

WEBVTT

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00:00:00.000 --> 00:00:00.440

Kerri LaCharite (she/her) George Mason University: Oh.

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00:00:00.440 --> 00:00:01.640

Solon Simmons: I know, right?

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00:00:02.020 --> 00:00:03.730

Solon Simmons: All these years later.

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00:00:04.630 --> 00:00:06.929

Kevin Dunayer (he/him): I just love trying to get motions out.

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00:00:07.260 --> 00:00:09.950

Solon Simmons: I know.

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00:00:09.950 --> 00:00:11.690

Kevin Dunayer (he/him): How to word the motion.

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00:00:11.690 --> 00:00:16.170

Solon Simmons: I know, right? That's true. It's getting a little bit natural over here. Yeah.

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00:00:20.110 --> 00:00:22.810

Solon Simmons: So, Carrie, you're not going to be there today, though, is that right?

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00:00:25.380 --> 00:00:35.370

Kerri LaCharite (she/her) George Mason University: I will be there. I'm, I'm there, I will have my screens open, I will be ready to help, but Victoria and I tried to, tag team.

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00:00:35.370 --> 00:00:36.390

Solon Simmons: Okay, cool.

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00:00:36.390 --> 00:00:39.499

Kerri LaCharite (she/her) George Mason University: possibilities at least a little bit. Okay.

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00:00:40.560 --> 00:00:41.250

Kerri LaCharite (she/her) George Mason University: Yeah.

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00:00:41.950 --> 00:00:45.059

Kerri LaCharite (she/her) George Mason University: Yeah, who's gonna be the leading person?

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00:00:45.060 --> 00:00:49.330

Solon Simmons: Okay, alright, the leading sergeant. We need to make... I always thought you needed a halberd, I thought that would be a.

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00:00:49.330 --> 00:00:50.000

Kerri LaCharite (she/her) George Mason University: Great.

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00:01:08.950 --> 00:01:12.490

Solon Simmons: We're at 1.30, I think maybe I'll just wait a minute as people pop in.

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00:01:12.940 --> 00:01:21.540

Kelly M Wentland: Just wanted to say thank you for sending the documents, those are really helpful, so I just... I really appreciate it. That was very nice to have before coming into the meeting today, so thank you.

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00:01:22.120 --> 00:01:24.540

Solon Simmons: It's all our O&O team, as I'll say here in a second.

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00:01:30.640 --> 00:01:33.149

Solon Simmons: Cool, we have some folks showing up, that's good.

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00:01:34.140 --> 00:01:35.350

Solon Simmons: Hi, Jennifer.

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00:01:42.590 --> 00:01:43.900

Solon Simmons: Okay...

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00:01:44.700 --> 00:02:03.910

Solon Simmons: Well, I'll go ahead and start us. This is not an official meeting of the Senate, it's just an informal opportunity to share an initiative that the O&O team wanted to bring forward. We've had, as you know, a really active year, and it's hard to fit time in to do everything, but one of the things that's always difficult is

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00:02:03.910 --> 00:02:11.970

Solon Simmons: just figuring out how to behave in the Senate, and how to seek your objectives, and what it means, and what the organization is and does, and so...

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00:02:11.970 --> 00:02:27.400

Solon Simmons: I'll credit the O&O team here, but I guess it's primarily Zach who helped us with this document. The idea... we've been talking about how to do training and what's necessary for it, and both on the Senate itself and then Robert's Rules, because we run Roberts Rules, and there's something very, sort of.

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00:02:27.400 --> 00:02:51.249

Solon Simmons: old-fashioned in a way, but very helpful about Robert's Rules, and so you always feel like you're cosplaying a little bit when you're doing it, and, you know, it's... but at the same time, it is quite helpful, and it does help to protect voice. The challenge is that many times it can do the opposite if someone really knows how to use it, and the chair is not being careful in managing so that all voices are surfaced, but really the goal was

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00:02:51.330 --> 00:03:15.600

Solon Simmons: democratic-liberal discourse. That's really the goal of what Robert's Rules was, and so... and each generation of us, you know, has to be trained in it and figure out how to do it, and we don't have much time, often in the Senate, to get to be really skilled in it, and I'd say three years is about as much time, and you finally, in the third year, like, oh yeah, I kind of get a little bit of a feel for it. So, we thought we could front-load some of that and just remind those of us who should feel comfortable

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00:03:15.700 --> 00:03:22.499

Solon Simmons: And really open the space up for questions. I don't know, I talked, you know, Zach maybe might want to present a little bit, I don't know, but...

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00:03:22.600 --> 00:03:41.129

Solon Simmons: I think mainly the idea is for you to just ask questions and for us to answer as best we can, both on the basis of the documents and Robert's Rules formally and Senate's what they are, and also, we have some pretty long-term experience here, not just on the executive team, but just around the Senate, about how we've done things over time and how things have evolved, and a lot of it is

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00:03:41.130 --> 00:03:50.550

Solon Simmons: exists in standing rules as much as anything else is in bylaws and so on. So, anyway, I'll just turn it over to the ONO team and just let you say whatever you'd like.

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00:03:52.050 --> 00:04:07.759

Zachary Schrag: Thanks, I'll take over. Thanks, Solan. So I'm Zach, I'm a co-chair of the Organization Operations Committee, another kind of archaic label, but basically we are the committee, along with nominations, that helps the Senate run, so we don't really...

