

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY
AGENDA FOR THE FACULTY SENATE MEETING
April 2, 2025
3:00-4:15 p.m.
<https://gmu.zoom.us/j/92816138597> *

- I. Call to order
- II. Approval of the Minutes:
March 19, 2025
- III. Opening Remarks & Announcements from the Senate President
 - A. Announcements
- IV. Committee Reports
 - A. Academic Policies
 - i. AP 1.3.4 - Repeating a Course (vote)
 - ii. AP 1.4.4 - Graduate Course Enrollment by Undergraduates (vote)
 - iii. AP 1.4.6 - Enrolling for Credit Without Grade Points (Satisfactory/No Credit) (vote)
 - iv. AP.2.5 - Course Syllabi (vote)
 - B. Budget and Resources
 - C. Faculty Matters
 - i. Draft Resolution on Policy 1201
 - D. Nominations
 - i. Please apply for all positions that have circulated
 - E. Organization and Operations
 - F. Faculty Handbook
 - § 2.11.2.2 Grievance Procedures (vote)
 - § 2.8.5 Remand Process (vote)
- V. New Business
- VI. Remarks for the Good of the General Faculty
- VII. 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
- 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 Academic Policy Changes

AP.1.3.4 Repeating a Course

Some undergraduate and graduate level courses are annotated in the catalog as "repeatable for credit." These are courses which students may repeat and receive additional credit for each time the course is taken. The maximum number of credits is specified in each course's description. Special topics and independent study courses are examples. All grades and credits earned are included in the calculation of the student's GPA up to the maximum allowable credits. In cases where the student has exceeded allowable credits in a repeatable class, the grade and credits of the earliest registration of the class for which credit was earned will not be included in the calculation of the cumulative GPA but will remain on the transcript. Effective July 1, 2011, Federal Regulations no longer allow federal student aid funds to apply to courses that a student has already taken twice with a passing grade. This limitation does not include courses that are "repeatable for credit," as described above. Students should contact the [Office of Student Financial Aid](#) to determine how repeated coursework would affect their financial aid eligibility.

Academic programs may have more restrictive limits. A W does not count as a graded attempt. This policy applies only to repeating the same course, or courses that are designated in the catalog as equivalent. Academic programs may restrict all students from repeating certain courses. All courses taken, and their grades, remain part of the student's transcript. The exclusion of earlier grades and credits from the calculation of the graduate cumulative GPA will not change the academic standing for the earlier semester. A grade in a Mason course will not be excluded from the GPA based on taking an equivalent course at another university.

At the Undergraduate Level

Undergraduate students (degree-seeking or non-degree) may repeat undergraduate courses that are not repeatable for credit. There is a limit of three graded attempts for all courses. Academic programs may have more restrictive limits. A W does not count as a graded attempt. This policy applies only to repeating the same course, or courses that are designated in the catalog as equivalent. Academic programs may restrict all students from repeating certain courses or restrict students from repeating high-demand courses for the purpose of improving a satisfactory grade. Academic programs may restrict repeats of certain courses by students in their major. Excessive repeats may result in termination from the major. (See [AP 5.2.4 Termination from the Major.](#)) Appeals to this policy begin with the student's academic advisor. The grade received in a repeated course will replace the earlier grade in the calculation of the GPA, even if the more recent grade is lower. Duplicate credit is not earned. All courses taken and their grades remain part of the student's transcript. The exclusion of earlier grades and credits from the calculation of the GPA will not change the academic standing or dean's list notations for the earlier semester. A grade in a Mason course will not be excluded from the GPA based on taking an equivalent course at another university.

At the Graduate Level

Graduate students who have earned a satisfactory grade in a course that is not repeatable for credit, as noted in the catalog, are not permitted to repeat the course without approval from the dean or director of the College/School and the Graduate Division. Grades of B- and higher are considered satisfactory unless the academic program specifies a higher minimum

satisfactory grade in their program requirements as noted in the catalog. Students must obtain permission from their academic program to repeat a course that is listed in the catalog as not repeatable for credit and in which they have earned an unsatisfactory grade. Each unit establishes criteria for granting such permission.

