I. Call to Order: Senate President Melissa Broeckelman-Post (MBP) called the meeting to order at 3:02pm.

II. Approval of the Minutes of September 27, 2023: Approved as posted.

III. Opening Remarks
- An updated agenda was posted today with some new announcements.

IV. Committee Reports
- Senate Standing Committees
  - Executive Committee (MBP)
    - At our last meeting we spent time with Provost Walsh and Whitney Owen talking about strategic direction, and some of the dashboards that are being put into place. We also talked about several other things that we'll talk about in other committee reports, particularly around the Gallup Survey and annual evaluations.
  - Academic Policies (Kerri LaCharite)
    - Reminder that summer session is affected by Juneteenth and July 4th holidays and whether that affected the minimum Carnegie requirements for semester length. Registrar’s office confirmed that the addition of Juneteenth will not affect these requirements.
  - Budget and Resources (Delton Daigle)
    - Zoom recording from October 4th budget town hall is now available on the Faculty Senate website. Thanks to Deb Dickenson. There is interest among the Executive Committee in having an annual budget update going forward.
  - Faculty Matters (Mohan Venigalla/Solon Simmons)
    - Colleges and LAUs are working on revising bylaws and faculty evaluation procedures are being revised with an April 2024 deadline
      - A lot of units don’t have bylaws.
      - Encourage faculty to reach out to their senators or FM committee members for questions or concerns about development of bylaws.
      - Handbook is revisited every year via Handbook Committee.
      - Interesting question around how the Handbook Committee interfaces with FM and Faculty Affairs and Development and how to get issues on the handbook committee docket. If you have noticed anything in the handbook that isn’t working well, bring it to FM committee and we will try to get it on the docket, as we don’t currently have a good mechanism
• One example is that the handbook is friendly to the idea that leadership can be considered in promotion from associate to full for tenured professors, but not clear that units are set up to take this into consideration in a systematic way.
• Also encourage senators to reach out to colleagues and convey these messages so that we can get feedback and take action where needed.

• Nominations (Bijan Jabbari) – no report.

**Other Committees/Faculty Representatives**

- Adult Learning and Executive Education Committee
- Research Advisory Committee
- Writing Across the Curriculum
- Academic Initiatives Committee (Alan Abramson)
  - Initial meeting with Janette Muir and Provost’s Office – intro to initiatives that are on the table and are at various stages of development or consideration (caution: some of these may not end up going anywhere)
    - Micro-credentialing: programs that are not full degrees (e.g. certificates?)
    - Academic integrity issues and honor code, especially around generative AI
    - Possible expansion into India
    - Possible medical school
    - Facilitating interdisciplinary teaching and collaboration, use of AI

V. **New Business**: None.

VI. **Announcements**

- Interim Provost Walsh (KW)
  - Delighted to have an opportunity to join the meeting
  - Met with provosts from across the Commonwealth at VT this week, discussed broader issues affecting institutions in VA.
    - Lots of interest in focusing on delivery and facilitation of experiential learning opportunities—within the administration there is a particular interest in expanding internship experiences.
    - Shared concerns around resource levels, although Mason still faces most significant challenge here.
    - Shared interest in working together to support our collective student bodies and the state more broadly—e.g. expanding collaborations, outreach from University of Mary Washington that led to an MOU around collaborative opportunities (e.g. combined ROTC units, collaborative BAM programs, shared library resources).
Mason crossed the 40,000 student barrier this year, placing us as the first university in the Commonwealth to cross this line, and our ratings news this year was also very good – substantial movement, strong argument depending on which system you use for placing us among the top 50 public universities in the country. President Washington points out that we would be the top university in 21 states based on our rankings. This is a testament to long-term hard work on the part of our faculty and staff, as well as changes to the rankings that emphasize social mobility much more—this change advantages a university like Mason substantially.

Questions:

- Senator Alan Abramson: Any updates from last board meeting? In particular, addressing rumors around Heritage DEI report and law school being excluded from budget cuts. Want to know about the facts vs rumors here.
  - The report from the Heritage Foundation was timely for the last board meeting and there is a committee that will be trying to get to the bottom of some of the issues raised. There will be a report on this at the next board meeting. I can’t speak to the details of where they are on that but it will be addressed at the November 30th meeting.
  - MBP: Visitor Witeck and I are both part of this committee and will be having our first meeting on Friday.
  - A lot of the discussion around the Law School budget was in closed session. I understand the interest in this, and would suggest that we find out what we’re at liberty to talk about and bring it back to the next Senate meeting if that’s acceptable.

