GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY
AGENDA FOR THE FACULTY SENATE MEETING
September 27, 2023
3:00-4:15 p.m.
https://gmu.zoom.us/j/95073600451?pwd=VkYrWm9zR1ZRZ3daTkEyMU9iRVc5Zz09*

I.   **Call to Order**

II.   **Approval of the Minutes-** August 30, 2023

III.   **Opening Remarks**
        A. We have an updated Faculty Senate website online at https://facultysenate.gmu.edu/.
        B. A former faculty member who retired from another university has donated her regalia robe and asked that it be given to a faculty member who can use it. If you're interested, email mbroecke@gmu.edu.

IV.   **Special Orders**
        A. Introduction & Policy 1204: Thomas Bluestein, Interim Title IX Coordinator

V.   **Committee Reports**

        A. Senate Standing Committees
                1. *Executive Committee*

                2. *Academic Policies*
                   AP 1.2 Academic Load
                   Proposed Catalog Policy AP 2.5: Syllabus Requirements

                3. *Budget and Resources*

                4. *Faculty Matters*
                   Faculty Evaluation of Administrators

                5. *Nominations*
                   Committee on External Academic Relations (1 vacancy)
                   Effective Teaching Committee (need 1 Senator)
                   Faculty Equity and Inclusion Committee (1 vacancy)
                   Committee on Reimagining Faculty Roles and Rewards

                6. *Organization and Operations*
                   Writing Across the Curriculum Committee revised charge

        B. Other Committees/Faculty Representatives
                i.   Committee on External Academic Relations
                ii. Grievance Committee
                iii. Research Advisory Committee
                iv. Technology Policy Committee

VI.   New Business

VII.   Announcements
    A. Provost Ginsberg
    B. EVP Dickenson
    C. Plastics Free Mason

VIII.   Remarks for the Good of the General Faculty

IX.   Adjournment

* Note: For security purposes, all attendees must login using any valid Zoom account to join the meeting. Having trouble joining the meeting with the link above?

1. If using GMU Zoom Account (required for all Faculty Senators)
    a. Go to https://gmu.zoom.us
    b. Click on [Sign into Your Account]
    c. Use GMU login credentials to login. (May require 2FA authentication)
    d. Once logged in – click on "JOIN A MEETING"
    e. Enter the Meeting ID (see highlighted above) and click JOIN
    f. If asked for Passcode: enter the Passcode (highlighted above)

2. Joining Senate Meeting using an account other than GMU Zoom Account
    a. Go to https://zoom.us
    b. Click on [SIGN IN]
    c. Use credentials for your existing zoom account
    d. Once logged in – click on "JOIN A MEETING"
    e. Enter the Meeting ID (see highlighted above) and click JOIN
    f. If asked for Passcode: enter the Passcode (highlighted above)

APPENDIX A
SENATE STANDING COMMITTEES

Academic Policies

AP.1.2 Academic Load

The minimum full-time load for undergraduate students is 12 credits per semester. For graduate full-time classification, see AP.6 Graduate Policies. For planning purposes, applicants for admission are asked to indicate their preference for full- or part-time status, and day or evening classes; however, they may freely choose between evening and day sections of courses and may change their full- or part-time status.

Although many students must work to meet living expenses, **employment must not take priority over academic responsibilities**. Students employed more than 20 hours a week are strongly urged not to attempt a full-time academic load. Students employed more than 40 hours a week should attempt no more than 6 credits per semester. Students who fail to observe these guidelines may expect no special consideration for academic problems arising from the pressures of employment.

Although 12 credits per semester represent a minimum full-time undergraduate load, students planning to graduate in four years need to carry an average of at least 15 credits per semester. Written approval must be submitted to the Office of the University Registrar before students can register for more than the maximum allowable credits. Undergraduate and Non-Degree Undergraduate students should contact their Dean for permission. However, Undergraduate students enrolled in programs and pathways that require registration above the maximum allowable credits do not need such permission.

Graduate students' status (full-time or half-time) is described in full under AP.6 Graduate Policies. Graduate and Non-Degree Graduate students wanting to register for more than the maximum allowable credits should contact their local academic unit. However, Graduate and Non-Degree Graduate students enrolled in programs and pathways that require registration above the maximum allowable credits do not need such permission.