When a course is repeated by a graduate student, the last grade received will replace any earlier grade in the calculation of the graduate cumulative GPA, even if the most recent grade is lower. Duplicate credit is not earned. When a course is repeated, the grades of all credits attempted count towards eligibility for academic warning, probation, termination, or dismissal. Only one grade per course may apply towards a conferred graduate degree; however, the transcript will show grades for all courses attempted. Any earlier attempts of a course listed as not repeatable for credit are excluded from graduate cumulative GPA calculation.

AP.1.3.4 Repeating a Course

Some undergraduate and graduate level courses are annotated in the catalog as "repeatable for credit." These are courses which students may repeat and receive additional credit for each time the course is taken. The maximum number of credits is specified in each course's description. Special topics and independent study courses are examples. All grades and credits earned are included in the calculation of the student's GPA up to the maximum allowable credits. In cases where the student has exceeded allowable credits in a repeatable class, the grade and credits of the earliest registration of the class for which credit was earned will not be included in the calculation of the cumulative GPA but will remain on the transcript. Effective July 1, 2011, Federal Regulations no longer allow federal student aid funds to apply to courses that a student has already taken twice with a passing grade. This limitation does not include courses that are "repeatable for credit," as described above. Students should contact the Office of Student Financial Aid to determine how repeated coursework would affect their financial aid eligibility.

At the Undergraduate Level

Undergraduate students (degree-seeking or non-degree) may repeat undergraduate courses that are not repeatable for credit. There is a limit of three graded attempts for all courses. Academic programs may have more restrictive limits. A W does not count as a graded attempt. This policy applies only to repeating the same course, or courses that are designated in the catalog as equivalent. Academic programs may restrict all students from repeating certain courses or restrict students from repeating high-demand courses for the purpose of improving a satisfactory grade. Academic programs may restrict repeats of certain courses by students in their major. Excessive repeats may result in termination from the major. (See AP 5.2.4 Termination from the Major.) Appeals to this policy begin with the student's academic advisor.

The grade received in a repeated course will replace the earlier grade in the calculation of the GPA, even if the more recent grade is lower. Duplicate credit is not earned. All courses taken and their grades remain part of the student's transcript. The exclusion of earlier grades and credits from the calculation of the GPA will not change the academic standing or dean's list notations for the earlier semester. A grade in a Mason course will not be excluded from the GPA based on taking an equivalent course at another university.

At the Graduate Level

Graduate students who have earned a satisfactory grade in a course that is not repeatable for credit, as noted in the catalog, are not permitted to repeat the course for replacement credit without approval from the dean or director of the College/School and the Graduate Division. Grades of B- and higher are considered satisfactory unless the academic program specifies a higher minimum satisfactory grade in their program requirements as noted in the catalog. Students must obtain permission from their academic program to repeat a course that is listed in the catalog as not repeatable for credit and in which they have earned an unsatisfactory grade. Each unit establishes procedures criteria for granting such permission.

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Academic programs may have more restrictive limits. A W does not count as a graded attempt. This policy applies only to repeating the same course, or courses that are designated in the catalog as equivalent. Academic programs may restrict all students from repeating certain courses.

All courses taken, and their grades, remain part of the student's transcript. The exclusion of earlier grades and credits from the calculation of the graduate cumulative GPA will not change the academic standing for the earlier semester. A grade in a Mason course will not be excluded from the GPA based on taking an equivalent course at another university.

Effective July 1, 2011, Federal Regulations no longer allow federal student aid funds to apply to courses that a student has already taken twice with a passing grade. This limitation does not include courses that are "repeatable for credit," as described above. Students should contact the Office of Student Financial Aid to determine how repeated coursework would affect their financial aid eligibility.

AP.1.4.4 Graduate Course Enrollment by Undergraduates

Courses numbered 700 and above are closed to undergraduates. Undergraduates in degree programs may enroll in graduate-level courses 500 to 699 only with written permission, which must be obtained before registration. To enroll in graduate courses for credit applicable to an undergraduate degree, under this policy, undergraduates must have completed all course prerequisites. Enrollment in the graduate course is at the discretion of the course instructor and students must submit the appropriate form.

