

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY
MINUTES OF THE FACULTY SENATE MEETING
September 27, 2023, 3:00-4:15 p.m. | Online Meeting

Number of attendees: 128 ([List of Names](#))

I. Call to Order: President Melissa Broeckelman-Post (MBP) called the meeting to order at 3:04pm.

II. Approval of the Minutes of August 30, 2023: Approved as posted.

III. Opening Remarks

- We have an updated Faculty Senate website at facultysenate.gmu.edu. Thank you to Jan Macario for getting this set up and enabling us to move away from the previous, outdated website.
- 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

- Introduction & Policy 1204: Thomas Bluestein, Interim Title IX Coordinator
 - Oversees Equity and Access Services team, which involves Title IX, EO (equal opportunities and non-discrimination), and ADA.
 - [Policy 1204](#) has been recently revised. My office co-owns this policy with HR.
 - The impetus behind this change is to more clearly define what types of relationships are and are not allowed, as part of efforts to prevent conflict of interest and inappropriate relationships.
 - If anyone has questions or wants training around the new policy or other relevant areas, please reach out to Tom.

V. Committee Reports

Senate Standing Committees

- Executive Committee (MBP)
 - Much of our recent work will be shared in other reports.
 - In addition to regular meetings, we have an annual retreat with the President's team, which we had on September 13 this year.
 - Discussed budget updates, President's goals. Postponed strategic roadmap until a later meeting.
 - Most of the discussion focused on four reports around faculty engagement: COACHE, Gallup survey, Faculty Evaluation of

Administrators, and focus group data on community and belonging commissioned by MBP and Provost Ginsberg.

- Two common themes came from these efforts:
 - We need to do a better job of recognizing faculty accomplishments here at Mason, as well as externally.
 - We need better opportunities for faculty to collaborate and share space, e.g., Mason Club.
- We are finding that local units matter most in terms of engagement, and there are existing efforts and planning going on around performing arts events such as a faculty and staff choir. The more we can do to reach out to colleagues and give them recognition for grants, publications, contributions, promotions etc., and/or bring people together, the better.
- Feel free to email MBP or raise other ideas or comments later in the meeting.
- [Academic Policies](#) (Senator Dominique Banville)
 - [AP 1.2 Academic Load](#)
 - Currently students who want to enroll above the maximum allowable credit need permission from their LAU, but some programs require this type of enrollment. This policy change seeks to make it easier for students who are in these programs to enroll without needing such permission.
 - This policy change was introduced by the Graduate Council and their language is included in the policy already. This change is to add similar language for undergraduate students.
 - Motion to approve: Carried by acclamation (unanimous)
 - [Proposed Catalog Policy AP 2.5: Syllabus Requirements](#)
 - This is a new policy proposal. There are currently no policies around what should be included in a syllabus (only recommendations from Stearns Center and LAUs). The proposed policy is to establish a framework of requirements to be included in every syllabus to create consistency. This effort comes from the Task Force on Academic Integrity.
 - The proposal shows which elements would be required in all syllabi. There would be an addendum created by the university and maintained by Stearns Center in consultation with the Academic Policies Committee that lists all the policies. A template would be made available, though its use would not be required.
 - Motion to approve
 - Discussion:
 - Senator Delton Daigle (DD): As a point of clarification, would the addendum be full text or hyperlinked?
 - Senator Dominique Banville (DB): The understanding is that it would be a link

- Tim Leslie (TL): Not fully fleshed out yet but likely to be a hybrid of links and documents, but not a large document.
- Senator Zachary Schrag (ZS): Concerned that policy identifies a minimum of information but doesn't address the problem of syllabus bloat as more policies are required to be included. Who does and does not have the power to mandate specific syllabus language?
 - Senator Solon Simmons (SS): It sounds like the hyperlinked addendum would take care of this. Is this correct?
- Senator Eugene Kontorovich (EK): Also concerned about the addendum. The policies are presumably already posted on university websites, and by incorporating them into the syllabus, which is traditionally seen as the academic work of the professor, it could be seen as an infringement of academic freedom. Not sure what the purpose of this is.
 - TL: I don't think this is intended to impinge on academic freedom. The intention of having it in a separate location and simply linked in the syllabus means faculty would not have to include all these policies in the syllabus document directly.
 - MBP: Clarification – the language of the policy makes it sound like including this would be required. Is this the case?
 - TL: Not required, the idea is to reduce, not increase the burden on faculty.
- Senator John Dale (JD): I can see the lines blurring here around learning outcomes. To clarify, is this requirement just to ensure some learning outcomes are stated or will there be required learning outcomes to include?
 - DB: The learning outcomes would be the ones specific to the course that the instructor has created (and to Mason Core, if it is a core class).
 - JD: Relatedly, we are seeing new requirements and rubrics around Mason Core – social justice, global contexts, etc. Is this part of the same process?
 - DB: The goal here is to ensure students know what they're supposed to be learning in the

course and how they will be graded. Rubrics that would be used to grade papers in the class, etc., don't need to be included.

