

Multilingual Students Academic Support Committee: Annual Report, 2025-2026

Charge and Composition (Revised Fall 2021)

In response to the 2015 Multilingual Student Task Force Report, the Faculty Senate established a new University Standing Committee, entitled Multilingual Students Academic Support, with the following charge and composition:

Charge: The committee will be responsible for assisting in the implementation of efforts to support Mason’s multilingual students’ academic success. This will include identifying the needs and accomplishments of multilingual students, offering input on the types of direct student resources (e.g., classes and tutoring services) needed for students with varying English language (writing, speaking, listening, and reading) abilities, assessing the types of faculty development support needed to enhance the teaching of linguistically diverse students across the curriculum, and evaluating the types of administrative support needed to enable key programs to lead specialized curriculum and faculty development efforts. The committee will make recommendations about policies and resources based on this work to Faculty Senate and to any university leaders or committees whose initiatives impact the success of Mason's multilingual students.

Composition: The Committee will include one representative from each of the following areas: Writing Center, Stearns Center for Teaching and Learning, Writing Across the Curriculum Program, University Libraries, Composition/English Courses Faculty, Basic Communication Courses, INTO Mason, Center for Leadership and Intercultural Engagement (formerly CCEE), Undergraduate Education, Graduate Education, Academic Advising, Office of Institutional Effectiveness and Planning, and Office of International Programs and Services. There will be one student representative, elected by the Student Senate. In addition, there will be three elected faculty representatives (including one faculty senator), from at least two separate colleges/schools, each serving staggered 2-year terms.

Committee Members 2025-2026

Member list	Email	Member representation/status
Anna Habib, co-chair	ahabib@gmu.edu	Composition, co-chair 2025-2026: Associate Director
Shelley Reid, co-chair	ereid1@gmu.edu	Stearns Center, co-chair 2025-2026: Executive Director
Alexandra Masterson	amaster2@gmu.edu	Elected member, 2024-2026: Biology
Laurie Miller	llmiller@gmu.edu	Elected member, 2025-2027: INTO Mason
TBA	TBA	Elected member, 2025-2027 (Minjoo Kim could not serve)
Ashley Blinstrub (fall) Maoria Kirker (sp)	ablinstru@gmu.edu mkirker@gmu.edu	University Libraries: Lead, Teaching and Learning Team
Christina Brady	cbrady12@gmu.edu	INTO Mason: Associate Director, Pathway Programs
Shelby Broberg	sbroberg@gmu.edu	Communication Center: Director
Tom Polk (fall) Joan Hwang (spring)	tpolk2@gmu.edu jhwangb@gmu.edu	Writing Across the Curriculum: Director / Faculty Associate
Susan Lawrence	slawrenb@gmu.edu	Writing Center: Director

Yali Pan	ypan8@gmu.edu	Office of International Programs and Services: Associate Director for Engagement and Assessment
Liz Paul	epaul4@gmu.edu	Composition: International Students and Programs Coordinator
Michelle Steiner	msteine@gmu.edu	Undergrad Education: Director of Undergraduate Academic Success
Bonnie Sylwester	bsylwest@gmu.edu	Office of Institutional Effectiveness and Planning: Associate Director of Program Assessment
Courtney Adams Wooten	cwooten3@gmu.edu	Composition: Director
Unfilled		Student Senate representative
Unfilled		Graduate Education (unable to provide a representative)

Committee Meetings, AY 2026

- October 31, 2025
- January 30, 2026
- February 27, 2026
- April 1, 2026

Additional subgroup meetings: October 20, March 23, April 22

Key Initiatives for AY 2026

Updates to membership:

- Elected member Minjoo Kim was also elected to Mason Core and could not serve this year
- Changed representative, ex officio: Christina Brady, Former Academic Director of INTO Mason/Acting Academic Director, GATEway
- Changed representative, ex officio: Michelle Steiner, Undergrad Education/Advising: Director of Undergrad Academic Success

Consideration and consultation of Gateway launch:

- In Fall 2025, the Committee provided insight and support to formerly-INTO Mason Leaders as they became involved in the transition period leading to [the Gateway program](#)
- In Fall 2025, the Committee contacted VP Janette Muir and Roger Graham to provide some initial context relevant to the Gateway program transition from our experiences leading multilingual student support across the university (see appendix)
- In Spring 2026, the Committee met with AVP Janette Muir and Director Todd Rose to learn more about the proposed Gateway transition, as part of our role in “assisting in the implementation of efforts to support Mason’s multilingual students’ academic success...and evaluating the types of administrative support needed to enable key programs to lead specialized curriculum and faculty development efforts.”