- Senator Tim Gibson: It’s not really a rumor that the Law School was exempted from the budget cuts – this was announced publicly in the budget meeting. What are the rules/laws around what can be reported out regarding what goes on in closed session?
  - Senator Mohan Venigalla: I represent the faculty on the Finance and Land Use committee of the Board and we were not part of the closed session. The rules are that non-voting members can be asked to leave.
  - Visitor Bob Witeck: I think we’re going to end up in a place where we have to report back at the next Senate meeting. Much of the discussion took place in closed session and the decision was made in the open session, but I hope that we can be more forthcoming at the next session so that we can be open with the university. These are very important conversations and we take them very seriously. We had limited time to make a choice in the open session but were not at
liberty to bring all the details we discussed in closed session to that meeting.

- Interim Provost Walsh: We’ll commit to getting an answer on this question – would like to share more about this in the next meeting.

- Senator Zachary Schrag: Would like to know more about the public status of the MOU with University of Mary Washington, and how faculty governance plays into this and other future relationships – to what extent was the faculty involved and could be involved going forward?
  
  - KW: No reason the MOU itself should be secret and we can work out with Melissa how to share it. It’s fairly generic – doesn’t offer specifics about how the arrangements will be implemented. We see potential for faculty engagement around details of how BAM programs might work etc. All these details have to come through the regular curriculum process, so anticipate faculty involvement in these processes.

- Janette Muir: We are having a summit on Friday that was requested by the provost at UMW – he will be bringing deans and we will be inviting some of ours from relevant units to start these conversations.

- EVP Dickenson
  
  - Tim Gibson is correct that we did publicly announce the exemption of the Law School from the FY24 budget cuts, with the difference coming from Mason reserves. This is as much as I can say at this point.
  
  - As you know, we have been working on state-level messaging about our financial situation and shortfall. We are seeing some progress with the state – at least with SCHEV, not necessarily the Commonwealth yet, but there is finally an acknowledgement by SCHEV after reviewing all the universities’ 6-year plans that Mason has a funding disparity and $18 million deficit. They are also looking at providing funding for Virginia military dependents (which we currently cover the cost of) and additional equipment. This is exciting, but ultimately up to the Governor and may be affected by the upcoming election. But these recommendations from SCHEV give us some momentum.
    
    - I will be attending meetings of Chief Business Officers in the next week and expect updates on this report. I anticipate that action will be required on the part of the Commonwealth.

    - Many of you have reached out to ask what you can do to help with this – thank you. We commit to sending faculty a draft letter to use as a template for outreach to legislators to help encourage the Governor to support SCHEV’s recommendations. This is coming up in December – very soon. This will just be suggested language, but we will be coordinating with Government Relations to come up with ideas for
faculty, staff, and students. This is the time to advocate for Mason and the next 4 weeks will be critical.

- We have hired a new VP of HR/CHRO, Mary Lucal from the University of Tennessee. She brings a broad level of experience and ideas and I think you are all going to enjoy working with her. We’ll work on introductory schedule of meetings so you can get to know her.

- Questions:
  - Jack Fedak (student government representative): What does the shortfall stand at today? We are getting different numbers.
    - There will be a forecast in the November Finance and Land Use meeting – encourage attendance, hopefully will be an open meeting. The shortfall today stands in the $31 million range.
  - Mohan – the document is on the Faculty Senate website as well.

