

George Mason University Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

Date: August 27, 2025

Time: 3:02 PM - 4:18 PM

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Solon Simmons at 3:02 PM. Quorum was confirmed.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made to approve the minutes from the meetings on April 30 and July 23³. The motion was seconded and passed by a voice vote.

Chair's Remarks

Chair Solon Simmons welcomed senators and outlined his approach to his role, describing himself as an "apolitical presider" and a "champion of the process". He emphasized that dissent is welcome and strengthens the Senate.

Solon noted the university is under special attention and referenced a potential Department of Justice investigation targeting a Faculty Senate, which he believes may be unprecedented.

Chair Simmons also addressed the Senate's previous stance in favor of diversity, clarifying that this refers to a diversity of viewpoints and lived experiences that enrich the institution, not as a "code for race". He quoted former GMU President Angel Cabrera, who stated that "diversity is not only a moral imperative, it's a business imperative".

Announcements

- **Senate Officers Appointed by the Chair:**
 - Parliamentarian: Lee Black.
 - Sergeants of Arms: Kerri LaCharite and Victoria Grady.
 - President Pro Tempore: Doug Eyman.
- **Faculty Clerk:** A search is underway for a new full-time faculty clerk.
- **Board of Visitors (BOV) Liaison:** Visitor Alec Bay will continue as the faculty liaison.
- **Upcoming Events:**

- President Washington will attend the Senate meetings on October 15 and October 22.
- A reception for faculty senators will be held at the President's residence on September 24.
- A General Faculty meeting is scheduled for February 26.
- **BOV Committee Vacancies:** Nominations are open for faculty representatives to the BOV committees for Athletics (two positions) and Audit, Risk, and Compliance (one position). It was noted that a representative with accounting experience would be beneficial for the Audit, Risk, and Compliance committee.

Committee Nominations and Elections

Appendix A: Faculty Senate Standing Committees

- **Academic Policies:**
 - Alexandra Masterson self-nominated from the floor.
 - **Result of Vote:** Chris Bartold, Doug Eyman, Kerri LaCharite, and Christiana Stan were elected.
- **Budget and Resources:**
 - Victoria Grady self-nominated from the floor.
 - **Result of Vote:** Samuel Klaus, Victoria Grady, and Barak Tanyu were elected.
- **Faculty Matters:**
 - Bethany Letiecq withdrew her nomination.
 - Nirup Menon self-nominated from the floor.
 - **Result:** The slate of Mohan Venigalla, Carolyn Sutter, Kelly Dunn, Nirup Menon, and Alireza Ermagun was approved by voice vote.
- **Nominations:**
 - Floor nominations were required as the committee cannot nominate itself.
 - Benoit Van Aken, Richard Craig, and Jennifer Salerno were nominated from the floor.
 - **Result:** The slate was approved by voice vote with one vacancy remaining to be filled at a later date.

- **Organization and Operations:**
 - **Result:** The slate of Catherine Sausville, Doug Eyman, Tamara Maddox, Zach Schrag, and Lisa Billingham was approved by voice vote.
- **Secretary:**
 - Anna Pollack was the sole nominee.
 - **Result:** Anna Pollack was elected by voice vote.

Appendix B: University Standing Committees

- **Faculty Handbook Committee:**
 - Bethany Letiecq self-nominated.
 - It was clarified that the committee requires one term faculty member and two tenure-line faculty members. Cameron Harris was the only term faculty nominee and was automatically appointed.
 - **Result of Vote:** A vote was held between Lisa Billingham and Bethany Letiecq for the remaining tenure-line seat. Lisa Billingham was elected.
- **Mason Core Committee:**
 - Bethany Letiecq withdrew her nomination.
 - Alexandra Masterson self-nominated.
- **Faculty Equity and Inclusion Committee:**
 - Andrea Landis self-nominated.
 - **Result of Vote:** Janani Uman, Michelle Williams, Andrea Landis, and Johanna Jauxin were elected.
- **Reimagining Faculty Roles and Rewards Committee:**
 - The committee's required composition was clarified to be two term and two tenure-line faculty members. Kevin Rockman was added as a nominee for a tenure-line position.
 - **Result of Vote:** A vote was held for the two term faculty positions. Kathy Ramos and David Powers Corwin were elected.
- **University Promotion, Tenure, and Renewal Appeal Committee (UPTRAC):**

- Mohan Venigalla and Douglas Eyman volunteered to serve as alternates.
- **Approval of Uncontested Slates:** All other committees in Appendix B with finalized slates were approved via a single voice vote.

