**GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY**

**MINUTES OF THE FACULTY SENATE MEETING**

**December 4, 2024, 3:00-4:15 p.m. | Online Meeting**

*Number of attendees: 158 (*[*List of Names*](#A)*)*

**1. Call to Order**

* **Chair:** Melissa Broeckelman-Post
* The meeting was called to order at 3:02 PM with a quorum present.

**2. Approval of Minutes of November, 2024**

* No corrections to the minutes from the last meeting.
* Minutes stand as submitted.

**3. Announcements**

* **Canvas Opt-In Reminder:**
  + Faculty must opt-in for using Canvas for the next semester, even if they used it in the fall.
  + Summer classes will also be conducted on Canvas.
  + **Speakers:** Delton Daigle, Kevin Dunayer

**4. Committee Reports**

* **Academic Policies:** No report.
* **Budget and Resources:**
  + Encouraged attendance at the Board of Visitors meeting.
  + **Speaker:** Delton Daigle
* **Faculty Matters:** Deferred until after other reports.
* **Nominations:** No report.
* **Organization and Operations:** No report.

**5. Provost and EVP Announcements**

* **Provost Anthony:**
  + Welcomed everyone back and encouraged them to push through the end of the semester.
* **EVP Dickinson:**
  + Highlighted the importance of attending the Finance and Land Use Committee meeting.
  + Introduced the new VP for Finance, Dan Stevens.
  + Thanked outgoing VP for Finance, Sharon Hindley.

**6. Rector Stimson's Address**

* **Technical Issues:** Rector Stimson faced significant technical difficulties while joining the meeting.
* **Topics Discussed:**
  + Importance of visiting different campuses.
  + Critical vacancy review process and budget cuts.
  + Upcoming Board of Visitors meeting and the Calvin principles of institutional neutrality.
  + Role of standardized testing at George Mason University.
* **Q&A Session:**
  + Faculty raised concerns about the Calvin principles, the sudden appearance of action items on the board's agenda, and the implications of Project 2025.
  + Rector Stimson assured that the board follows the law and emphasized the importance of governance and compliance.

**7. Faculty Matters Report**

* **Speaker:** Mohan Venigalla
* **Guest Speaker:** Tom Bluestein
* **Topics Discussed:**
  + Inclusion of the IHRA definition of antisemitism in Policy 1201 and its implications for academic freedom.
  + Legal basis for adopting the IHRA definition and the process for adjudicating complaints under the modified policy.
* **Q&A Session:**
  + Faculty raised questions about the legal analysis behind the policy changes and the involvement of faculty in adjudicating complaints.

**8. Motion to Codify Academic Freedom**

* **Motion:** Request the administration to codify academic freedom as an exception in Policy 1201.
* **Action:** Motion tabled for the next meeting due to time constraints.

**9. Extension of Meeting**

* **Motion:** Extend the meeting by 15 minutes to 4:30 PM.
* **Action:** Motion approved.

**10. Adjournment**

* **Motion:** Adjourn the meeting.
* **Time:** 4:31 PM
* **Action:** Meeting adjourned.

**Next Steps:**

* Faculty to opt-in for Canvas for the next semester.
* Attend the Board of Visitors meeting for updates on budget and policy discussions.
* Follow up on the motion to codify academic freedom in Policy 1201 at the next meeting.

**Minutes Prepared By:** Mohan Venigalla (with help from CoPilot)  
**Date:** 1/16/2025

**December 4, 2024**

**LIST OF ATTENDEES**

**158 Total Attendees (Senators and Visitors)**

**40 Senators Present:** Supriya Baily, Ioannis Bellos, Alok Berry, Lee Black, Melissa Broeckelman-Post, Jamie Clark, Richard Craig, Tim Curby, Delton Daigle, John Dale, Sebahattin Demirkan, Kevin Dunayer, Kelly Dunne, Douglas Eyman, Daniel Garrison, Tim Gibson, Victoria Grady, Seth Hudson, Jessica Hurley, Eugene Kontorovich, Kerri LaCharite, Siona Listokin, Tamara Maddox, Alexandra Masterson, Laurie Miller, Alexander Monea, ThanhVu Nguyen, Valerie Olmo, Robert Osgood, Anna Pollack, Greg Robinson, Catherine Sausville, Zachary Schrag, Cristiana Stan, Caroline Sutter, Anthony Terrell, Benoit Van Aken, Mohan Venigalla, David Wong, Jie Zhang

**12 Senators Absent:** Supriya Baily, Jehanzeb Cheema, Doris Davis, Ed Gero, Thalia Goldstein, Aditya Johri, Melanie Knapp, Pierre Rodgers, Ellen Rowe, Solon Simmons, Debra Stroiney, Abbas Zaidi

**3 Ex-officio Senators Present:** Ann Ardis, Anne Osterman, Melissa Perry

**115 Guests Present:** Benoit Aken, Paul Allvin, Elizabeth Alman, LaShonda Anthony, James Antony, Jaimie Appleton, Marie Arnold, Alex Baker, Melanie Balog, Dominique Banville, Jennifer Beck-Wilson, Matthew Berlejung, Lisa Billingham, Heidi Blackburn, Tom Bluestein, Ryan Braun, Lisa Breglia, Alecia Bryan, Crystal Buckley, Jacqueline Burek, Derek Butler, Tom Butler, Xiaomei Cai, Martha Cardoza, Carlos Chism, Davita Colclough, Jacqueline Connor, Liz Connors, Raeshelle Cooke, Sharon Cullen, Pooja Das, Shannon Davis, Deb Dickenson, Kim Dight, Fatou Diouf, Cheryl Druehl, Gesele Durham, Kim Eby, Aketa Emptage, Robert Faber, James Finkelstein, Marcy Glover, Renate Guilford, Tamara Harvey, Sharon Heinle, Sara Heming, Kristin Heydt, Daniel Houser, Ginny Hoy, Kimberly Jackson Davidson, Yingji Jin, Kristin Johnsen-Neshati, Lorena Jordan, Dawn Kelley, Maoria Kirker, Nick Kirkvarro, Haagen Klaus, Teresa KlockTaube, Misty Krell, Vin Lacovara, Andrew Lane, Amy Lebrecht, Bethany Letiecq, Paul Liberty, Michelle Lim, Bronwyn Longchamp, Ingrid Lopez, Stephanie Lowe, Loretta Lynn, Julia Madeleine, Sophia Marshall, Jenna McGwin, Doug McKenna, Kim Meltzer, Jenny Meslener, Lynn Miller, Janette Muir, Bobbi Nelson, Shá Norman, Melanie O'Brien, Beth Olchowski, Rene O'Neal, Sarah Parnell, Thomas Polk, Laura Poms, Shelley Reid, Keith Renshaw, Lauren Reuscher, Suzanne Rigdon, Marguerite Rippy, Chris Rzengota, Mohammad Salama, Susan Sandler, Sheena Serslev, Kylie Sertic, Julia Shadur, John Shortle, Jacquelyn Sims, Cully Stimson, Tammy Stitz, Frank Strike, Rebecca Sutter, Burak Tanyu, Cathy Tompkins, Amanda Torres, Jacelyn Tyson, Eleanor Weis, Janette Williams, Michelle Williams, Preston Williams, Paige Wolf, Elizabeth Woodley, Courtney Wooten, Claire Wurmfeld, Phillip Zane