

GMU Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

Date and Time: November 13, 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.