

# Meeting Minutes

Date: September 18, 2025

Time: 15:02 - 16:16

Location: Virtual Meeting

Chair: Solon Simmons

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## Opening Remarks

- Chair: Solon Simmons announced Board of Visitor Rector Cully Stimson will not attend today's meeting and the postponement of the Board of Visitors meeting originally scheduled for September 25. The bylaws indicate the board must meet at least once a year, but current composition of 6 BOV members may affect its business.

## Institutional Updates

- Next Faculty Senate Meeting: October 15, with President Washington expected to attend.
- Faculty Reception for Faculty Senators: September 24th at the Mather House, from 5:30-7:30 p.m.
- Clerk Position: Solon Simmons noted that final interviews for a new clerk are underway, aiming to improve Senate operations.

## Special Guests

- Zi Wang and Neley: Discussed the new meal plan options for faculty and staff, highlighting the benefits of dining plans and the new dining partner, Chartwells. Emphasized the social and practical benefits of meal plans.

## Discussion on University Governance

- Board of Visitors: Solon Simmons addressed concerns about the current lack of a quorum, impacting governance and the ability to address university business.
- Legal and Political Context: Solon Simmons and Bethany Letiecq discussed the Faculty Senate's involvement in a document preservation request due to an ongoing investigation, with emphasis on maintaining transparency and legal compliance.

## Committee Reports

### Academic Policies

- Update by Douglas Eyman:
  - Policy Management Group: Working on a reasonable accommodation policy based on religion and updating the hazing policy.
  - Graduate Council: Approved changes to AP 6.6 regarding academic standing for graduate students and discussed a new program in quantum science and engineering. The updated graduate student handbook will apply next catalog year.

## Budget and Resources

- Update by Delton Daigle:
  - Financial Status: University is \$39 million cash positive, slightly down from previous reports. Efforts to achieve full Tier 3 status for debt management are ongoing.
  - Financial Reporting: Despite the postponed Board of Visitors meeting, financial reporting obligations to state and federal bodies remain.

## Faculty Matters

- Update by Mohan Venigalla:
  - Faculty Evaluation of Administrators scorecards are nearly ready for release. Ongoing work on faculty evaluation of chairs to ensure valid data and appropriate dissemination.

## Nominations

- Update by Lee Black:
  - Committee Vacancies: Jessica Hurley was elected as the Faculty Senate representative to the Recreation Advisory Committee. Efforts are ongoing to fill a vacancy on the nominations committee, faculty senators, contact Lee if interested.

## Organization and Operations (O&O)

- Update by Catherine Sausville:
  - Bylaws Review: Plans to review bylaws and standing rules for updates and improvements. Encouragement for committees to propose changes to their charges or membership.

## New Business

- Faculty Handbook: Lisa Billingham emphasized updating the handbook to strengthen faculty positions concerning tenure, shared governance, and academic freedom.

## Closing Remarks

- Acknowledgments: Recognition of George Mason University's visibility in national discussions and the importance of viewpoint diversity.

## Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn at 4:16pm.

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Next Meeting: October 15, 2025, at 3pm.

## Attendee List

(40) Senators present:

First Name	Last Name
Solon	Simmons
Catherine	Sausville
Johanna	Bockman
Douglas	Eyman
Zachary	Schrag
Don	Starr
Kevin	Dunayer
John	Dale
Jamie	Clark
Caroline	Sutter
Mohan	Venigalla
Lee	Black
Richard	Craig
Pierre	Rodgers
Samuel	Huneke
Thalia	Goldstein
Michelle	Boardman
Katherine	Trejo
Eugene	Kontorovich
Lisa	Giacumo
Bethany	Letiecq
Niki	Vlastara
Delton	Daigle
Kelly	Dunne
Lisa	Billingham
Kerri	LaCharite
Robert	Osgood
Seth	Hudson
Tim	Gibson
Benoit	Van Aken
Siona	Listokin
Cristiana	Stan
Thanh Vu	Nguyen
Melissa	Perry
Abbas	Zaidi
Alok	Berry
Jennifer	Salerno
Burak	Tanyu
Tamara	Maddox
Anna	Pollack

(51) Ex-officio Senators/ Community member/ guest/ faculty (not senate member)

First Name	Last Name
Susan	Tomasovic
Eleanor	Weis
Ernest	Barreto
Shannon	Davis
Anu	Aneja
Jason	Kinser
Kelly	Schrum
Kimberly	Foecke
Tom	Bluestein
Tricia	Wilson
James	Broderick
Sarah	Ward
Thomas	Polk
David	Corwin
Anne	Osterman
Dominique	Banville
Ellen	Rowe
Morgan	Chalfant
Dongqing	Wang
Kimberly	Ford
Jenna	McGwin
Heidi	Blackburn
Kevin	Rockmann
Emily	Ihara
Michele	Schwietz
Katherine	Imholt
Charlotte	Gill
Rebecca	Sutter
Kim	Edwards
stephanie	dodman
Kim	Eby
Niyati	Dhokai
Mohammad	Salama
Ann	Ardis
Catherine	Saunders
Melissa	Broeckelman-
	Post
Amy	Lebrecht
Elizabeth	Alman
Rebecca	R.G.
Kim	Dight
Minh	Le

Janette	Muir
Tamara	Harvey
Pam	Promisel
Cynthia	Fuchs
K. Pierre	Eklou
Lauren	Wagner
Andrea	Landis
Christine	Landoll
Xiaomei	Cai
Alecia	Bryan
Chrystal	George Mwangi
Kylie	Sertic
Andrew	Lane
Kimberly	Meltzer Weisman
Phoebe	Gor
Nick	Kirkvarro
Shora	Moteabbed
Natalie	Foley
Sara	Heming
Doug	McKenna
Wayne	Adams
Devon	Johnson
Lance	Schmeidler
Cameron	Harris
April	Lopez
Caitlin	Horan