- **VPHR Announcement**
- **Government Relations Office Update**
- **Provost Search**
- **Mason Bookstore** (Alexis Beard, Assistant Textbook Manager and Jack Smith, Bookstore Manager and Inclusive Access coordinator)
  - Importance of getting book orders in for Spring semester.
    - Orders are due November 1. We are flexible with this deadline for new faculty and those who are still figuring out books – we just ask that you reach out to us and communicate your needs so we can work with you.
    - Benefits of getting orders in early
      - Maximizing used books and rentals – we shop around to get as many as possible, so there are cheaper options for students. Students are more likely to buy books ahead of time when cheaper books are available, so they are better prepared for the first day of classes.
      - We also have students here whose courses and course materials are paid for by external organizations (e.g. VA, Medstar for nursing students etc) – books need to be in our textbook database for these students to get funding for these materials approved.
    - First Day program (also referred to as Inclusive Access) – for faculty using e-books or electronic courseware can be delivered digitally and directly through Blackboard. We work with faculty and directly with publishers. The benefit to students is that publishers agree to provide the materials digitally at the lowest possible price, and are available via Blackboard on the first day of class. The deadline for Spring has already passed to add courses, but we want to raise awareness of this option for future semesters.
• This program has been available for about 3 years and is slowly growing: 33 courses, 171 sections, over 9,000 students.
• Students have the option to opt out, but our opt-out rate is less than 1% - good way to ensure materials reach students.
• One rule is that if a course has multiple sections, all sections need to participate because the program operates via a course fee charged to the student’s account.
  ▪ Can submit book orders via AIP portal (available via Blackboard) or feel free to email us at bookstor@gmu.edu (“bookstore” without the e).

- Government and Community Relations
- Faces of Resilience
- Student Senate Resolution (Jack Fedak)
  o Student Senate passed a resolution last week looking for consensus on AI use in the classroom.
  o Student Senate generally has positive sentiments toward AI and support its use in the classroom for proper purposes, as deemed by colleges and departments. Each college/department should set its own policies around what constitutes proper use, but want to ensure it is acknowledged.
    ▪ MBP: This has also been passed to Academic Policies
    ▪ Senator Delton Daigle: Note that AI is commonly used to denote “academic integrity” – would recommend using the full language of “artificial intelligence” in this policy to avoid confusion, as the two concepts are related in this context.
    ▪ Senator Michelle Boardman: The Law School has instituted a uniform policy that we anticipate changing every year as we learn more, but one thing we recommend considering is distinguishing between generative and extractive AI – in law we have been working for years with extractive AI to pull information from cases etc, whereas generative AI creates text that didn’t exist before.
    ▪ Senator Tim Gibson: Thank you to Jack and Student Senate for bringing this to our attention and appreciate hearing that students want faculty to consider possible benefits of AI and how it might be used in future vs a blanket ban.
  ▪ Jack Fedak can be contacted for questions at jfedak@gmu.edu.

- MEIS and ACGIS Teach-In
- OER (Tom Butler)
  o About 18 months ago, the university started an initiative to expand the number of courses that use open ed resources in our courses, and something that a lot of folks are not aware of is that your scheduling coordinator can work with our scheduling team to apply an attribute to that section, so that it tells the student that an OER component is part of that curriculum in the offering. So as soon as we apply that as viewable in the course search, and also helps the library track the kind of trending that we have in this space. We
do have dozens of courses that have done this, but it hasn’t gained the traction that they’re hoping for, so happily forward an email. It’s a very simple process for your scheduling coordinators, but it also allows the library to fully understand what they’re doing in this space and to help inform the broader initiative that the state is undergoing for OER. Again, it’s only 2, 3 semesters in and 18 months old, but they, much like the library, are focused on trying to do as much for our students at as low cost as possible, so I’m happy to share that in the instructions.

VII. Remarks for the Good of the General Faculty

- Senator Tim Gibson: Question/comment about the provost search. What does the process look like and will finalists be made available to the general faculty for Q&A per the faculty handbook.
  - MBP: We are meeting with the search firm on November 1 prior to listening sessions so haven’t made these decisions/had these conversations yet. We do have a website available and will be holding listening sessions in person on November 1 and via Zoom in the morning and evening of November 2. Will share what we can when we can.
  - There is also a survey link on the website – ask that everyone uses the survey to share thoughts about what we’re looking for as well as possible nominees.
- Senator Eugene Kontorovich: In the weeks since the massacre in Israel there have been events on campus where students have celebrated the perpetrators. I think this raises questions about our DEI policies and how safe people feel on campus. Some of the students have been wearing masks and Virginia has a law around not wearing masks during protests, so also concerned about compliance with this state law.
  - Nobody available to directly answer the question – Deb Dickenson volunteered to send question to Julie Zobel.
- Keith Renshaw – Stearns Center has an excellent resource on generative AI.

