

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY
AGENDA FOR THE FACULTY SENATE MEETING
December 6, 2023
3:00-4:15 p.m.

https://gmu.zoom.us/j/94570081281?pwd=TGFUUINibGxraGNsQXhQOHdOOOFJQUT09*

- I. **Call to Order**
- II. **Approval of the Minutes**
- III. **Special Orders**
Marvin Lewis: Intercollegiate Athletics Initiatives
- IV. **Committee Reports**
 - A. **Senate Standing Committees**
 - 1. *Executive Committee*
 - 2. *Academic Policies*
 - AP 1.7
 - Fall 2024 calendar- election day
 - 3. *Budget and Resources*
 - 4. *Faculty Matters*
 - 5. *Nominations*
 - 6. *Organization and Operations*
 - [Senate Standing Rules](#)
 - B. **Other Committees/Faculty Representatives**
 - 1. [Athletic Council](#)
 - 2. [External Academic Relations](#)
 - 3. [Grading Policies Task Force](#)
 - 4. [Writing Across the Curriculum Committee](#)
- V. **New Business**
- VI. **Announcements**
 - A. Interim Provost Walsh
 - B. EVP Dickenson
 - C. [Faculty-led events about Israel and Palestine](#)
 - D. Mason Lobbies
- VII. **Remarks for the Good of the General Faculty**
- VIII. **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

Organization and Operations
Senate Standing Rules

STANDING RULES OF THE FACULTY SENATE

1. At the beginning of the academic year, it shall be the responsibility of the chairs of the Senate standing committees and the chairs of university faculty standing committees to verify the continuing presence on the George Mason University faculty of all members of each committee. Committee (co)chairs shall be responsible for notifying the Chair of the Senate Committee on Nominations of any vacancies.
2. Each elected Senate standing committee shall include members from more than one college or school. Membership in University standing committees is determined by the Organization and Operations Committee and should contain at least one senator.
3. Committee chairs may submit business items and reports for inclusion in the Senate agenda on behalf of their committees before the meeting agenda is posted. Senate committee chairs may also bring new business to the floor during their committee reports on behalf of their committees.

Any member of the General Faculty may submit items of business for inclusion in the agenda prior to the agenda being posted. All items submitted which are consistent with the responsibilities of the Senate as defined in Article III are to be placed on the agenda under New Business. Items that are clearly aligned with the responsibilities of a specific Senate or University Standing Committee shall be referred to that committee. All other items shall be referred to the Organization and Operations Committee, which shall refer items to the committee it deems most appropriate; the Organization and Operations Committee shall report its referrals at the next regular meeting of the Senate.

4. The Executive Committee of the Senate is composed of the Senate President, the Senate Secretary, the chairs of the Faculty Senate Standing committees, and the chair of the Faculty Handbook Committee. The responsibilities of the Executive Committee are to meet regularly with the Provost, Executive Vice President for Finance and Administration, and the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs and Development, and other members of the central administration as needed for discussion and resolution of matters raised by Senate Standing Committees and the broader faculty. The Executive Committee shall act for the Senate during the summer months, when the full Senate does not normally meet.
5. Each standing committee of the Senate shall produce an annual report at the end of the academic year that identifies accomplishments and completed tasks, a record of participation of committee members, and a list of items of business remaining unfinished. These reports should be sent to the Senate Clerk.

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2. Each elected Senate standing committee shall include members from more than one college or school. Membership in University faculty standing committees are determined by the Organization and Operations Committee and should contain at least ~~five and at most seven voting members of the General Faculty; membership shall include~~ one senator. ~~3. All Business to come before the Senate should first be submitted to the Organization & Operations Committee, which shall refer items requiring study and action to the approximate committee(s) or collegial faculties. The Organization & Operations Committee shall report its referrals to the next regular meeting of the Senate. (10/6/82)~~

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APPENDIX B OTHER COMMITTEES

Athletic Council Submitted by Dominique Banville

Report for the Faculty Senate – Update from the Athletic Council

The Athletic Council had its first meeting of the Academic Year on October 31, 2023. In attendance were Marvin Lewis, Nena Rodgers, Zack Bolno, Malcolm Grace, Yashika Chidira, Malik Henry, Anka Whelan, Janette Muir, Pam Patterson, Patrick McCavitt, Dara Finley, Margaret Jones, Jatin Ambegaonkar, Ali Weinstein, Bob Baker, and Dominique Banville, Chair.

Marvin Lewis, the new Athletic Director (AD) introduced himself to the group. He shared how his first 100 days were focused on Listening, Learning, and Leading. He has identified six priorities for Inter-Collegiate Athletics (ICA): Organization Health, Fund Raising strategies, Staffing and Infrastructure Assessment, Visual Identity refresh, and Strategic Playbook. He will be seeking the help of the committee by encouraging everyone to attend events, establish partnerships with ICA, provide advice, and help tell “our” story.

Nena Rogers, Deputy Ad and Senior Woman Administrator, then provided an update on the renovations of the locker rooms in the Field House. Additional shower facilities were added to better accommodate Student-Athletes (SAs) and coaches. After some delays, the project should be completed by January 15, 2024.

The two SAs on the committee shared with us some of the initiatives SAAC has been involved with since the beginning of the AY. They are committed to bringing back events that used to be popular pre-COVID and establishing new traditions to get as many people involved as possible.

As Faculty Athletic Representative, Dominique is working with ICA and Real Recruit to shift the “end-of-the-year” survey to an “end-of-the-season” survey so that a better response rate is obtained. Questions about the coaching staff will be added to have SAs perspective on this very important aspect of their experience. Additionally, Dominique is working with Marvin to identify ways to get faculty and staff more involved in athletic events.