This policy is not applicable, and written permission is waived for undergraduate students admitted to George Mason combined bachelor's/accelerated master's programs. Such students are referred to AP.6.7. Undergraduates enrolled in graduate courses are eligible to receive only those letter grades applicable to graduate grading. For more information, AP.3 Grading. A minimum grade of B- in a graduate course is required to apply graduate credit towards a George Mason graduate degree or certificate. See AP.6.5.2 for further information.

To enroll in graduate courses for credit that are not applicable to an undergraduate degree and are held in reserve to apply later toward a graduate degree, undergraduates must obtain approval through the appropriate [form](#) for reserve graduate credit. Approval is given only to George Mason seniors within 15 credits of completing undergraduate study who have successfully completed all course prerequisites. In addition, this privilege is normally extended only to seniors who have completed at least 12 credits at the university, have a cumulative GPA of 3.00 or better, and have a major in the local academic unit (LAU) offering the course.

Approval for reserve graduate credit is limited to 6 credits and does not imply approval for admission into a George Mason graduate program or that credit earned will be accepted at another graduate school.

AP.1.4.4 Graduate Course Enrollment by Undergraduates

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Undergraduates in degree programs may enroll in graduate-level courses 500 to 699 only with written permission, which must be obtained before registration. ~~Forms are available at Office of the University Registrar. This policy is not applicable, and w~~

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See for further information.

To enroll in graduate courses for credit applicable to an undergraduate degree, under this policy, undergraduates must have completed all course prerequisites, ~~have exhausted all upper-level undergraduate courses relevant to their educational objectives, and be able to demonstrate the level of maturity required for graduate courses.~~ Enrollment in the graduate course is at the discretion of the course instructor and students must submit the appropriate form.

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~~Undergraduates enrolled in graduate courses are eligible to receive only those letter grades applicable to graduate grading. For more information, AP.3 Grading. Credit for the same course may not be applied to both graduate and undergraduate degrees.~~

AP.2.5 Course Syllabi

All courses at George Mason University are required to have a syllabus available to students from the start of the course. Syllabi must include at least:

- Course-specific structural elements, specifically:
 - Course Number and Title
 - Course Overview - expanded description of the course. If this is a University designated Mason Core, writing intensive (WI), research and scholarship intensive (RS), or notated course, include relevant details.
 - Learning Outcomes
 - Instructor Name and Contact information
 - Meeting Times and Modality
 - Grading Policies, including
 - Grading Schema: Numerical breakdown of A, B, C, etc. (or equivalent for other grading systems)
 - Grade Weights: How assignments/exams count for the final grade
 - Policies that can significantly lower student grades, such as Late Work
 - A statement about allowable and prohibited uses of AI tools, with as much specificity as possible.

- An addendum provided by the University identifying and describing relevant university policies. This addendum is maintained by the Stearns Center, in consultation with the Faculty Senate Academic Policies Committee. Each syllabus must include either the addendum in full or a link to the online version of that addendum. A link on a university-supported learning management system used by the course satisfies this requirement.

A syllabus template will be available for instructors, though its usage is not required. Colleges and Local Academic Units may have more specific requirements regarding the syllabi of courses from within their units, in which case those also apply.

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Colleges and Local Academic Units may have more specific requirements regarding the syllabi of courses from within their units, in which case those also apply.

AP.1.4.6 Enrolling for Credit Without Grade Points (Satisfactory/No Credit)

Courses normally graded as satisfactory/no credit (S/NC) are annotated in the catalog; however, students may elect to take credit without grade points. Undergraduates may take up to 6 credits to be graded S/NC; this option applies only to electives outside the field of the major, concentration, minor, general education requirement, or certificate program. Graduate students may elect the S/NC grade option only for courses that do not apply to the degree or certificate requirements. For more information, see [AP.3.3 Additional Grade Notations](#).

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Appendix B

The Faculty Matters Committee

Proposed Draft Resolution on UP 1201.