- EK: I understand the need to inform students of relevant policies, but why is the syllabus the place where we do this? The syllabus is course-specific, and it seems redundant if students are taking multiple courses and receiving this information each time. Why not have schools/units take responsibility for sharing this information centrally?
 - DB: The students will just have a link in the syllabus that they can click on if they want to, we can anticipate that they'll click on one and then be informed of the policies. Sharing the information multiple times is especially important with undergraduate students.
- Senator Virginia Blair (VB): Is there a reason why this information couldn't be added to the course menu on Blackboard?
 - DB: Good question. We are in the middle of changing the LMS but this could be investigated once we identify the new system.
- DD: My concern with the addendum is more about syllabus bloat. I agree that redundancy isn't necessarily a bad thing. I wonder whether we could put this information in the new LMS. Given that, I move that we strike this addendum point and vote on the rest of the policy language.
 - Motion was seconded.
 - Discussion on the motion
 - TL: The addendum was really the purpose of developing this policy so I would be in favor of putting a cap on it (e.g., 2 pages) but not striking it.
 - SS: I don't want my syllabus to be really long, but I also want the students to know their rights, so I think the addendum is a win-win.
 - Senator Cristiana Stan (CS): I also think this is a good compromise. Not all courses rely heavily on Blackboard.
 - EK: To address TL's concerns, perhaps don't strike the point completely but clarify in the final sentence that LAUs

could also provide a centralized location to share the information on a semester-by-semester basis. Propose to amend the amendment by providing the freedom to centralize this information in the final sentence.

- MBP: Holding this as it is technically a different change and not an amendment to the current motion to strike the language.
- Senator Daniel Garrison (DG): I also agree that it is up to departments to get this information out to the students, once a semester or otherwise.
- ZS: It would be great if the Stearns Center could create this document, but I don't think it is relevant to this policy, which is faculty-facing and telling us what to put in our syllabi. This statement about the addendum is informative only and doesn't belong in the policy, so I think we could strike the language and still have the benefit.
- TL: By law we are supposed to provide these policies to students, and we don't always do that consistently, so this is an important thing to include.
- Senator Bijan Jabbari (BJ): If we strike this sentence, can we propose something non-binding, e.g., a link to the addendum rather than stating that the addendum needs to be part of the syllabus?
 - MBP: We can't amend this until we vote whether or not to strike it.
- DB: This policy is binding. Just like we need all of the other aspects in the syllabus, we also need an area where students get critical information about policies that relate to them. Rather than having a long syllabus document we are saying there will be an addendum –

either a link or a short document – so that the students are informed.

- Senator Lisa Billingham (LB): This addendum also protects the faculty, especially if we are talking about academic integrity issues etc. If it is not a required portion or part of the addendum it doesn't help the students or the faculty.
 - Vote on motion to strike addendum language by acclamation did not carry (not unanimous)
- Senator Jamie Clark (JC): What policies would be included in this addendum?
 - DB: Title IX, academic integrity, disability services etc. It would focus on policies only, not university-wide information, to prevent syllabus bloat.
- EK: Currently is there a requirement for this information to appear in the syllabus?
 - TL: Yes, but not consistently enforced. It has been highlighted by audits etc. as something we need to be better at enforcing.
- JD: Still not clear on what this would actually look like.
 - TL: I'd welcome an amendment on making this a link if that would help move this forward.
- ZS: Motion to add language that would allow you to have all the policies in your syllabus directly, or a link in the syllabus to the Stearns Center document, or a link in Blackboard.
 - Motion seconded
 - Discussion
 - EK: This language is going in the right direction, but it doesn't also allow for this to be provided in a centralized location instead of on each syllabus
 - Senator Lisa Lister (LL): I'm not sure that an email from the college/school necessarily would reach all undergraduate students, Mason Core students from different departments, etc.
 - LB: I think it is important that we put this on every syllabus until it becomes a

habit of the institution, then we can look at whether it can be scaled back.