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00:04:07.790 --> 00:04:12.900

Zachary Schrag: do stuff, substantively, we're more procedural. And,

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00:04:13.380 --> 00:04:33.299

Zachary Schrag: this is, I think, the first orientation session we've had in several years. One of the things that's happened is that the Senate lost its longtime clerk, retirement some years ago, and we tried to do it without a clerk, and that turned out to be a terrible idea. So, thanks to Solon, we have a clerk again, we're trying to build up

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00:04:33.300 --> 00:04:44.659

Zachary Schrag: more institutional memory and hope that this will be an annual event, as well as having the living documents that we sent out. Just in terms of background, I think it's useful to think about

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00:04:44.660 --> 00:04:54.799

Zachary Schrag: the basic functions of a faculty senate. If you've been down to Charlottesville and the grounds of UVA, you'll see that Thomas Jefferson laid out these

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00:04:54.800 --> 00:05:19.709

Zachary Schrag: buildings with room for, I think, 8 faculty members. That was going to be the university. And if you've got a university with 8 faculty members, they can all sit around and drink Jefferson's wine and talk things over. But as universities got big in the late 19th century, to hundreds and later thousands of faculty, like we have at Mason, it no longer became possible for them to meet as a group and chat with the president.

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00:05:19.840 --> 00:05:32.100

Zachary Schrag: I like to think of the Faculty Senate as fulfilling that role of being a more manageable voice for the faculty than having all 1,800 of us try to speak at once.

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00:05:32.140 --> 00:05:45.509

Zachary Schrag: as James Miner, who I cite in the document, says, like, even the best faculty senates tend to be reactive to initiatives coming down from the top, whether that's the president of the university, the provost.

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00:05:45.510 --> 00:05:53.970

Zachary Schrag: Board of Visitors, occasionally the President of the United States, whatever it is, a lot of what we do is react to things that are thrown at us.

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00:05:53.970 --> 00:06:03.150

Zachary Schrag: And, you know, I think, unfortunately, this can sometimes lead to impressions that we are mostly saying no.

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00:06:03.280 --> 00:06:22.880

Zachary Schrag: I will say sometimes that's a good thing. Like, an immune system in the body is mostly there to say no to various pathogens that get in. Sometimes it says no too harshly to allergens, and then we get the, you know, overreaction. But there is honor in saying no. Another way to think about it would be in terms of peer review.

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00:06:22.880 --> 00:06:37.330

Zachary Schrag: Where a lot of what we do is not so much say no, but revise and resubmit. We see what you're doing, let's try to make it better, and I hope we're going to be seeing some of that this afternoon with Faculty Handbook. I know Lisa hopes that. And...

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00:06:37.330 --> 00:06:53.480

Zachary Schrag: you know, good... I'm sure you've all had experience with peer review, right? There's the bad kind, and then there's the good kind. The good kind is tough, fair, and encouraging, in the words of my favorite editor. So, I think that, that's really our goal, is to give tough, fair, and encouraging feedback.

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00:06:53.530 --> 00:07:11.299

Zachary Schrag: To do that, we need to have the trust of our colleagues whom we represent, we need to earn the trust of the leadership of the university, and we need to work with each other. And so that's really what we're trying to do here. And as I said in the document.

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00:07:11.650 --> 00:07:18.799

Zachary Schrag: there are two basic places where the Senate works. One is the more visible full Senate meetings, like the one we'll have

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00:07:18.800 --> 00:07:42.429

Zachary Schrag: in 90 minutes, and those can be, you know, difficult and tedious and highly formal. But a lot of the work also gets done in committees that are often more nimble, less formal, but develop a lot of expertise. And if you had a chance to read the full board book, as we're now calling it, for the Senate.

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00:07:42.430 --> 00:08:05.910

Zachary Schrag: today, there's a very detailed report from the grading task force that I think is a really nice model of the kind of thing that faculty committees can do when they put their minds to it, looking at getting faculty voices, looking at peer institutions, and so that's a great example of the kind of work that gets done in faculty. We'll have, you know, recently we had faculty handbook.

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00:08:06.010 --> 00:08:20.859

Zachary Schrag: revisions that are ongoing today. We had a lot of discussion earlier this spring about academic standards. Some committees are more administrative in terms of appeals and grievances of various kinds, where it's nice to have a faculty voice.

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00:08:20.860 --> 00:08:26.380

Zachary Schrag: And, so again, a lot of the work gets done in committee, and then some in full session, and I hope you'll

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00:08:26.380 --> 00:08:35.870

Zachary Schrag: Have a chance to watch the full session at 3 o'clock today and write down questions for us, whether you can join us at,

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00:08:35.919 --> 00:08:49.919

Zachary Schrag: oh, George's this... later this afternoon, or just, tag one of us, we can answer those questions. And then the last thing I would say, before, maybe throwing to Anon to explain her role.

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00:08:49.920 --> 00:09:00.480

Zachary Schrag: would be... I really encourage each of you to think about your own goals for your Senate service, whether you have pet issues that you're concerned about, or that you've heard about from colleagues.

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00:09:00.480 --> 00:09:16.810

Zachary Schrag: and also whether there are particular skills that you either possess or would like to develop. You know, I can say myself, I've never really been a budget person, I've not served on the budget committee, I'm not sure I should, but maybe I would learn a lot from doing that. So it's the kind of thing where you have to think about,

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00:09:17.250 --> 00:09:36.770

Zachary Schrag: is there something particular that you bring to Senate that you can, help out with? And I think with that, I'd like to, introduce Anand, our clerk, who's been doing fabulous work, and who can explain, what's on the Faculty Senate website, what you can expect to prepare for a meeting.

