

GMU Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

Date and Time: November 12, 2025, 3:03 – 4:30 PM

Location: Zoom call

Opening Remarks:

- Solon Simmons called the meeting to order at 3:03 PM.
- The October 15 minutes were approved with changes. Minutes from meetings with senior officials require verbatim transcripts, which are currently being amended.
- Introduction of Anan Shahriar as the new Senate Clerk.
- Encouragement for senators to engage with constituents, especially on issues that may be contentious.

Committee Reports:

Faculty Handbook – Lisa Billingham:

- Proposed changes to Section 1.3.1 regarding eligibility for Faculty Senate election.
- Discussion on whether administrative roles or visiting faculty should be included.
- Clarification requested on the term “term faculty”.
- Agreement to revisit language for clarity and return revisions to the committee.
- Consideration of counting years prior to appointment toward tenure timelines.
- Amendments to tenure consideration for term faculty transitioning to tenure-track positions.
- Proposal to evaluate scholarly achievements with less emphasis on external funding.
- Suggestions to revise language for improved clarity on tenure clock calculations.

Bylaws and Standing Rules – Catherine Sausville and Zachary Schrag:

- First reading of proposed amendments to the bylaws, including quorum definitions and committee membership requirements.
- Discussion on moving language from standing rules to bylaws to increase consistency.

Academic Policies:

- No updates

Budget and Resources:

- Brief discussion of financial reporting from the Board of Visitors

Faculty Matters:

- Faculty Evaluation of Administrators has been released.
- Evaluations for Deans, the Provost, and the President are pending.

Nominations Committee:

- Charlotte Gill elected to the Faculty Handbook Committee.

New Business**Resolution Discussion – Bethany Letiecq and Tim Gibson:**

- Proposal to reject the Compact for Academic Excellence and any settlements viewed as compromising George Mason's autonomy.
- Debate on specific language, especially regarding federal supervision.
- Resolution tabled until December 3 for continued discussion.

Closing Remarks

- Noted absence of quorum in the Board of Visitors, limiting their ability to conduct business.
- Acknowledgment of ongoing DOJ and DOE investigation, with no updates at this time.
- Agreement to revisit the resolution on institutional autonomy and federal oversight at the next meeting.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 PM.

Next meeting:

Scheduled for December 3, 2025 at 3pm on zoom.

Attendee List

(32) Senators present:

First Name	Last Name
Zachary	Schrag
Anna	Pollack
Kerri	LaCharite
Bethany	Letiecq
Samuel	Huneke
Caroline	Sutter
Kevin	Dunayer
Michelle	Boardman
Douglas	Eyman
Burak	Tanyu
Jamie	Clark
Seth	Hudson
Delton	Daigle
John	Dale
Shora	Moteabbed
Amanda	Caswell
Benoit	Van Aken
Thalia	Goldstein
Jessica	Hurley
Richard	Craig
Alexandra	Masterson
Alireza	Ermagun
Lisa	Billingham
Tamara	Maddox
Mohan	Venigalla
Johanna	Bockman
Don	Starr
Lisa	Giacumo
Alok	Berry
Jennifer	Salerno
Robert	Osgood
Catherine	Sausville

(5) Ex-officio Senators Present:

First Name	Last Name
James	Broderick
Mark	Rozell
Ann	Ardis
Thomas	Polk
Daniel	Walsch
Cody	Edwards

(52) Community member/ guest/ faculty (not senate member)

First Name	Last Name
Saiid	Ganjalizadeh
Anan	Shahriar
Ashley	Blinstrub
Wayne	Adams
Shannon	Davis
Kylie	Sertic
Sarah	Ward
Liz	White
Lauren	Wagner
Tom	Bluestein
Trevor	Watkins
Amy	Lebrecht
Marcy	Glover
Caitlin	Horan
Pam	Promisel
Niyati	Dhokai
Kim	Eby
Dominique	Banville
Tricia	Wilson
Eleanor	Weis
Keith	Renshaw
David	Rosenblum
Melissa	Broeckelman-Post
Xiaomei	Cai
Natalie	Foley
Elizabeth	Freeman
Rachel	Spence
Laura	Poms

Julia	Shadur
Vanesa	White
Kristin	Johnsen-Neshati
Ellen	Rowe
K. Pierre	Eklou
Janette	Muir
Lori	Mandable
Kimberly	Meltzer Weisman
Kimberly	Foecke
Michele	Schwietz
Lisa	Breglia
Jason	Kinser
Devon	Johnson
Mohammad	Salama
Remy	Franklin
Kim	Dight
Crystal	Buckley
Alecia	Bryan
Courtney	Wooten
Michelle	Steiner
Cortney	Hughes Rinker
Shelley	Reid
Lauren	Reuscher
Ginny	Hoy