Finally, Malcom Grace, Deputy AD for Compliance and NCAA Governance, provided legislative updates related to NIL and changes to the Transfer Portal Window.

External Academic Relations
Submitted by Kerri Lacharite

External Academic Relations Committee Report from
Faculty Senate of Virginia
Oct 28, 2023

- Higher Education Advocacy Day will be Thursday January 11, 2024
 - The Faculty Senate of Virginia has funds to reimburse faculty for hotel and gas for those coming from further away.
 - The top choice in topics is Democratic Representation of Faculty on the universities and colleges board of visitors. The Faculty Senate of Virginia is looking for statutory language to allow all faculty senates to choose their one representative.
 - It is believed that this will be a bipartisan issue.
- Governor's inquiry of the role of the board of visitors of a Virginia public institution of higher learning. More specifically, whether Virginia law imposes upon such boards a duty to serve the interests of the university or college only, or the Commonwealth more broadly.
 - This inquiry came out of a question raised by UVA BOV members in July and not related to Mason.
 - There is speculation that Governor Youngkin may more authority of Virginia's higher education institutions.
- State Council of Higher Education (SCHEV)
 - Peter Blake, Director of SCHEV is retiring and there is a search for new SCHEV Director. The position should be filled by the end of 2023.
 - SCHEV will hold Orientation for new BOV members
- President Washington will speak as part of the 2023 Virginia Education Summit
 - [Joint meeting of The Senate Committee on Education and Health and the House Education Committee](#)
 - Date: December 4-5th, 2023 in Richmond, VA and Chesterfield, VA
 - Panel: The Importance of Early Exposure to Postsecondary and Career Pathways
- JMU shared their process for creating a guiding document and process to activate shared governance.
 - They explored structures, practices, and communication. They are now moving to implementation.
 - [JMU Shared Governance Task Force](#)

GRADING PROCESS TASK FORCE (GPTF)

Faculty Senate Report – Submitted November 28th, 2023

Recent Activity: November 3rd Meeting on Teams (14 attendees, 1:00 – 2:30 PM)

In our meeting we toured the task force's MS Teams space for file sharing and communication and continued on with reports/discussion from our working groups (see October report, included below).

Updates from working groups:

1. Quantitative Team (focused on Mason): Access to full grade set granted; next step will be descriptive analysis. Also in the works, text-based data from catalog to review for unit-level policies.
2. Qualitative Team: Identifying data sources for potential interviews/surveys. Performing literature review for examples from other institutions having gone through the same process.
3. Report on Peer Institutions (incl. COACHE institutions) grading systems.
4. Report back from Office of Fellowships—some discipline-specific concerns for certain grading schemes and students' competitiveness.

Next steps: Planning to meet again in January, co-chairs will collect scheduling information to identify a mutually convenient meeting time in Spring 2024.

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REPORT ARCHIVES

(ARCHIVE) Faculty Senate Report – Submitted October 16th, 2023

Activities to date: GPTF met once so far this semester (September 15th, 2023)

After discussing the charge, the committee identified several specific areas for immediate action in information gathering. These included:

- Quantitative data on Mason grades
- Reports on existing unit-level policies (from Catalog)
- Qualitative study design to assess stakeholder attitudes
- Literature/media on 'best practices'
- Peer institutions processes (COACHE)

Committee members formed subgroups to approach these topics and report back during our next meeting.

Writing Across the Curriculum

Submitted by Tom Polk

The WAC Committee held its second meeting of the academic year on November 10, 2023. Members received updates on the ongoing [Writing-intensive \(WI\) enhancements process](#) and viewed aggregate results of the WI courses that are currently being reviewed as part of that process. Findings from this review reveal that units articulate few or no details about the kinds of writing instruction offered in their WI courses. This finding is significant because WI courses are expected to provide explicit instruction on writing in the course. Following, members discussed what counts as “significant instruction” ([a core criterion of the WI course category](#)) and how it might help faculty articulate the kinds of instruction they offer to student. The committee resolved to offer guidance on this matter and began to brainstorm possible projects to pursue this aim and better support faculty who teach writing across the curriculum. The committee will return to this discussion at its upcoming December meeting.

APPENDIX C ANNOUNCEMENTS

Faculty-Led Events about Israel and Palestine

- **Israel-Palestine Conflict: Why are we in a war and how do we go for peace?** - [hosted by Carter School](#)
November 29, 2023 at 3 PM - Virtual - [Register](#)
- **Women and Children as Targets of War** - [hosted by Carter School](#)
November 30, 2023 at 11 AM - Virtual - [Register](#)
- **Listening and Learning Session on the War in Gaza** - hosted by the [College of Humanities and Social Sciences](#); **George Mason University ID required.**
November 30, 2023 at 3 PM - HUB Ballroom, Fairfax Campus
- **The Gaza Narrative: Between Clinical Analysis and Moral Judgment** - [hosted by Carter School](#)
Thursday, December 7th from 12 PM to 2 PM - HUB Ballroom, Fairfax Campus - [Register](#)
- **"Gaza in Context: A Collaborative Teach-In Series"** - hosted by Middle East and Islamic Studies at Mason
[Watch on Facebook](#)

Mason Lobbies

Shared by Illia Sheikholeslami, Student Senate

Here are some details about the event itself:

- Mason Lobbies will be held on February 15th.
- Registration links are being finalized but it should hopefully be out on Mason360 soon. If members of the Faculty Senate aren't able to register through Mason360, please let me know so that we can work out an arrangement.
- Trainings, transportation, and food will be provided by Student Government.