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00:09:40.570 --> 00:09:50.590

Anan Shahriar: Hi, everyone. It's nice to meet you all. Let me share my screen so that I can...

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00:09:51.050 --> 00:09:55.360

Anan Shahriar: show you a little bit of the Faculty Senate website.

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00:09:58.410 --> 00:10:01.290

Anan Shahriar: Can everyone see my screen?

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00:10:02.290 --> 00:10:04.790

Anan Shahriar: Okay, that's the wrong screen, I'm sorry.

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00:10:09.750 --> 00:10:10.550

Anan Shahriar: Okay.

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00:10:13.800 --> 00:10:15.600

Anan Shahriar: Can everyone see my screen?

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00:10:16.780 --> 00:10:17.690

Solon Simmons: Almost, yes.

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00:10:17.690 --> 00:10:18.190

Georgia A. Williams: Yes.

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00:10:18.190 --> 00:10:18.770

Anan Shahriar: Okay.

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00:10:19.160 --> 00:10:19.980

Anan Shahriar: Alright.

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00:10:20.370 --> 00:10:23.139

Anan Shahriar: So, this is the Faculty Senate website.

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00:10:23.140 --> 00:10:46.589

Anan Shahriar: this is where you can come over to look at, and I will send, I will post in the chat the website address and, our email address as well, so anytime you have a question, you can contact us in our email, or you can find a lot of resources and information just on this website.

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00:10:46.590 --> 00:10:48.909

Anan Shahriar: So let me start at the top.

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00:10:49.170 --> 00:10:59.760

Anan Shahriar: This tab is where all of the resources are located. Under governance, we have charter, bylaw, standing rules, faculty handbook.

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00:10:59.870 --> 00:11:01.940

Anan Shahriar: Under membership.

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00:11:02.850 --> 00:11:18.310

Anan Shahriar: This is the 25-26 faculty senators. This is what we call the alpha roster. This is where all the senators are listed up until 25-2026. This will be updated in summer with 2026-2027 academic year.

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00:11:19.160 --> 00:11:24.150

Anan Shahriar: If I'm going too fast, please let me know, I'll slow down.

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00:11:24.820 --> 00:11:31.170

Anan Shahriar: And then, under membership, we also have bios of faculty senators.

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00:11:33.470 --> 00:11:42.590

Anan Shahriar: This is where we get to see all of our senators that were elected for that academic year, and...

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00:11:42.730 --> 00:11:52.769

Anan Shahriar: There, if we click on their bios, they have a little bio up there, and then we can find their contact information, their website.

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00:11:52.920 --> 00:12:05.929

Anan Shahriar: Such as. So, this is where you can expect to see yourself for Academic Year 2026-2027. This is also going to be updated in the summer term.

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00:12:07.410 --> 00:12:21.199

Anan Shahriar: Okay, and then under Committees, this is where we have a lot of documents located. I'll go one by one. So, under Committees, we have Senate Standing Committees.

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00:12:22.960 --> 00:12:34.900

Anan Shahriar: These are the lists of the committees that we have for 2025-2026. Again, these are the standing committees, and then the people who were elected.

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00:12:35.210 --> 00:12:36.849

Anan Shahriar: In these committees.

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00:12:37.570 --> 00:12:45.190

Anan Shahriar: Again, this is also going to be updated soon with 2026 and 2027 academic year.

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00:12:45.400 --> 00:13:01.190

Anan Shahriar: Next, we have Senate Standing Committee Charges. So, the charges for those committees are located in this tab, again, under Committees, Senate Standing Committee Charges. In this document, we have all the charges.

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00:13:01.440 --> 00:13:03.200

Anan Shahriar: and composition.

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00:13:03.320 --> 00:13:07.299

Anan Shahriar: located for each Senate standing committee.

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00:13:10.360 --> 00:13:16.030

Anan Shahriar: Next, we have University Committee... University Standing Committees.

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00:13:16.850 --> 00:13:28.100

Anan Shahriar: Again, this will be the list of all the university standing committees, Research Advisory Committee, Multilingual Students Academy Support Committee.

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00:13:28.550 --> 00:13:33.140

Anan Shahriar: At the very top. Academic Appeals, admissions.

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00:13:33.740 --> 00:13:39.180

Anan Shahriar: So, get kind of the idea. Again, this will be updated soon.

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00:13:40.550 --> 00:13:43.759

Anan Shahriar: The next is University Committee Charges.

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00:13:44.740 --> 00:13:53.320

Anan Shahriar: So all the university committees that were listed in the previous document, the charges are listed right here. Chargers and composition.

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00:13:53.890 --> 00:14:03.930

Anan Shahriar: So, if you want a little more details on what each committee does, how it is comprised, then you can come here and find out.

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00:14:06.350 --> 00:14:07.310

Anan Shahriar: Okay.

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00:14:09.000 --> 00:14:14.540

Anan Shahriar: And then, these are, again, all the committee lists,

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00:14:14.860 --> 00:14:18.709

Anan Shahriar: The last thing I wanted to show here is the committee reports.

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00:14:20.790 --> 00:14:28.980

Anan Shahriar: So, all the committees usually sends out an end-of-year academic report, to us, and that is...

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00:14:30.000 --> 00:14:32.389

Anan Shahriar: Uploaded in this page.

