

**GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY**  
**AGENDA FOR THE FACULTY SENATE MEETING**  
**February 28, 2024**  
**3:00-4:15 p.m.**

<https://gmu.zoom.us/j/95480664216?pwd=SFNGaVpXREVRWjINdTRjTEpnaVgzUT09> \*

- I. **Call to Order**
- II. **Approval of the Minutes:** February 7, 2024
- III. **Opening Remarks**
- IV. **Committee Reports**
  - A. **Senate Standing Committees**
    - 1. *Executive Committee*
    - 2. *Academic Policies*
    - 3. *Budget and Resources*
    - 4. *Faculty Matters*
    - 5. *Nominations*
    - 6. *Organization and Operations*
      - Revised charge for the Faculty Matters Committee
      - Revised charge for the Academic Appeals Committee
  - B. **Other Committees/Faculty Representatives**
    - i. Grading Process Task Force
- V. **New Business**
- VI. **Announcements**
  - A. Interim Provost Walsh
  - B. EVP Dickenson
  - C. Library Town Halls
  - D. Mason Facilities: Summer Internships for Students
- 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. Click on Zoom link on page 1 of agenda
  
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. Click on Zoom link on page 1 of agenda

**O&O COMMITTEE**  
**CHARGE CHANGES SUBMITTED FOR FEBRUARY 28, 2024 FACULTY SENATE MEETING**

**Faculty Matters Committee**

**Current charge:**

The Committee shall be responsible for studying and for participating—as appropriate—in the formulation and interpretation of University-wide standards and policies on faculty matters, including but not limited to the following:

- A. Initial appointments, rank, renewals, tenure and promotion;
- B. Salaries;
- C. Sabbaticals, leaves, and vacations;
- D. Fringe benefits, including but not limited to financial support for study and/or research by any faculty members;
- E. Teaching loads and other matters of scheduling that impinge on scholarly activities exclusive of teaching;
- F. Evaluation of faculty performance;
- G. Health and safety
- H. Liability and other insurance;
- I. Academic freedom;
- J. Civil rights;
- K. Matters concerning the operating budget of the University.

**Proposed charge (with changes marked):**

The Faculty Matters committee champions the general welfare, professional growth, pecuniary interests, equitable workload distribution, and fair performance evaluations for all faculty. The Committee shall be responsible for ~~studying and for participating~~ collaborating—with other University committees as appropriate—in ~~the formulation and interpretation of~~ interpreting, formulating, and recommending University-wide standards and policies on faculty matters, including but not limited to the following:

- A. Initial appointments, rank, renewals, reappointment, tenure and promotion;
- B. Salaries, stipends, and contract length;
- C. ~~Sabbaticals,~~ Study and professional development leaves, ~~and vacations~~;
- D. ~~Fringe b~~enefits, broadly defined, including ~~but not limited to financial support for study and/or research by any faculty members~~ health and retirement;
- E. Workload policies, including Teaching and service loads ~~and other matters of scheduling that impinge on scholarly activities exclusive of teaching~~;
- F. Evaluation of faculty performance;
- ~~G. Health and safety~~
- ~~H. Liability and other insurance;~~
- I. Academic freedom;
- ~~J. Civil rights;~~
- ~~K. Matters concerning the operating budget of the University.~~
- L. Initiating revisions to Faculty Handbook on existing or new policies related to faculty.

**Proposed charge (clean):**

The Faculty Matters committee champions the general welfare, professional growth, pecuniary interests, equitable workload distribution, and fair performance evaluations for all faculty. The Committee shall be responsible for collaborating—with other University committees as appropriate—in interpreting, formulating, and recommending University-wide standards and policies on faculty matters, including but not limited to the following:

- A. Initial appointments, rank, renewals, reappointment, tenure and promotion;
- B. Salaries, stipends, and contract length;
- C. Study and professional development leaves;
- D. Benefits, broadly defined, including health and retirement;
- E. Workload policies, including teaching and service loads;
- F. Evaluation of faculty performance;
- G. Academic freedom;
- H. Initiating revisions to Faculty Handbook on existing or new policies related to faculty.

## Academic Appeals Committee

### Current charge:

To serve as a final locus for appeal of decisions regarding late withdrawal, late add, suspension and dismissal for academic reasons. At its discretion, the Committee may choose to review other individual cases that are relevant to the application of University-wide policies. Does not hear grade appeals or appeals of Honor Committee decisions. Membership: Five faculty members, including at least one member of the Faculty Senate, and the Provost or his/her designee who will serve in an ex-officio, non-voting capacity.