Student Status	Maximum Credit Limit per Semester
Undergraduate	18
Undergraduate on warning, probation or returning from suspension	13
Graduate	12
Nondegree	10

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Proposed Catalog Policy

AP 2.5 Course Syllabi

All courses at George Mason University are required to have a syllabus available to students from the start of the course. Syllabi must include at least:

- Course-specific structural elements, specifically:
  - Course Number and Title
  - Course Overview - expanded description of the course. If this is a University designated Mason Core, writing intensive (WI), research and scholarship intensive (RS), or notated course, include relevant details.
  - Learning Outcomes
  - Instructor Name and Contact information
  - Meeting Times and Modality
  - Grading Policies, including
    - Grading Schema: Numerical breakdown of A, B, C, etc. (or equivalent for other grading systems)
    - Grade Weights: How assignments/exams count for the final grade
    - Policies that can significantly lower student grades, such as Late Work

- An addendum provided by the University identifying and describing relevant university policies. This addendum is maintained by the Stearns Center, in consultation with the Faculty Senate Academic Policies Committee.

A syllabus template will be available for instructors, though its usage is not required.

Colleges and Local Academic Units may have more specific requirements regarding the syllabi of courses from within their units, in which case those also apply.

EXTERNAL ACADEMIC RELATIONS
1 Opening
Marcie Fyock (CEHD)

EFFECTIVE TEACHING
1 Senator needed
Greg Robinson (CVPA)

FACULTY EQUITY AND INCLUSION
1 Opening
Marie Mele Thomas (CHSS)

REIMAGINING ROLES AND REWARDS
3 Tenure-line
Kelly Schrum (CHSS)
Kathleen Wage (CEC)
Jandos Rothstein (Art)

3 Term
Sebahattin Demirkan (SBUS)
Regina Biggs (CEHD)
Lori Rottenberg (INTO)

1 Department Chair
Mark Uhen (COS)

Revised WAC Committee Charge (v_09.13.23 FINAL)

Charge: To advise and collaborate with administrative and academic units to support faculty who teach with writing across all academic disciplines. Specifically, the WAC Committee:

A. Provides guidance related to writing courses and writing instruction for faculty, academic units, university leaders, other committees, and the full Senate;
B. Works with the Mason Core Committee on the overall structure and outcomes of general education writing, including Writing-intensive courses;
C. Collaborates with the Office of Institutional Effectiveness and Planning and other units on the assessment of writing and writing-enriched learning;
D. Identifies the needs of Mason's student writers and faculty who teach with writing;
E. Supports the intentional integration of writing and writing instruction into courses across the curriculum at Mason, including Writing-intensive courses;
F. Acknowledges and celebrates the accomplishments of Mason faculty who teach with writing to recognize best practices specific to their discipline;
G. Advocates for equitable practices and conditions that foster meaningful teaching and learning with writing across the curriculum.

Composition:

The committee will be composed of:
- The Director of Writing Across the Curriculum or a representative from that office.
- One faculty representative from each of the academic units offering undergraduate curricula, including one Faculty Senator; elected representatives will serve staggered three-year terms.
- Four additional faculty or student representatives, one from each of the following units: University Writing Center, Composition, INTO Mason, and Student Senate.
- Three non-voting ex-officio members from the following: University Libraries, Mason Core Committee, and Office of Institutional Effectiveness and Planning.

Elected representatives can serve a maximum of two consecutive three-year terms; subsequent non-consecutive terms are permitted.

Committee on External Academic Relations
Submitted by Kerri LaCharite

- The committee met on Sept. 18th.
- Justin Gest will serve as chair.
- Ioulia Rytikova did not accept the position on the committee and will need to be replaced. Richard Craig from the Nominations Committee was notified.
- Shora Moteabbed, Andrew Rudd and Kerri LaCharite will serve as representatives to the Faculty Senate of Virginia.
- Justin Gest and Kerri LaCharite will meet with Paul Liberty in the Office of Government and Community Relations about furthering the work of the committee.

Grievance Committee
Submitted by Catherine Gallagher

The committee met on Monday, Sept 18. Our report is as follows:
This year's committee has two members with experience processing cases and three members who have not.

In the interest of training more faculty for leadership of this committee, we agreed to a model in which an experienced member co-chairs with a new member as we rotate (should we have the case load) through cases. Similarly, we have agreed to a process where all committee members are privy to all correspondence and case facts, and all sign off on decisions and other written communications. This is to ensure all members are fully aware of all activities.