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00:14:32.910 --> 00:14:51.200

Anan Shahriar: I joined in November, and I have only been able to compile up until... from 2024 to 2026. I will try in summer to get more of those reports that were submitted to us previous years, and upload them

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00:14:51.200 --> 00:14:53.040

Anan Shahriar: On this page, soon.

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00:14:53.040 --> 00:15:17.919

Solon Simmons: If I could jump in for a second, Anand, and say, so if you're new, and you're joining a committee, you're curious about what happened in an area, the best way these reports can be written, and also if you're on one of these committees, is you'd write it to document what you've done, but also to signal what might be done in the coming year, and so there can be some continuity. So ideally, they would be written in such a way to inform, almost on the assumption that you had an entirely new committee. You know, that is, someone stepping in blind. It isn't usually that way, but

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00:15:17.920 --> 00:15:22.529

Solon Simmons: If it were written in that way, all the better. That's something that we might have as an ideal.

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00:15:24.950 --> 00:15:25.740

Anan Shahriar: Alright.

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00:15:25.850 --> 00:15:27.560

Anan Shahriar: Thank you so much, Salon.

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00:15:28.940 --> 00:15:33.160

Anan Shahriar: Okay, and so that is all in the committees tab.

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00:15:33.280 --> 00:15:36.740

Anan Shahriar: Under Agenda, we have...

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00:15:37.020 --> 00:15:46.939

Anan Shahriar: I also want to show a little bit, a little of a... I don't know if we can call it a technical difficulty or not, but... so when we hover over these tabs.

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00:15:47.040 --> 00:16:06.250

Anan Shahriar: And we can click on the sub-tabs, but when you click on the tab itself, it will not show anything, so that sometimes confuses people, thinking, like, oh, agenda page doesn't have anything. It does, we just have to hover over here. Say we can go to Agenda Archive.

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00:16:06.350 --> 00:16:11.619

Anan Shahriar: If we click here, then the archive for the agenda will open up.

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00:16:12.020 --> 00:16:22.020

Anan Shahriar: And we have a huge archive here, let's say, until 2026, from... 2006?

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00:16:22.220 --> 00:16:26.950

Anan Shahriar: So, 20 years of documents are archived in here.

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00:16:27.190 --> 00:16:31.940

Anan Shahriar: And then, we have minutes... Archive as well.

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00:16:33.670 --> 00:16:37.010

Anan Shahriar: So, this is where all the minutes...

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00:16:37.720 --> 00:16:46.199

Anan Shahriar: from, let's see, 1994 is listed in here. So, again, this is a...

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00:16:46.360 --> 00:16:54.779

Anan Shahriar: huge archive of all the minutes that... and it... when I started my role, this has always been helpful. This is the document that I followed.

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00:16:54.780 --> 00:17:09.200

Anan Shahriar: And I remembered me and Solon worked together on... up until, like, 2022 or something, all the minutes, and I... when I went through the minutes, that's when I understood what actually happens in the meetings, what Faculty Senate does.

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00:17:09.319 --> 00:17:16.510

Anan Shahriar: So, the minutes have been a very, very good resource for me to understand how Faculty Senate works.

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00:17:17.400 --> 00:17:21.279

Anan Shahriar: And, under the information page.

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00:17:21.280 --> 00:17:31.999

Anan Shahriar: I can show you the faculty information page. This is a page... if I click on it, it will take me here directly, because I'm already logged in.

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00:17:32.000 --> 00:17:50.949

Anan Shahriar: But it might want you to log in with your Mason credentials. And, we have some technical difficulties when people try to log into this page. If there is any, again, I'm gonna post the Faculty Senate email in the chat soon. You can email us, and we will take care of it.

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00:17:51.640 --> 00:18:03.930

Anan Shahriar: So this is the faculty salary information page. We have uploaded faculty evaluation of administrators' reports in here, up until 2025.

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00:18:04.810 --> 00:18:06.379

Solon Simmons: And I... let me jump in again, just to make.

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00:18:06.380 --> 00:18:06.850

Anan Shahriar: the people.

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00:18:06.850 --> 00:18:30.009

Solon Simmons: get this one. This is where you get to see where the set public salary data are. So if you're curious what that associate provost of X makes, you can find it here. Also, this is where you can find out how well your dean is doing, or the provost, or the president, and what your colleagues think about them. And so, this is maybe one of the most contested areas where we've been very aggressive in making sure we get information in both the salaries

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00:18:30.010 --> 00:18:36.629

Solon Simmons: And, also the FEAs, what we call FEAs, which are now in the field doing in Gallup Poll, which is where we're handling that.

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00:18:36.630 --> 00:18:54.290

Solon Simmons: But, this is really one of the fruits of pushback, I would say, where we say, no, this is something we really want to be able... this is transparency and action, and it's a contested thing, and if you become a leader of the Senate, you're going to have to defend this page, because no future administrator is going to want to have this information sitting here. Just to say. Go ahead, Anna.

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00:18:55.270 --> 00:19:02.630

Anan Shahriar: Thank you so much, Solan. I actually had, like, I was confused about what to say about this page. Thank you so much for saving me.

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00:19:03.830 --> 00:19:11.860

Anan Shahriar: Let me go to the homepage, and let's look at the homepage now. So we're kind of done with all the tabs. You can come in and...