- DD: I really like ZS's compromise, and I think LL is right that it's likely to be ignored by students if it comes from the Dean. I'm in favor of a link to a set of policies managed by the Stearns Center.
- DB: I support ZS's amendment.
- BJ: I like the amendment but want to know if we can also require departments to make students aware?
 - MBP: This would be a different question. We are currently debating ZS's proposed language.
- SS: Reminder that this is already a compromise. Right now, we're supposed to put all the policies in our syllabus document, so this would remove a lot of words from the syllabus.
- VB: I also agree with ZS. Also, it's important that the Stearns Center gets this information out earlier than 2 weeks before the start of classes.
- EK: Motion to change the word "relevant" to "required to be disclosed," if these are legal requirements. This better describes what is in the addendum.
 - This motion was not seconded and was not discussed or voted on.
 - Motion carried by acclamation (unanimous).
- ZS: Going back to the issue of syllabus bloat, I don't see any language that prevents us having to respond to every committee request to add new language. Can we add language to state that faculty are not required to include any specific language other than the language included in the addendum?
- BJ: Do we need a statement saying local units are responsible for enforcing this policy?
- LL: I want to make sure that ZS's comment about faculty not being required to add language beyond the addendum doesn't conflict with the final sentence

allowing LAUs to add language as required. This is important as LAUs have different needs around syllabus language.

- EK: I don't support the policy overall because it currently reads that faculty are required to include an addendum simply because the Stearns Center has created a list, and not because the policies are required by any law or university requirement.
 - SS: The list would reflect codified university policies that are relevant to students.
- LB: Could this go back to committee for clarification of "relevant policies"?
- Senator Kerri LaCharite (KL): I like the role of the Stearns Center here, but they do put out a lot of information and I'd like the information on this list to be overseen by the AP Committee.
- Motion to approve the policy carried by acclamation (not unanimous)
- Budget and Resources (DD)
 - Encourage faculty to tune into BOV Finance and Land Use meeting tomorrow (September 28) at 11:40pm. Deb Dickenson is going to meet with our full committee next Wednesday in this time slot, and we'll have a full update for our next faculty senate meeting.
 - Senator Mohan Venigalla (MV): There is a [meeting book](#) posted for the BOV meeting. I will be happy to share that after the meeting (in case there are any last-minute changes).
- Faculty Matters (SS)
 - SS made a motion to extend the meeting by 10 minutes to 4:25pm
 - Seconded and carried by acclamation (not unanimous)
 - Faculty Evaluation of Administrators
 - SS: Part of the committee's charge is to be involved in conducting this survey. It was administered in April of this year.
 - Of 1475 eligible faculty we got 552 responses (37% response rate). We were also able via Gallup to identify overlap of some responses. We therefore got 337 overlaps with the engagement data.
 - We find a correlation between the FEA and engagement, which is higher at the local level compared with the president.
 - Term faculty are generally more satisfied with their administrators than other types of faculty. Not sure what that means yet but an interesting finding.
 - Generally, faculty are satisfied with DEI efforts, but Black and African American faculty are more satisfied than White faculty; Hispanic and Latinx faculty are least satisfied.

- Length of service is inversely correlated with engagement and leadership ratings.
 - Overall, this data shows the value of this partnership with Gallup, which we look forward to continuing this year.
- [Nominations](#) (BJ)
 - Committee on External Academic Relations (1 vacancy)
 - Effective Teaching Committee (need 1 Senator)
 - This is an additional person because we did not have a Senator on the committee after the CHSS Senator election to replace Keith Renshaw.
 - Additional nomination from the floor: Sebahattin Demirkan (SBUS)
 - Faculty Equity and Inclusion Committee (1 vacancy)
 - Committee on Reimagining Faculty Roles and Rewards
 - Additional nominations from the floor: Daniel Garrison (CEC); Richard Nanian (CHSS)
 - Uncontested elections were approved by acclamation (unanimous). An electronic ballot was prepared for the contested elections.
 - Electronic ballot results (announced by email after the meeting):
 - Effective Teaching Committee
 - **Greg Robinson (CVPA) – 29 (elected)**
 - Sebahattin Demirkan (SBUS) – 6
 - Committee on Reimagining Faculty Roles and Rewards (term faculty representative)
 - **Regina Biggs (CEHD) – 22 (elected)**
 - **Daniel Garrison (CEC) – 21 (elected)**
 - **Sebahattin Demirkan (SBUS) – 20 (elected)**
 - Richard Nanian (CHSS) – 18
 - Lori Rottenberg (INTO) - 18
- [Organization and Operations](#)
 - Writing Across the Curriculum Committee revised charge
 - Motion to approve the charge with revisions and clarifications to the composition as requested at the April 26, 2023 Faculty Senate meeting
 - No discussion, approved by acclamation (unanimous)

Other Committees/Faculty Representatives

- [Committee on External Academic Relations](#)
- [Grievance Committee](#)
- [Research Advisory Committee](#)
- [Technology Policy Committee](#)

VI. New Business: None.

VII. Announcements

- Provost Ginsberg: None.