As we begin the rotation, I will work with Carol Cleveland as co-chair (she has experience, and the committee felt it best to start off with experienced chairs before rotating the co-chair position to our new members).

Research Advisory Committee
Submitted by Charlotte Gill

Zoom meeting: September 15, 2023 (3:00 to 4:00 pm)

Attendees: Lance Liotta, John Dale, Charlotte Gill, Amira Roess, Rashmi Sadana, Jie Zhang, Burak Tanyu, and Allison Landsberg

Meeting minutes

- Introduction of each member
- Discussion on the purpose and task of the committee. We acknowledged that the letter sent by Faculty Senate chair has a section outlining the charge for this committee. However, we decided that we will revisit this section of the letter in the following meetings.
- Prior to the meeting, some of the members have shared ideas of what we could be working on as a committee this year. The members who attended the meeting agreed on the importance of all of the suggested ideas but before going in-depth, the committee discussed on developing a work plan.
- The following are determined to be the possible approaches to develop a work plan and identifying ideas for this year:
  - *Identify grand scale goals*
    Before specific grand scale goals are developed, the committee agreed that it is best that we do the following:
    - Arrange a meeting with Vice President of Research
    - Arrange a meeting with Interim Provost
    - Revisit GMU's latest strategic plan as it relates to research related goals
    One of the possible grand scale goal has been discussed as ideas that may need to be developed to help the University to maintain R1 status.
  - *Identify smaller scale goals*
    Some members have already suggested ideas but we have decided to re-evaluate these ideas after discussing them in greater detail and after meeting with the GMU senior administrators for the grand scale goals. However, in the meantime, we all agreed to create / revisit our own ideas so that we can start discussing them during the next meeting
- The committee elected Burak Tanyu to be the chair this year.
- A suggestion has been made to create a folder that we could electronically store our documents. Committee agreed that this is a good idea.
- Committee agreed that it is best to meet once a month (unless urgent matters arise)

Technology Policy Committee
Met: 09/19/2023
Submitted: 09/21/2023

Pre-Meeting Background:
The GMU Faculty Senate Technology Policy Committee will meet 3 times per semester. Fall meeting dates are: 09/19/2023 (11am), 10/20/2023 (11am), and 11/13/2023 (10am).

Faculty Senate TPC Composition

Delton Daigle	SCHAR	ddaigle@gmu.edu	Senator
Socrates Dimitriadis	CEC	socrates@gmu.edu	
Kevin Dunayer	CVPA/CEHD	kdunayer@gmu.edu	
Ariel Goldenthal	CHSS	agoldent@gmu.edu	
Lee Black	CPH	lblack7@gmu.edu	
Bernanrd Schmidt	CEC	bschmid5@gmu.edu	
Pam Baker	CEHD	pbaker5@gmu.edu	Provost Appointee

Administrative Participants

Acting CIO	Charlie Spann		ITS	cspann2@gmu.edu
Exec Coord. CIO	Whitney L Sublett	ITS		wsublett@gmu.edu

Agenda

- Election of Chair (2023-2024)
- The move to the Vonage phone system
- The call for considering our future LMS, faculty engagement, and RFP process as well as our timeline for the future.
- Discussion of network upgrades and changes
- MasonLeaps IT training
- Major Projects for 2024, not mentioned

INTRODUCTIONS AND ELECTION OF CHAIRS

The TPC has re-elected Kevin Dunayer and Delton Daigle as co-chairs.

LMS SEARCH UPDATE

Joy Taylor update:

- The university leadership has decided to move forward with the recommendation of a new LMS platform, as per the recommendation of the LMS Steering Committee. The vendor

proposal is currently under negotiation in accordance with the state procurement process while also going through the ASRB compliance process. After GMU and the vendor have both signed off on negotiations and the LMS clears ASRB, the university will make an official announcement.

- GMU is looking at acquiring premium implementation and support.

VONAGE PHONE SYSTEMS

- Our new Vonage phone system is well on its way to being installed in all buildings.
- Several buildings on Fairfax campus are complete, Mason Square is complete, and the installers will complete SciTech (ongoing) before returning to Fairfax to complete the installation.
- The Vonage system is expected to roll over fax capability as well.
- The current MS-Teams calling plan will be ending in November, Faculty and staff using this license will have to roll over to Vonage before then.
- The savings are reportedly being returned to units as a reduced telecom charge per line (now $15 per Vonage line).