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00:19:11.860 --> 00:19:32.429

Anan Shahriar: Hover over the tabs if you have any questions. Again, you can always email us, and we can give you more information. So on the front page is... you can always find the next Faculty Senate meeting date, the Zoom link. So this is the Zoom link for the 3 p.m. meeting that we have today.

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00:19:33.170 --> 00:19:37.190

Anan Shahriar: And it is open for everyone, so anyone can join.

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00:19:37.190 --> 00:19:54.179

Anan Shahriar: And under new and in progress, this is where we usually post things that are new in progress. So this is the board book for our meeting. This is linked here. It's a PDF link. You can open and find out what's happening in the 3 p.m. meeting today.

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00:19:54.690 --> 00:19:57.819

Anan Shahriar: And so, this is the minutes.

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00:19:57.950 --> 00:20:14.449

Anan Shahriar: for our last meeting, which was March 25, 2026, and an additional spillover meeting after that on April 8, 2026. Solan, do you want to give a little bit information about the spillover minute meeting?

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00:20:14.450 --> 00:20:37.660

Solon Simmons: This is related to Roberts in a way, so there are these... there's a formal, I don't know if we call it a session or exactly the unit language, but when you have a spillover, you're basically in the same agenda as you were in the previous, so then you're continu... it's thought of as a continuation of the same session that you were in previously. So, when we call a meeting March 25th, for example, that's our March meeting, we've had so much business this year.

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00:20:37.660 --> 00:20:51.879

Solon Simmons: I hope we don't have so much business always, but we've had a lot, so then we call a spillover meeting when we can't get the agenda completed, and around faculty handbook and catalog, that's typical. So, so then the spillover is effectively part of the same session as the March 25 meeting.

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00:20:53.690 --> 00:20:55.240

Anan Shahriar: Thank you so much.

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00:20:55.240 --> 00:21:20.129

Anan Shahriar: So that's why the spillover and the official Faculty Senate, March meeting has been combined, the minutes. And we try to... not we try to, we have been uploading the minutes, for the previous meeting at least 7 days ahead of the next meeting, so that faculty senators have enough time to go through the minutes and

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00:21:20.130 --> 00:21:22.850

Anan Shahriar: Find any corrections or, you know...

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00:21:22.850 --> 00:21:28.769

Anan Shahriar: Which, which we do, in the Faculty Senate meetings itself.

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00:21:28.880 --> 00:21:37.960

Anan Shahriar: Where if there's any corrections needed, anyone can... a senator can voice that, and that will be taken care of.

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00:21:37.960 --> 00:22:01.330

Solon Simmons: The board book is really the agenda, so we have, by our bylaws, we have to post the agenda and the minutes a week prior, and so that's what we do here. Sometimes I also send it out, almost always I send it out, but that's not a formal piece of what we are our obligation. But if you're ever concerned, we're trying to make the Faculty Senate website. That's one of the really great improvements of having the clerk here, is that it really makes sure that this is up to date.

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00:22:03.560 --> 00:22:04.850

Anan Shahriar: Thank you so much.

138

00:22:05.240 --> 00:22:09.580

Anan Shahriar: And then, yeah, everything else is just...

139

00:22:09.700 --> 00:22:21.400

Anan Shahriar: New things that we've been working on, or we have discussed so far, and this new one in progress will get updated after our today's meeting.

140

00:22:21.470 --> 00:22:27.400

Anan Shahriar: So... and then Faculty Senate meeting schedule. This is the meeting schedule for today.

141

00:22:27.400 --> 00:22:43.370

Anan Shahriar: this is the meeting schedule for today. And for the whole year, we usually... we're going to post this in here for the 2026-2027 Academic Year meeting scheduled soon. This is the schedule up until today.

142

00:22:44.490 --> 00:22:56.399

Anan Shahriar: And... that is pretty much it. That's all I wanted to show you guys, and I can, again, I'm always here to help. I...

143

00:22:56.430 --> 00:23:01.100

Anan Shahriar: Did I introduce myself? I forgot. I'm gonna do it again. I'm Anan.

144

00:23:01.100 --> 00:23:17.119

Anan Shahriar: I work as a Faculty Senate Clerk. I'm always happy to help with any questions or resources or anything you need, and I will post our website and email in the chat for you guys. It was really nice.

145

00:23:17.120 --> 00:23:18.500

Anan Shahriar: meeting you all.

146

00:23:19.030 --> 00:23:25.839

Solon Simmons: And it's not... if I can say another word, and not only is it great to have Anand working as she does, but since she's so deeply embedded in the Provost team.

147

00:23:25.840 --> 00:23:40.560

Solon Simmons: She's in a particularly, well... she's well-positioned, I guess I should say, to be effective in making sure that we're supported across the entire administrative apparatus. So that's a... that's an... that's an innovation we've got, and I think I'm very happy to have it.

148

00:23:41.450 --> 00:23:42.679

Anan Shahriar: Thank you so much.

149

00:23:47.070 --> 00:23:50.720

Solon Simmons: So I think we're to questions now. Do you want to do Robert's Rule, Zach, or how do you want to do it?

150

00:23:51.660 --> 00:23:54.350

Zachary Schrag: Oh my god, who's the presiding officer? We forgot.

151

00:23:54.350 --> 00:23:55.480

Solon Simmons: I don't know.

152

00:23:55.480 --> 00:24:00.759

Zachary Schrag: I think you outranked me, so if people just want to raise their hands.

153

00:24:04.040 --> 00:24:12.030

Solon Simmons: Basically, we want to... this is more informal, just in case, you know, anything, no stupid question space, where we just want to...