Up for vote at the Faculty Senate Meeting, April 2, 2025

WHEREAS, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 states that “no individual, on the basis of race, color, national origin, shall be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination in, a Federally assisted program or activity,” and

WHEREAS, on May 7, 2024, the US Department of Education expressed concern for “students and school community members who are or are perceived because of their shared ancestry or ethnic characteristics to be Jewish, Israeli, Muslim, Arab, Sikh, South Asian, Hindu, Palestinian, or any other faith or ancestry,” and

WHEREAS, the August 27, 2024 revision of University Policy 1201 does not address all such discrimination equally, and

WHEREAS, the IHRA definition of anti-Semitism and examples do not by themselves provide clear guidance on distinguishing anti-Semitism from legitimate political speech and action concerning Zionism, Israel, and Palestine,

RESOLVED, That the Faculty Senate calls on President Washington to update University Policy 1201 to:

- Remove the sentence, “The ACC office will consider the IHRA definition of anti-Semitism and examples (as set forth in U.S. Executive Order 13899 and Chapter 471 of the 2023 Virginia Acts of Assembly) to the extent that they might be useful as evidence of discriminatory intent, without diminishing or infringing any right protected under the Constitution and laws of the United States and the Commonwealth of Virginia.”
- Replace that sentence with the passage: “The Office of Access, Compliance, and Community will take care to prevent discrimination against students and school community members who are or are perceived because of their shared ancestry or ethnic characteristics to be Jewish, Israeli, Muslim, Arab, Sikh, South Asian, Hindu, Palestinian, or any other faith or ancestry, without diminishing or infringing any right protected under the Constitution and laws of the United States and the Commonwealth of Virginia. In doing so, the DEI office will consider the IHRA definition of anti-Semitism and examples, the Jerusalem Declaration on Antisemitism, The Nexus Document: Understanding Antisemitism at its Nexus with Israel and Zionism, and other relevant scholarly guidelines.

- Add language to the accompanying procedure requiring the Office of Access, Compliance, and Community to consult with faculty with relevant academic expertise when academic appropriateness or academic freedom is implicated.¹

¹ This language is based on University of California, Anti-Discrimination Policy, as revised August 29, 2024.

2.11.2.2 Grievance Procedures (vote)

Proposed Language

2.11.2.2 Grievance Procedures

1. Grievance procedures for all Grievance Committees must adhere to the following basic elements.
 - a. The faculty member initiates a grievance by filing a written statement of the grievance, along with supporting documentation, with the Chair of the relevant grievance committee. No grievance may be heard on behalf of a third party or group.
 - b. Before the grievance itself is considered, the committee must conclude that the petitioner's case appears to have merit.
 - c. The faculty member may withdraw the grievance at any time without the grievance committee's approval. In such case, the grievance committee will not make a decision or recommendation.
 - d. No member of the committee with a conflict of interest in the grievance case may participate in the proceedings.
 - e. Committees are particularly charged to be alert to instances of inequitable treatment and retaliation against colleagues who have filed grievances.

2. Within a college/school, grievances against fellow faculty members and academic administrators below the level of Dean are heard by the local grievance committee.
 - a. If the grievance is against a fellow faculty member, the committee is charged to investigate the facts of the case and determine an appropriate resolution. The grievance committee's decision is final.
 - b. If the grievance is against an academic administrator below the level of Dean, the committee is charged to investigate the facts of the case and to recommend a resolution, which is then forwarded to the Dean, whose decision is final.

3. Grievances against academic administrators at or above the level of Dean are heard by the University Grievance Committee.
 - a. If the grievance is against a Dean, the committee's recommendation is forwarded to the Provost, whose decision is final.
 - b. If the grievance is against the Provost, the committee's recommendation is forwarded to the President, whose decision is final.
 - c. If the grievance is against the President, the committee's recommendation is forwarded to the Rector of the Board of Visitors, whose decision is final.

Proposed Language with Track Changes

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 - b. If the grievance is against an academic administrator below the level of Dean, the committee is charged to investigate the facts of the case and to recommend a resolution, which is then forwarded to the Dean, whose decision is final.
 - ~~c. In cases of alleged violations of academic freedom, the faculty of the college/school acts on its grievance committee's recommendation by formal vote, the outcome of which is final.~~

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 - b. If the grievance is against the Provost, the committee's recommendation is forwarded to the President, whose decision is final.
 - c. If the grievance is against the President, the committee's recommendation is forwarded to the Rector of the Board of Visitors, whose decision is final.