Planning for Informational White Paper:

- The committee's primary efforts this academic year were focused on drafting an informational white paper that provides an overview on the state of multilingual student support and needs across GMU. The speed with which large transitions supporting international and multilingual students can happen at GMU (e.g., INTO Mason → Gateway), the breadth and non-integrated-nature of student and faculty support in these areas, and the frequent transition of leadership in these areas, supports the need for a reference document that identifies historical patterns, current resources, local expertise, and some key best practices.
- The goals of this document are to 1) provide an overview of multilingual student needs and support across the campus; 2) assist with leadership transitions & change-management; 3) ensure institutional memory regarding the efforts of this committee and many programs and offices across campus to serve the evolving needs of our international and multilingual resident students. The white paper will also offer an overview of current/ongoing issues that need to be considered as part of comprehensive & supplemental strategy for supporting international and multilingual student success at Mason.

Upcoming action items:

- We spent this year short one elected member, and hope to have a full elected cohort for AY 27
- In Fall 2026, we plan to submit a request for additional administrative members
 - Representative from GMU-Korea
 - Representative from ADVANCE
 - Representative from Office of International Enrollment Partnerships
- In Fall 2026, we plan to request that MASC, like Mason Core, be enabled to recruit elected members in spring rather than fall (we have a dozen high-level admin members who need significant lead time to put meetings on their calendar; waiting until September for elections limits our fall meeting times significantly)
- In Fall 2026, we plan to submit our Informational White Paper to the Senate

Appendix 1: Leadership Contacts

1. During the past calendar year has the President, Provost, or Senior Vice President (or their respective offices) announced initiatives or goals or acted upon issues that fall under the charge of your Committee? If so, was your Committee consulted by the President, Provost, or Senior Vice President in a timely manner before the announcement or action? If not, do you believe your Committee should have been consulted? Would it have been helpful to have had the input of your Committee from the outset?
 - a. The rapid transition from INTO Mason to Gateway, necessitated by economic and political changes, was initially undertaken in Fall 2025 by a select leadership group required to maintain confidentiality due to legal and financial transactions.
 - b. As we became aware of the changes, the committee reached out to VP Muir and others on the team to provide context and invite them to share more with us as soon as they were able to.
 - c. While our January meeting ended with indications that the additional transparency and contextualization was helpful for all parties, it also spurred our commitment to creating a reference document that could be available to leadership who might in the future find themselves involved in actions that are relevant to our charge and expertise, but who were either not able to contact us or not aware of our ability to be of assistance in these areas.

2. Did your Committee seek information or input from the President, Provost, or Senior Vice President or members of their staffs? If so, did they respond adequately and in a timely manner?
 - a. When we contacted VP Muir, she responded positively to our initial questions and was able to make time to attend a productive January meeting.

3. Please suggest how you believe the President, Provost, Senior Vice President and/or their staffs might more effectively interact with your Committee in the future, if necessary.

As the University Committee charged with “assisting in the implementation of efforts to support Mason’s multilingual students’ academic success,” we would welcome the opportunity to be of assistance to the Gateway transition steering committee or others in leadership who are involved in internationalization and diversity efforts.

4. Please relate any additional information you may have regarding interactions between your Committee and the President, Provost, Senior Vice President, or their staff.

Appendix 2: [Assistance for the Steering Committee on the INTO Mason Transition](#)

This document details the Fall 2026 recommendations our committee provided to VP Janette Muir, Roger Graham and Todd Rose in their transition planning from INTO Mason to Gateway.