Appendix C: Individual Committees

The slate of nominees for Appendix C committees was approved by a voice vote.

Appendix D: Task Forces

Action on Appendix D was postponed until clarification could be obtained on whether representatives are elected by the Faculty Senate or by their respective colleges.

Committee Reports

- **Faculty Matters:** Mohan Venigalla reported that the committee was unable to complete the Faculty Evaluation of Administrators (FEAs) over the summer due to being short-staffed but intends to take up the matter soon.

New Business

Jamie Clark raised a concern about multiple chatbots being used to transcribe the meeting and inquired about the Senate's policy on this practice. Mohan Venigalla responded that as a public meeting it would be difficult to police, and acknowledged he was using a transcription service to prepare the minutes.

Announcements for the Good of the Faculty

The Virginia Senate's Privileges and Elections Committee was scheduled to meet the following day to determine the composition of the George Mason University Board of Visitors.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:18 PM. Following adjournment, members of the newly constituted Faculty Senate Standing Committees were instructed to meet in breakout rooms to elect their chairs.

Faculty Senators in Attendance

Christine	Barthold
Alok	Berry
Lisa	Billingham
Lee	Black
Michelle	Boardman

Johanna	Bockman
Jamie	Clark
Richard	Craig
Delton	Daigle
John	Dale
Kevin	Dunayer
Kelly	Dunne
Alireza	Ermagun
Douglas	Eyman
Daniel	Garrison
Lisa	Giacumo
Tim	Gibson
Victoria	Grady
Seth	Hudson
Samuel	Huneke
Jessica	Hurley
Kerri	LaCharite
Bethany	Letiecq
Siona	Listokin
Tamara	Maddox
Alexandra	Masterson
ThanhVu	Nguyen
Robert	Osgood
Anna	Pollack
Pierre	Rodgers
Jennifer	Salerno
Catherine	Sausville
Zachary	Schrag
Solon	Simmons
Cristiana	Stan
Caroline	Sutter
Burak	Tanyu
Benoit	Van Aken
Mohan	Venigalla
Sue-Ming	Yang

Other Attendees

Armand	Alacbay
Elizabeth	Alman
LaShonda	Anthony

Ann	Ardis
Michael	Bloom
Tom	Bluestein
Lisa	Breglia
James	Broderick
Melissa	Broeckelman-Post
Xiaomei	Cai
Deborah	Carl
Davita	Colclough
Raeshelle	Cooke
Aurali	Dade
Shannon	Davis
Niyati	Dhokai
Vicki	Dominick
Linnea	Eberhart
Kim	Eby
Kim	Edwards
K. Pierre	Eklou
Jen	Fehsenfeld
Natalie	Foley
Kimberly	Ford
Cynthia	Fuchs
Saiid	Ganjalizadeh
Edward	Gero
Renee	Geschke
Charlotte	Gill
Marcy	Glover
Roger	Graham
Maggie	Hall
Cameron	Harris
Tamara	Harvey
Vincent	Hermoso
Caitlin	Horan
Ginny	Hoy
Katherine	Imholt
Devon	Johnson
Daphne	King
Jason	Kinser
Nick	Kirkvarro
Andrea	Landis
Susan	Lawrence

Minh	Le
Amy	Lebrecht
CJ	Mandell
Kathryn	Mangus
Jenna	McGwin
Kimberly	Meltzer
Nirup	Menon
Katherine	Miscavige
Janette	Muir
Eric	Neitze
Melanie	O'Brien
Parker	O'Connor
Cheryl	Oetjen
Whitney	Owen
Cindy	Parker
Robert	Pegues
Jeremy	Plotnick
Thomas	Polk
David	Rosenblum
Shani	Ross
Ellen	Rowe
Md Nazmus	Sakib
Mohammad	Salama
Jessica	Scarlata
Lance	Schmeidler
Kelly	Schrump
Michele	Schwietz
Kylie	Sertic
Julia	Shadur
Jennifer	Sturgis
Joel	Thurston
Susan	Tomasovic
Jacelyn	Tyson
Maura	Ugarte
Janani	Umamaheswar
Silke	Vrouletis
Sarah	Ward
Trevor	Watkins
Gerald	Weatherspoon
Liz	White
Karen	Witt

Courtney	Wooten
Andrea	Zach