VIII. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 4:00pm. The spillover meeting scheduled for November 8 is cancelled.

Respectfully submitted,
Charlotte Gill, Faculty Senate Secretary
APPENDIX A
OTHER COMMITTEES

Adult Learning and Executive Education Committee
Submitted by Evelyn Tomaszewski

Members: Victoria M Grady; Janet M Ha; Sabari Rajan Karmegam; David S Koo; Evelyn Tomaszewski; Heather L Walter

The Adult Learning and Executive Education Committee met on September 27, 2023. In addition to meeting one another, the members discussed the committee charge and the experience and expertise each bring to the committee. It was agreed that the group would benefit from a meeting with the Office of the Provost (per the committee charge), and are working to schedule a meeting.

Research Advisory Committee
Submitted by Burak Tanyu

Members: John Dale, Charlotte Gill, Amira Roess, Rashmi Sadana, Jie Zhang, Burak Tanyu, Allison Landsberg, and Tara Chaplin

Date of Update: October 12, 2023

As a committee we had the pleasure to meet with Dr. Andre Marshall in October. Dr. Marshall has agreed to meet with us at least twice a semester and we have already set a follow-up meeting date in November.

As a committee, we are currently doing information gathering to compile and identify what we want to focus on addressing in the coming months. We are actively communicating with each other as a committee.

Writing Across the Curriculum
Submitted by Tom Polk

The WAC Committee convened for the first time this academic year on October 18, 2023. Members elected Seth Hudson and Thomas Polk as co-chairs. Following, members reviewed WAC milestones stretching back to the 1977 Faculty Senate’s Literacy Task Force, the establishment of the WI requirement in 1990, and involvement in assessment and curriculum planning in the 2000s. This conversation offered context for members’ review of the WAC Committee’s new charge and the establishment of priorities for the upcoming year.
APPENDIX B
ANNOUNCEMENTS

VPHR Announcement

Colleagues,

I am pleased to announce Mason’s new Vice President of Human Resources and Chief Human Resources Officer, Mary Lucal, Ph.D., who was selected following a national search.

Mary joins Mason from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, where she currently serves as the Associate Vice Chancellor of Human Resources and CHRO. As a strategic, data-driven leader, Mary has implemented significant change and modernization initiatives at UTK, including the creation of HR’s first Strategic Plan, redesigning core HR business functions, implementation of inclusive leadership programs, a transition to market-based compensation, and the creation of a real-time HR Dashboard.

I would like to thank John Sanders for his steadfast interim HR leadership, whose last day with Mason will be October 26, as previously scheduled. Whitney Owen, Executive Director of University Business Consulting, will serve as Interim VP & CHRO, until Mary joins in December.

Mary will be joining Mason at a time of tremendous opportunity, as we continue to pursue improved performance and efficiency, building on such recent HR accomplishments as a revised performance management process, the launch of performance-based pay for faculty, and the implementation of a new applicant tracking system. I would like to thank everyone for the partnership and continued dedication during this prolonged transition.

Mary will officially start on December 11, 2023. Please join me in welcoming her to Mason.

Sincerely,
Deb Dickenson
Executive Vice President for Finance and Administration
Government Relations Office Update

Today I am giving you an update on our state government relations work in Richmond. It is with mixed emotions that I am sharing with you an update on Mark Smith who after more than 10 years leading George Mason University’s activities in Richmond, will be retiring from public service in December.

Since joining Mason, Mark has helped redefine how the university is seen and engaged with key stakeholders from across the Commonwealth of Virginia. Mark has helped leadership navigate the challenges of being a state agency and steadfastly led our legislative efforts. The successes he has helped lead have been great and are quite eye-opening, including the capital projects which delivered Peterson Family Hall, Horizon Hall, the Fuse Building as well as the Life Sciences and Engineering Building. The work to secure pay raises, increases in operating funds have been momentous, but perhaps the greatest success has been the effort to deliver significant increases in financial aid at levels unseen in Virginia. This has helped so many needy and worthy students and is a legacy that will help generations of students that come to Mason.