- EVP Dickenson: None.
- [Plastics Free Mason](#)

VIII. Remarks for the Good of the General Faculty

- Kim Eby: Teaching Excellence Award nominations are live right now, and I want to encourage you to nominate yourself or a colleague who you admire. A reminder that we have one for our adjunct faculty and one for faculty. It's not very long to complete the process. Options include diversity, equity, inclusion, social impact, research scholarship, creative work, and teaching awards.
- Regarding faculty recognition (MBP)
 - University Teaching Excellence Award nominations for all full-time faculty are due Tuesday 10/10: <https://stearnscenter.gmu.edu/awards/teaching-excellence/>
 - Any faculty, staff, or student can submit a nomination, signed or anonymous.
 - Link to submit Presidential awards: <https://president.gmu.edu/faculty-awards/nomination-information>
- Happy Chuseok from Mason Korea (Shannon Davis).

IX. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 4:23pm. The spillover meeting scheduled for October 11 is cancelled.

Respectfully submitted,
Charlotte Gill
Faculty Senate Secretary

**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

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. Graduate and Non-Degree Graduate students should contact their department for permission.

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

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. Each syllabus must include either the addendum in full or a link to the online version of that addendum. A link on a university-supported learning management system used by the course satisfies this requirement.

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.

Nominations

EXTERNAL ACADEMIC RELATIONS

1 Opening

Marcie Fyock (CEHD)

EFFECTIVE TEACHING

1 Senator needed

Greg Robinson (CVPA)
Sebahattin Demirkan (SBUS)

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)
Daniel Garrison (CEC)
Regina Biggs (CEHD)
Lori Rottenberg (INTO)
Richard Nanian (CHSS)

1 Department Chair

Mark Uhen (COS)

Organization and Operations

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.

APPENDIX B OTHER COMMITTEES

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

UPCOMING 2023/24 ITS ISSUES

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 be 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.

September 27, 2023

LIST OF ATTENDEES

125 Total Listed Attendees (45 Senators and 80 Visitors)

3 Additional Visitors attended who chose not to be listed

45 Senators Present: Alan Abramson, Karen Akerlof, Jatin Ambegaonkar, Dominique Banville, Ioannis Bellos, Alok Berry, Lisa Billingham, Virginia Blair, Melissa Broeckelman-Post, Jamie Clark, Richard Craig, Tim Curby, Delton Daigle, John Dale, Sebahattin Demirkan, Doug Eyman, Daniel Garrison, Ed Gero, Tim Gibson, Charlotte Gill, Thalia Goldstein, Victoria Grady, Seth Hudson, Jessica Hurley, Bijan Jabbari, Eugene Kontorovich, Kerri LaCharite, Lisa Lister, Siona Listokin, Alexandra Masterson, Laurie Miller, Alexander Monea, Marvin Powell, Greg Robinson, Pierre Rodgers, Ellen Rowe, Catherine Sausville, Zachary Schrag, Gene Shuman, Solon Simmons, Cristiana Stan, Rebecca Sutter, Mohan Venigalla, David Wong, Jie Zhang

7 Senators Absent: Michelle Boardman, Liling Huang, Tamara Maddox, Anna Pollack, Katherine Rosenbusch, Kun Sun, Anne Verhoeven

80 Visitors Present: Jacquelyn Sims, Jessica Adams, Wayne Adams, LaShonda Anthony, Ann Ardis, Sharnnia Artis, Ashley Blinstrub, Thomas Bluestein, Lisa Breglia, Alecia Bryan, Crystal Buckley, Tom Butler, Carlos Chism, Kimberly Davidson, Shannon Davis, Truman Deree, Kathleen Diemer, Kimberly Dight, Kim Eby, Jack Fedak, Kimberly Ford, Cynthia Fuchs, Will Gautney, Danielle Gilson, Mark Ginsberg, Marcy Glover, Pallavi Gullo, Melissa Hallman, Caitlin Horan, Emily Ihara, Brett Josephson, Kazi Kabir, Ibrahim Kargbo, Kaithlyn Kayer, Jason Kinser, Teresa KlockTaube, Kristen Koehler, Misty Krell, Andrew Lane, Ingrid Lopez, David Lutz, Dhafer Marzougui, Jenna McGwin, Doug McKenna, Helen McManus, Kimberly Meltzer, Janette Muir, Bobbi Nelson, Rene O'Neal, Anne Osterman, Sarah Parnell, Thomas Polk, Gina Polychronopoulos, Laura Poms, Hortense Rascoe, Shelley Reid, Keith Renshaw, Marguerite Rippey, Nena Rogers, Donald Russel, ChangGyo Ryu, Mohammad Salama, John Sanders, Catherine Saunders, Michele Schwietz, Pamela Shepherd, Charlie Spann, Antonio Stewart, Frank Strike, Burak Tanyu, Cathy Tompkins, Vikas Velagapudi, Melissa Villodas, Ken Walsh, Myisha Washington, Wendy Watkins, Preston Williams, Tricia Wilson, Bob Witeck, Courtney Wooten