### Proposed charge (with changes marked):

To serve as a final locus for appeal when exceptions to academic policies granted to undergraduate degree and non-degree seeking students by a college or school are overturned in the Provost's office or when students appeal on the grounds of demonstrable procedural irregularities at the Provost-level of appeal or a questionable application of academic policies. The committee may also serve in an advisory role to the Provost's office for questions about the application of academic policies. ~~of decisions regarding late withdrawal, late add, suspension and dismissal for academic reasons. At its discretion, the Committee may choose to review other individual cases that are relevant to the application of University-wide policies.~~ This committee dDoes **not** hear grade appeals, ~~or~~ appeals of Honor Committee decisions, appeals of Graduate Policies covered under AP.6, or appeals of Research Policies covered under AP/7 in the University Catalog.

Membership: Five faculty members, including at least one member of the Faculty Senate, and the Provost or his/her designee who will serve in an ex-officio, non-voting capacity.

### Proposed charge (clean):

To serve as a final locus for appeal when exceptions to academic policies granted to undergraduate degree and non-degree seeking students by a college or school are overturned in the Provost's office or when students appeal on the grounds of demonstrable procedural irregularities at the Provost-level of appeal or a questionable application of academic policies. The committee may also serve in an advisory role to the Provost's office for questions about the application of academic policies. This committee does **not** hear grade appeals, appeals of Honor Committee decisions, appeals of Graduate Policies covered under AP.6, or appeals of Research Policies covered under AP/7 in the University Catalog.

Membership: Five faculty members, including at least one member of the Faculty Senate, and the Provost or his/her designee who will serve in an ex-officio, non-voting capacity.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Grading Process Task Force

Faculty Senate Report – Submitted February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024 by Seth Hudson

Recent Activity: January 30<sup>th</sup>; Meeting of Full Task Force

Topics covered included next steps in quantitative and qualitative data collection; a review of our plan for the final three semesters of the task force; and, discussion of possible outcomes. Quant and Qual subgroups were tasked with meeting prior to the session.

Updates from working groups:

1. Quantitative Team (focused on Mason): Initial descriptive analysis of Mason final grades (2017-2023) completed; awaiting access to more/other data. During our meeting we discussed the possible need for further analysis factoring in demographic data.
2. Qualitative Team: Developed survey-style collection instrument for syllabus review; initial data collection under way; continued working group sessions outside of Task Force meetings. Plans to conduct textual analysis of catalog language once we have access to “report” containing that data.

#### **Next steps:**

Next meeting scheduled for February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 PM on MS Teams

SAVE THE DATE: April 17<sup>th</sup> Zoom Workshop / Listening Session(s) for Qualitative Data collection

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Library Town Halls

Hello, everyone-

Due to ongoing budget reductions and inflation, the Libraries will need to cancel subscriptions and reduce collection purchases in FY25. We are committed to making these changes with transparency and, wherever possible, input from the university community. In Spring 2024, we will host hybrid town hall meetings open to all faculty. We will also continue talking with faculty in departments, schools, and colleges to discuss specialized resources.

In February, the Libraries will hold two hybrid town hall meetings:

Wednesday, February 28: 1-2 pm

Thursday, February 29: 10-11 am

Please join us in the Fenwick Library Reading Room (room 2001, go up the main staircase to the second floor and make a u-turn) or via Zoom:

February 28: <https://gmu.zoom.us/j/98271840875?pwd=NWg1Nlhnb1hPYTJRVERtcmU2b21FZz09>

February 29: <https://gmu.zoom.us/j/93438539276?pwd=ZEZUbTNtcEVDR2hFaUFQaHRvOHhvdz09>

If you are unable to attend, please share any questions and comments with your subject librarian or fill out this feedback form.

For more information on our collections strategy, cancellations, and other changes, please visit <https://infoguides.gmu.edu/collections>. This information about the town hall meetings will also be distributed to relevant faculty groups by our subject liaisons.

All the best –

Anne.

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## **Mason Facilities: Summer Internships for Students**

Mason Facilities is seeking interns to join our in-person, hands-on program!

Students can gain meaningful and applicable real-world work experiences through specific projects and engagement with Facilities professionals.

### Internship Details:

- 12-week program: May 20 - Aug 9, 2024
- 30 hours a week: a weekly schedule will be set by internship supervisors
- \$16 per hour: paid bi-weekly

### Four Internship Opportunities are Available:

- Land Development (#8450165)
- Design & Construction - Project Management - General (#8449825)
- Design & Construction - Project Management - FUSE (#8450364)
- Communications & Marketing (#8450052)

### Internship Requirements:

- Degree-seeking, rising Sophomores through rising Seniors
- Interns will complete an end-of-program presentation
- Interns will participate in program activities, lectures, and outings

### Apply on Handshake!

Application Deadline: March 1, 2024

*Learn more about Facilities Summer Internship Program [here](#).*