154

00:24:12.030 --> 00:24:28.910

Solon Simmons: you know, and seasoned people, too. You know, it's like, I always wondered, how do I amend, you know, can I amend an amendment, or whatever? So, nicely... and one nice thing about Zach is he's been going real deep into Roberts lately, so I've been paying a lot more attention. Lisa's been on the Senate forever. I've been on there since 17.

155

00:24:28.910 --> 00:24:39.880

Solon Simmons: you know, a number of us have served for a long time, but, you know, we always have questions. And in every single meeting, I have

that little panic attack where I say, oh, how do you do that? And I go and look it up.

156

00:24:41.830 --> 00:24:50.680

Solon Simmons: But we don't want senators to feel any sense of panic, and we want you to just be able to participate and feel that it's as natural and you're respected as much as possible.

157

00:24:53.550 --> 00:24:54.619

Solon Simmons: Go ahead, Kelly.

158

00:24:55.240 --> 00:25:07.389

Kelly M Wentland: So just two questions. For the agenda, if there are any attachments, will they also be in the same agenda page? Is that the same location where we would find any relevant attachments or background detail?

159

00:25:08.730 --> 00:25:18.580

Zachary Schrag: That's a great question. So, yeah, this is... I should say this is a work in progress, because that has been a big challenge for senators, is to figure out, what is it that I need to read

160

00:25:18.940 --> 00:25:36.579

Zachary Schrag: to be prepared for this meeting. And the current, but fairly recent format that we've developed is what we're calling a board book, which I think is a terminology we've borrowed from the Board of Visitors, if I have that correct, Solan. So maybe we should call it a Senate book or something else.

161

00:25:36.580 --> 00:25:37.100

Solon Simmons: Great.

162

00:25:37.100 --> 00:25:53.210

Zachary Schrag: Yeah, we're still working on it. The current one for today is 70-some pages long. So I think I can share this here. So, a lot of that is... so you have the agenda on the first page.

163

00:25:53.950 --> 00:25:59.460

Zachary Schrag: And instruction for zooming in. And then, you'll see there are these appendices.

164

00:25:59.630 --> 00:26:14.970

Zachary Schrag: And, these used to be posted separately. I certainly think, and I'm hoping it's a consensus of the Senate, that it's easier to

have them all in one document, especially if you'll see Anon has prepared a table of contents here, so you can click to the parts that you want.

165

00:26:14.970 --> 00:26:21.159

Zachary Schrag: And, so when we go to... oh, there's a,

166

00:26:21.270 --> 00:26:36.680

Zachary Schrag: Faculty Handbook Appendix E, what does Lisa have in store for us? You can, I guess, click here, and these are the motions and the changes, and very helpfully.

167

00:26:36.680 --> 00:26:45.480

Zachary Schrag: the explanations for all of this. One of the challenges in the Senate has been...

168

00:26:45.780 --> 00:26:53.769

Zachary Schrag: Different people, they could be administrators, they could be committees, saying, we propose this change without enough background

169

00:26:53.800 --> 00:26:58.749

Zachary Schrag: for the Faculty Senate to know why that's a good idea and why it's a bad idea.

170

00:26:58.750 --> 00:27:14.569

Zachary Schrag: And so we're trying to work to a place where, yeah, it's all in one place, you read this, you do your homework, just as if you were walking into a graduate seminar, and you will be prepared to join in the discussion. As with the graduate seminar.

171

00:27:14.570 --> 00:27:24.309

Zachary Schrag: I... it's a pretty good idea to take notes. I have my own. So, you know, for example, there's a very long

172

00:27:24.460 --> 00:27:26.720

Zachary Schrag: report here about...

173

00:27:26.870 --> 00:27:41.010

Zachary Schrag: a C-, whether we should continue the C- for undergrads, and so I've highlighted my portions, and I have questions for the committee, that kind of thing, just as I would if I were, again, reading an article for a seminar.

174

00:27:42.160 --> 00:27:43.760

Zachary Schrag: And you had a second question, Kelly?

175

00:27:43.760 --> 00:28:03.560

Kelly M Wentland: Yes, thank you, that was very helpful, I appreciate that. The second question I had is, is looking at the faculty handbook the best place to look for what kinds of motions within your college, require faculty sent votes, so you can kind of be in the pulse or be aware as you're going to different meetings, things that might need to..

176

00:28:03.640 --> 00:28:08.629

Kelly M Wentland: What would go on to Faculty Senate, beyond your college?

177

00:28:08.840 --> 00:28:11.619

Kelly M Wentland: If there's just, like, a summary docket of the types of... Right.

178

00:28:11.620 --> 00:28:23.800

Zachary Schrag: So, this is... that's a... that's a great question and a hard one. So, in the, document, How to Be a Faculty Senator, I tried to list

179

00:28:23.800 --> 00:28:33.340

Zachary Schrag: all of the different, documents that are relevant, and I now realize I may have failed. So, what are the most important documents

180

00:28:33.450 --> 00:28:38.540

Zachary Schrag: for the university. The handbook is really...

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00:28:38.640 --> 00:28:56.579

Zachary Schrag: kind of a contract. It's sort of the global contract that faculty have with the university. What it takes to be hired, what it takes to be promoted, what it takes to be fired, what it takes to be disciplined. Those are, you know, one set of rules, but they're not...

182

00:28:56.770 --> 00:29:01.989

Zachary Schrag: primarily about teaching, or research. They're really, about doing your job.