Current Language

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 - c. In cases of alleged violations of academic freedom, the faculty of the college/school acts on its grievance committee's recommendation by formal vote, the outcome of which is final.

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 - a. If the grievance is against a Dean, the committee's recommendation is forwarded to the Provost, whose decision is final.
 - b. If the grievance is against the Provost, the committee's recommendation is forwarded to the President, whose decision is final.
 - c. If the grievance is against the President, the committee's recommendation is forwarded to the Rector of the Board of Visitors, whose decision is final.

2.8.5 Remand Process (vote)

Proposed Language

2.8.5 Remand Process

If the UPTRAC determines by majority vote that the appeal has sufficient merit, then the UPTRAC remands the case to the lowest level at which the grounds for appeal was based or to the first-level review committee if the grounds for appeal is based on Substantial New Evidence ([Section 2.8.1](#)). At that level and each subsequent level specified in [Section 2.7.3](#) (or in the case of renewal, [Section 2.7.2](#)), the case shall be evaluated by the designated bodies as they are constituted at the time of the remand, and by the individuals holding the relevant administrative positions at the time of the remand. At each level, a recommendation should normally be completed within fourteen calendar days and forwarded to the next level. The reason for the UPTRAC remand must be explicitly addressed in the recommendation at each level. No case may be remanded more than once.

If the President believes that promotion or tenure should be granted, the recommendation is submitted to the Board of Visitors for final action. If the President decides that renewal should be granted, the decision is final. If the President decides renewal, promotion or tenure should not be granted, the decision is final and there is no further appeal.

At each level of review in the remand process, if a recommendation or decision is negative, a clear, written justification is sent concurrently to the appellant, to the local academic unit, and to the next level of review.

Proposed Language with Track Changes

2.8.5 Remand Process

If the UPTRAC determines by majority vote that the appeal has sufficient merit, then the UPTRAC remands the case to the lowest level at which the grounds for appeal was based or to the first-level review committee if the grounds for appeal is based on Substantial New Evidence ([Section 2.8.1](#)). At that level and each subsequent level specified in [Section 2.7.3](#) (or in the case of renewal, [Section 2.7.2](#)), the case shall be evaluated by the designated bodies as they are constituted at the time of the remand, and by the individuals holding the relevant administrative positions at the time of the remand. At each level, a recommendation should normally be completed within fourteen calendar days and forwarded to the next level. The ~~reason for the ease~~ ~~file submitted by the~~ UPTRAC ~~remand~~ must be explicitly addressed in the recommendation at each level. No case may be remanded more than once.

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At each level of review in the remand process, if a recommendation or decision is negative, a clear, written justification is sent concurrently to the appellant, to the local academic unit, and to the next level of review.

Current Language

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If the UPTRAC determines by majority vote that the appeal has sufficient merit, then the UPTRAC remands the case to the lowest level at which the grounds for appeal was based or to the first-level review committee if the grounds for appeal is based on Substantial New Evidence ([SECTION 2.8.1](#)). At that level and each subsequent level specified in [SECTION 2.7.3](#) (or in the case of renewal, [SECTION 2.7.2](#)), the case shall be evaluated by the designated bodies as they are constituted at the time of the remand, and by the individuals holding the relevant administrative positions at the time of the remand. At each level, a recommendation should normally be completed within fourteen calendar days and forwarded to the next level. The case file submitted by the UPTRAC must be explicitly addressed in the recommendation at each level. No case may be remanded more than once.

If the President believes that promotion or tenure should be granted, the recommendation is submitted to the Board of Visitors for final action. If the President decides that renewal should be granted, the decision is final. If the President decides renewal, promotion or tenure should not be granted, the decision is final and there is no further appeal.

At each level of review in the remand process, if a recommendation or decision is negative, a clear, written justification is sent concurrently to the appellant, to the local academic unit, and to the next level of review.