As Mark winds down his time at Mason, it is important to know that we are fortunate enough to have a transition in leadership. I am pleased to announce that Lauren Posey, who joined Mason in 2022 after more than a decade at the federal lobbying level, will be leading our office in Richmond.

Please join me in congratulating Mark on a job well done and welcome Lauren to her new position at Mason.

Paul

Paul Liberty
George Mason University
Office of the President
Vice President, Government and Community Relations
pliberty@gmu.edu

Provost Search

The Provost Search website is now live at https://www.gmu.edu/provost-search. An announcement about our upcoming Listening Sessions will be coming soon!
Why do we collect book orders so early?

1. More cost-saving solutions available
   We are able to provide a broader range of course material options so you can choose different formats and price points. In addition, First Day® inclusive access course require we know course materials by a set deadline and will not be successful without an adoption commitment from faculty.

2. Fewer backorders lead to better student preparedness
   It can take a few weeks from the time you submit your order until the time we receive your books from the publishers, so books ordered too late may not be available to students on the first day of class. We still have this semester’s books in store and if we know a book we have in stock will be used next semester, we can keep it until then.

As such, our deadline is November 1st

How to order your books:

Option 1: Use our portal at aip.bncollege.com
   1. Select George Mason University and press Proceed
   2. Use Net ID and password to login

   Note: If you are ordering for multiple classes, please email Jared (jprebish@gmu.edu) after initial sign in. He will then update your credentials to allow ordering for multiple classes.

Option 2: Send us an email or reply to the email we sent you
   Subject: Courses and sections
   Body: Books required/recommended with the ISBN

IMPORTANT: Make sure the books you order are the same as on your syllabus. If a new edition is available, publishers may not keep the older edition in stock.
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- 61% Students who reported feeling unprepared on the first day of class
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For more information:
https://www.bncollege.com/academic-solutions/first-day-complete/
Or contact us
3 Ways Mason Employees and Students can Collaborate with GCR to Engage Government and the Community

The Office of Government and Community Relations (GCR) paves the path to successful interactions with federal, state, and local governments, as well as community groups.

Connecting with Government Officials

GCR facilitates engagement with government officials to advance Mason’s public policy positions, provides insight on appropriate protocols for interacting with government officials, and collaborates with faculty/staff to invite elected leaders to campus.

Community Outreach

GCR shares information about ongoing Mason services and resources via Discover Mason guides, activities/events impacting our neighbors, and more. Faculty/staff can also share their expertise via the Mason Speakers bureau.

Chamber of Commerce Engagement

GCR manages the university’s Chamber of Commerce memberships and assists faculty/staff to connect with chamber activities.

Contact Us

Paul Liberty, Vice President, Government and Community Relations | 703-993-8860 | pliberty@gmu.edu
Kerry Bolognese, Federal Government Relations | 703-993-7710 | kbolognese@gmu.edu
Mark Smith, State Government Relations | 804-786-2216 | msmith@gmu.edu
Lauren Posey, State Government Relations | 804-786-2217 | lposey@gmu.edu
Community and Local Government Relations:
Tom Andrews, Alexandria and Arlington | 703-993-9817 | tamandrews7@gmu.edu
Traci Kendal, Fairfax City, Fairfax County, Manassas City, Manassas Park, and Prince William
703-993-8846 | tkendal@gmu.edu
Faces of Resilience

Mason Exhibitions is pleased to announce the Faces of Resilience exhibition on view in Buchanan Hall Atrium Gallery until November 3! This exhibition features artwork by currently and formerly incarcerated artists involved in art-making programs offered by the Barnes Foundation and Mural Arts Philadelphia.

