

April 22, 2024

To: Melissa Broeckelman-Post
Faculty Senate President
From: Gene Shuman
Faculty Senate Representative to the Mason Recreation Advisory Board
Subject: Annual Report of the Senate Recreation Advisory Board Representative

During the past academic year the Faculty Senate participation on the Recreation Advisory Board changed from being a committee to being just a single representative. I noted this disconnect between the Senate and Mason Recreation expectations in an email exchange between us on 10/9/23. Mason Recreation would like to maintain a balance of faculty and students on the board, hence their intention of having only a single Senate representative. The issue was eventually referred to Lisa Billingham who, on 11/14/23, said she would work with the O&O Committee on a way forward. I was asked about the workload of the Advisory Board and replied that I thought a single Senate representative plus an alternate would suffice. A full committee was not needed. I agreed to continue serving as the Senate representative to the Board, which is what has transpired since last Fall. My report for AY23-24 is below.

The committee charge (should probably be updated to reflect a single Senate representative):

Recreation Advisory Committee

(Approved by the Faculty Senate – February 9, 2011)

Charge: To act in an advisory capacity in all matters pertaining to faculty and staff use of recreational facilities.

Membership: Three faculty members, three staff members, and three members chosen by Human Resources and Payroll.

Most of the activities of the Board pertain to the operation of the Mason Recreation organization and its physical facilities and has less impact on the wider faculty in comparison with the academic and work condition issues that dominate the Senate meetings. The Board is supposed to meet approximately monthly, although only four meetings were held during the current academic year (10/26/23, 12/5/23, 3/11/24, and 4/15/24). This report gives a summary of what was discussed during those meetings and calls out the items that are likely of interest to the general faculty community.

Below is a summary of issues discussed during meetings this year that are potentially of interest to the Senate and wider faculty community.

Leadership and Staff Vacancies. There were six vacancies at the time of the April 2023 report, the most significant, the Mason Recreation Executive Director, was filled last June with the hiring of Sheldon Tate, formerly the Associate Director of Programs at the University of Missouri. Despite that hiring, there continues to be six vacancies at various levels that Recreation is actively working to fill. The number of vacancies is large, owing in part to the pandemic, but also to a vacancies that predate the pandemic.

Physical plant improvement projects. There are a number of active projects meant to update or improve the physical plant, especially in the West Campus area. There are also a number of maintenance projects at the Aquatic and Fitness Center (AFC), including improvements to the elevators and HVAC system and a new fitness floor.

Pickleball Courts. As reported last year, Recreation converted old basketball courts next to the RAC to eight Pickleball courts, an activity whose popularity has grown significantly in the past few years. The courts opened in July 2023 and are heavily used. Recreation members can use them and passes can be purchased by nonmembers for \$150, although those numbers are limited and are currently at capacity. However, this a fluid situation and can change at any time. Courts can be scheduled and drop-in play can be done if courts are available.

Use of Recreation Facilities by minors. Minor dependents (age 3 – 17) of Mason students, faculty, and staff may use the facilities if a membership pass is purchased, currently for \$200/year or \$10 for a day pass. Use is limited during Fall and Spring semesters to Friday from 4 pm to closing time, Saturday all day, and Sunday from opening to 4 pm. The minor must be accompanied at all times by a parent or guardian and be participating in the same activity. Please read the full policy on the Recreation web site.

Recreation Hall of Fame. Recreation recognizes and honors its high performing past employees with induction into a Hall of Fame. The RAC has a wall in the lobby to hold plaques for those so designated. The Board participates in selecting honorees from a pool of candidates in the Fall semester.

Recreation Employee of the Year. Recreation recognizes one current employee as ‘Employee of the Year’. The Board is asked to vote on that from a pool of candidates provided from the various Recreation areas. Voting took place in April with the 2024 award to be made on 4/30/2024.

A request was made to provide information on the interaction between the GMU President and Provost and the faculty, and was specifically given as four questions. Regarding the Recreation Advisory Board there is nothing to report in this area.