183

00:29:02.300 --> 00:29:12.609

Zachary Schrag: The catalog, I think, is the interface between the student and the instructor. So, academic policies,

184

00:29:13.020 --> 00:29:22.090

Zachary Schrag: Go in there, so anything about grading, about a dissertation committee, about,

185

00:29:22.610 --> 00:29:32.210

Zachary Schrag: students, you know, student being absent. There's even a section, you know, on student rights and responsibilities, appeals to grades, all kinds of stuff about...

186

00:29:32.460 --> 00:29:48.609

Zachary Schrag: teaching will primarily show up in the catalog. And some changes to the catalog are reviewed by the Faculty Senate, and some aren't. They're different sections of the catalog, and this has actually been an area of some contention.

187

00:29:48.840 --> 00:29:51.629

Zachary Schrag: you know, Solon mentioned the bit about the, you know.

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00:29:52.160 --> 00:29:57.599

Zachary Schrag: salary data and the rest. Like, one of the reasons senates get so crabby is that

189

00:29:57.740 --> 00:30:14.809

Zachary Schrag: university administrators or state legislatures are often trying to reduce their power. Texas has abolished its elected faculty senates, as I mentioned, right? And so, there is this kind of defensiveness that we can develop where we say.

190

00:30:14.950 --> 00:30:27.610

Zachary Schrag: why are you making these rules without consulting us? And so, sometimes it can actually go the other way. So one of the things we're doing is moving some things from one part of the catalog that does not get reviewed by Faculty Senate.

191

00:30:27.610 --> 00:30:41.029

Zachary Schrag: to another part that does. So, really, when you ask that question, you know, what is it that affects my college that is under the purview of the Senate, it depends. Is it a... is it a labor relations issue, right, a hiring and contract issue? Is it a teaching issue?

192

00:30:41.040 --> 00:30:59.530

Zachary Schrag: if it's a research issue, that might not go through the Senate, because traditionally we don't have a research committee, in part because I can say that a lot of the compliance stuff is set by federal regulations, and so it can be, you know.

193

00:30:59.540 --> 00:31:03.660

Zachary Schrag: whatever the Senate thinks, we can't actually...

194

00:31:04.060 --> 00:31:21.779

Zachary Schrag: change the rules on, say, human subjects research. We can create an oversight advisory board on that, and we did, and that, I think, did some good. But we, you know, in part because of, I think, all the federal regulations, export controls. I don't know if you had that presentation, like, that...

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00:31:22.110 --> 00:31:26.740

Zachary Schrag: Those rules are crazy, but they're set by the federal government, and so,

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00:31:26.870 --> 00:31:31.050

Zachary Schrag: there's... it's kind of outside of the purview of the Faculty Senate there.

197

00:31:32.060 --> 00:31:42.820

Solon Simmons: But if you're trying to get ready for a meeting, Kelly, you'd look at the agenda, the board book, the Senate book, whatever that would be called, and that's what it's gonna be. And the way that gets set, we should say this too.

198

00:31:42.820 --> 00:31:59.820

Solon Simmons: is that this is set at the Faculty Senate Executive Committee, which happens on the Monday prior to the Wednesday meeting. That is a week before. So, 9 days before, now. That's what we're doing now, that's the current practice. And then we're trying to make sure that all the documents for... that would be in the Wednesday meeting

199

00:31:59.820 --> 00:32:08.519

Solon Simmons: would be present there in the executive committee meeting, but it's the committees themselves that set the agenda, more or less. You know, there's some things the president does, but mainly it's the committees.

200

00:32:08.640 --> 00:32:19.530

Solon Simmons: that are, you know, so if there's a lot of work, you can blame the committees, because they're really active, that's what... that's what's going on. And so if you want to get something done, the best thing to do is to join a Senate standing committee.

201

00:32:19.590 --> 00:32:28.870

Solon Simmons: That is, if you have a real agenda to try to move something forward, and then to look at which ones are, and you have to

run for office, and so on, but typically there's a lot of opportunity to serve on those committees.

202

00:32:29.490 --> 00:32:40.889

Zachary Schrag: But the other part is, if you have an issue in your college where you say, you know, the term faculty don't know how to get from associate to full. Like, we just can't figure that out.

203

00:32:40.890 --> 00:32:56.029

Zachary Schrag: Just take it to Solon and say, you know, who's in charge of this? And he would say, oh, you want to talk to Faculty Matters, they've been dealing with that, or we have a special task force on term faculty. He can be the traffic director to help you figure out

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00:32:56.220 --> 00:33:00.370

Zachary Schrag: Not just what document that lives in, but also what committee might be working on it.

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00:33:01.200 --> 00:33:03.040

Kelly M Wentland: Thank you both, that was very helpful.

206

00:33:12.450 --> 00:33:13.590

Zachary Schrag: Other questions?

207

00:33:24.060 --> 00:33:25.059

Solon Simmons: Go ahead, Catherine.

208

00:33:26.210 --> 00:33:39.880

Catherine Sausville: So one thing... hello, Catherine Sawsville, co-chair of ONO, along with Zach. One of the things when I was a new senator that was kind of challenging for me was, like, how do I know which way to vote on an issue?

209

00:33:39.880 --> 00:33:48.999

Catherine Sausville: So what you can do is you can get together, if you have multiple senators in your unit, I know some have very few senators, but, I'm in College of Science.