Events in October:

1) **Friday, October 13, 7-9pm** in the Johnson Center Cinema: **Film Screening of "13th" Documentary**
   a) The cinematographer, Hans Charles, is a faculty member and will say a few words before we start the film. This film highlights the connection between historic slavery and today's mass incarceration in the US. Food will be provided!
   b) **RSVP**

2) **Saturday, October 14, 10am-5pm** in D025 of Buchanan Hall: **Art & Incarceration Symposium**
   a) Two artists in the exhibition will be presenting, as well as other practicing artists and scholars who engage with the criminal justice system and advocate for reform. Food will be provided throughout the day!
   b) **RSVP**

3) **Friday, October 20, 7-9pm** in the Johnson Center Cinema: **Film Screening of "Art of Incarceration" Documentary**
   a) In partnership with the Native American and Indigenous Alliance, this film will cover art-making programs that are offered at prisons in Australia, emphasizing that the majority of inmates in Australia are Indigenous. Food will be provided!
   b) **RSVP**

4) **Thursday, October 26, 4:45-6:30pm** in Enterprise Hall room 80: **Visual Voices Artist Talk with Sherrill Roland**
   a) Sherrill Roland was incarcerated as a teen and later exonerated! He became an artist and will present on how experiences in prison and how his art practice engages justice-issues.
   b) **RSVP**
A Resolution to Support a Uniform AI Policy in the Mason Classroom Environment

R. #22

44th STUDENT SENATE
1st Session
R. #22

A Resolution to Support a Uniform AI Policy in the Mason Classroom Environment

IN THE STUDENT SENATE OF GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

October 4th, 2023

Sponsored by: Senator Babar
Co-Sponsored by: Speaker McAulay, Chair Sheikholeslami, Clerk Connell
Resolution #22

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

Whereas, there is no current consistent policy regarding the use of AI at George Mason University, and;

Whereas, there is confusion amongst both students and faculty in whether or not AI is allowed in the classroom and to what extent, and;

Therefore, be it resolved, Student Government supports a uniform policy administered by each College in regard to academic integrity, and;

Therefore, be it further resolved, Student Government believes AI should be acknowledged in the Mason classroom environment, and;

Therefore, be it further resolved, the Student Senate requests that professors add a line to their syllabus clarifying their colleges AI policy, and;

Therefore, be it finally resolved, Student Government believes George Mason University should understand how AI is used professionally and to teach it accordingly.

Passed the Student Senate: ________________

Attest:

_________________________  _______________________

Speaker: Colin P. McAulay  Clerk: Austin G. Emery
MEIS and ACGIS Teach-In

Submitted by Bassam Haddad

Dear MEIS and CGIS Communities at GMU,

We hope this announcement finds everyone as well as can be amid very difficult times for all of us and all involved on all fronts. Sadly, we must continue our work as educators despite all.

We are delighted that two of our Mason units that deal directly with the Middle East and Islam (MEIS and ACGIS—listed below) are part of the collective co-organizing this series of teach ins. This week, we are co-organizing with 18 other University Centers and Research Institutes the next installment of our Collaborative Teach In Series on “Gaza in Context.” This Teach In will focus on the broad history of Gaza and how it is situated in the broader context of Palestine. We are joined by three of the most competent and published scholars on the topic. Please feel free to share this announcement.

For those who missed the inaugural teach in last Friday with more than a dozen representatives from participating institutions, you may find the video here:

Gaza 101 Teach In (video below and speakers bios here)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aAKWgcpeYNo&t=2480s

We were fortunate to have had a wide (local, national, and global audience) that surpassed 18,000 viewers on all platforms, demonstrating both the interest in this topic and the comparative advantage of collaborative work, which the Middle East and Islamic Studies Program (as well as Middle East Studies) has led for more than 15 years. We have experienced an unprecedented number of downloads for the first teach in. Thanks to all for your continued support!

bassam
On behalf of MEIS Programming Committee and Program Faculty

Gaza in Context—Session 02: A Collaborative Teach-In Series

GAZA IN HISTORY

FEATURING
BESHARA DOUMANI
ILANA FELDMAN

Moderated by
Sherene Seikaly

26 October 2023
12:00-1:30 PM EST | 7:00 PM Palestine

Watch live here:
Youtube.com/Jadaliyya
Facebook.com/GMUMEIS
October 25, 2023

LIST OF ATTENDEES

136 Total Listed Attendees (42 Senators and 85 Visitors)

9 Additional Visitors attended who chose not to be listed


10 Senators Absent: Alok Berry, Daniel Garrison, Thalia Goldstein, Liling Huang, Lisa Lister, Alexander Monea, Katherine Rosenbusch, Kun Sun, Rebecca Sutter, Anne Verhoeven