MASON LEAPS ITS TRAINING

- ITS Security Awareness Training will again be required of all faculty and staff through Mason LEAPS. It is currently live and will be required to be completed by October 31st, 2023. Failure to complete training will lead to all Mason network privileges being suspended. ITS has advised that it will staff support accordingly to ensure locked out users regain access once they complete training.
- It should be noted that we do not have firm numbers as yet as to how many users were locked out on Dec. 1st 2022 (the previous years ITS training deadline), as ITS realized several "ghost" accounts were still active (accounts for people no longer affiliated with GMU). To assess the impact of the lockout, TPS has requested ITS provide information on the number of suspended accounts requested reactivation following last years deadline.
- This also spawned a discussion about the need for GMU to more effectively streamline its onboarding and offboarding process.

CELLULAR / WI-FI

We are undergoing upgrades to our main network backbone which should provide substantial theoretical bandwidth increases from the current 1 – 10 GB to a new infrastructure that will allow speeds up to 100 – 400 GB. This should be completed by Summer 2024.

ITS has asked for help locating WiFi deadspot issues. When you experience a deadspot problem on campus, please create a new ITS ticket detailing the device you connected to the university network with and your location you experienced the issue.

https://gmu.teamdynamix.com/TDClient/33/Portal/Requests/TicketRequests/NewForm?ID=z2sNwRGPsZM_&RequestorType=Service

The following are issues and/or upgrades that will soon be on the ITS radar. TPS will follow up with faculty senate as we know more.

- Salesforces implementation RFP. We are working to get a vendor to help us implement a series of new Salesforce applications across various administrative units.
- With Tier III status for our university we will need to follow more rigorous ITS policies. We are going to follow the NIST 800-53 standard. https://www.nist.gov/privacy-framework/nist-privacy-framework-and-cybersecurity-framework-nist-special-publication-800-53
- As discussed above, we will need to work together as a community to improve on and off boarding of employees.
- There will by substantial energy invested by the university on improving our institutional data management. This will be led by Gesele Durham (Vice Provost for Institutional Effectiveness and Planning). It is hoped that we can get greater detail on MIDAS for an upcoming TPS meeting.
- Windows 10 is nearing end of life – support will be discontinued for Windows 10 machines in 2025. University managed PCs will need to be replaced or the OS will need to be upgraded to remain compliant.
- MacOS support is also changing with new OS iterations. The following was forwarded by Interim CIO Charlie Spann regarding MacOS:

Apple recently announced the intended release of the newest version of macOS, Sonoma(14), which is scheduled to be made available to the general public on Tuesday September 26.

Important Note Regarding Sonoma

- Information Technology Services (ITS) is aware this release may include a bug that could impact several security tools used across George Mason University. Therefore, ITS highly recommends that all Mason-owned Mac systems remain on macOS 12 Monterey or macOS 13 Ventura. ITS will continue to test macOS 14 Sonoma and coordinate with our partners to ensure the highest level of support for Mac systems across the university. We anticipate full adoption and support of macOS 14 Sonoma no later than early 2024.

Important Note for macOS 11 Users

- Along with the macOS 14 release, Apple is discontinuing support for macOS 11 Big Sur. This means any systems currently running macOS 11 will no longer receive security updates. Starting Thursday September 21, ITS will begin upgrading systems that are running macOS 11 as this presents a significant security risk to the university.

Important Note regarding Sonoma Early Adoption Program

- ITS will, again, be looking for early adopters to assist in testing and acceptance of macOS 14 at the university. Due to the potential bug mentioned above, we ask that any early adopters hold off until the issue is resolved. If you would like to participate in our early adopter program, please email the Computing Services Team (compsvcs@gmu.edu). You will be sent surveys during our test period to provide feedback. If you have any questions, you can send them to the same email address and someone will get back to you.

APPENDIX C
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Plastics Free Mason
Submitted by Lakshita Day

Plastics Free Mason is an action and campaign-based student fellowship that focuses on bringing awareness to Mason's single-use plastic elimination initiatives. Lakshita Dey is a civic fellow working under CECIL for University sustainability on the Plastics Free Mason project. Her goal as a civic fellow is to research and engage on the best path forward for single-use plastics elimination, by using the voice of Mason students. She would like the Faculty Senate's support in her initiative and would like to speak to the group at a later time to discuss potential collaboration options.