- Updated testing and launch timelines are being finalized.
Cozy up for
Mason Holidays at Home
2020 Faculty and Staff Holiday Celebration

Including:
Live and Pre-recorded Events
Photo Submissions * Recipe Exchange
Virtual Dance Contest * Trivia
* Cooking Demo * Holiday Concert
AND MORE

https://ocm.gmu.edu/holidays-home