210

00:33:49.140 --> 00:33:58.679

Catherine Sausville: And so we have a bunch, I think seven, so you can just get together, you can contact your other senators, you can go to your unit's, like, faculty meetings.

211

00:33:58.680 --> 00:34:11.690

Catherine Sausville: And, you know, tell them, like, what things are coming up on the agenda, stuff like that, and get their feedback. Obviously, people within your department, those are kind of easy to hit, and other people in your college. And so I found that that kind of...

212

00:34:11.690 --> 00:34:21.339

Catherine Sausville: opening up that avenue has really helped me see where people are, because you are their, you know, elected official, basically. So that's also something you can do.

213

00:34:23.770 --> 00:34:48.010

Solon Simmons: That's a great point, and you know, I think that there's a lot of variability in how people do that, but one of the things that I was really interested in when I came in... so you heard the president, Washington, you'll hear today, has these things he's calling red teams. When I started in this role, I had, what, a red agenda, which was representation, engagement, and democracy. That's what I call it, code red, but I guess that's trendy. But the representation piece was the R, which was to say, you know, in the end, you're not here to be... to boast your own opinions, you're here to...

214

00:34:48.010 --> 00:34:49.940

Solon Simmons: Represent your colleagues.

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00:34:49.940 --> 00:35:06.359

Solon Simmons: That's easy for me, because I'm the only senator from my school, so I can talk to myself and my... but I need to talk to them, right? That's when I... I need to know what they want. And ideally, I would say, hey, we're going to vote on this, you know, maybe even hold a referendum straw vote, or something, some way to gauge what you'd like your... what they would like you to do.

216

00:35:06.360 --> 00:35:31.319

Solon Simmons: And then the democracy piece is making... is more like this, that making sure that once you're here, how do we make sure that your voice is surfaced and obtained in the way that it ought to? And so on. And the engagement thing, by the way, is where we do Gallup. So that is... I hope you're encouraging everyone to do that, because we get the FEA, which is that we evaluate our administrators, but also that those data then feed back into the senior administration.

217

00:35:31.320 --> 00:35:43.530

Solon Simmons: in a way that's pretty productive. And we know that engaged faculty make engaged students and successful students. That's something we've learned from Gallup. So that's one of the reasons that's important for us to try to help. And some schools just don't feel very empowered.

218

00:35:43.530 --> 00:36:03.839

Solon Simmons: talking to you, engineering. So, that is to say, we just don't get the response that we might, and I would love to see more active engagements. Maybe just people feel burned out, or they're not going to be listened to, or that it doesn't matter what I say. I will tell you, we have access to the very top levels of administration here in the university, much more than many other places.

219

00:36:03.840 --> 00:36:24.350

Solon Simmons: And if I'm upset about something, if you are specifically upset about something, anyone in my chair will be able to get the ear of the president right away. And he often... you're gonna hear him today, he's gonna... he's worried about what we think. You know, he wants to make sure that we understand his agenda for reforming the curriculum and the degrees, and so we'll have an opportunity to tell him what we think.

220

00:36:24.630 --> 00:36:25.389

Solon Simmons: And he cares.

221

00:36:25.840 --> 00:36:36.650

Zachary Schrag: And could I just add, you know, I mentioned the sort of two levels of Senate action, the full Senate and the committee level. There's another one, at least, which is the quiet conversations, where...

222

00:36:36.650 --> 00:36:47.929

Zachary Schrag: I don't get to chat with Greg Washington as much as I'd like, but I do talk to people in the provost's office, you know, in part because we just know each other, but in part because of my role as a faculty senator, they know that I kind of...

223

00:36:48.030 --> 00:36:55.280

Zachary Schrag: speak for the faculty, I'm trusted by the faculty. And so, before something even gets to the level of a formal proposal.

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00:36:55.500 --> 00:37:11.539

Zachary Schrag: sometimes those conversations are happening over coffee, where, like, yeah, we have this problem, but we know it's gonna, you know, frustrate some people, or alarm some people. How do we package it in a way that will alleviate concerns? And so I encourage people to

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00:37:11.540 --> 00:37:21.060

Zachary Schrag: use their office in that way as well to get to know folks in, you know, again, Provost's office especially, but perhaps, other areas as well.

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00:37:28.880 --> 00:37:29.920
Solon Simmons: Matt, go ahead.

227

00:37:33.250 --> 00:37:57.099

Matt Scherer: Thanks, really appreciate all this information. So, based on this meeting, I was able to find my way to the bylaws. There's a question about committees, and I'm reading about committees, it's typically two-year appointment, they are elective. I was gonna ask for, in a reasonably short scope, there's so much information, an overview of the committee landscape, and the timeline and process for elections, when that happens, how many openings there typically are, just what that really looks like.

228

00:37:57.260 --> 00:37:58.569

Matt Scherer: In practice.

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00:38:00.760 --> 00:38:01.910

Zachary Schrag: Lee, you wanna take that one?

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00:38:01.910 --> 00:38:03.500

Solon Simmons: We got nominations here.

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00:38:04.080 --> 00:38:05.180

Lee Black: Sure.

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00:38:05.860 --> 00:38:11.459

Lee Black: So, we generally do hold Faculty Senate Standing Committee elections.

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00:38:11.880 --> 00:38:16.499

Lee Black: It's gonna be today, although this is the first year we've done it in the spring. It's usually in the fall.

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00:38:17.060 --> 00:38:20.240

Lee Black: So things are a little bit harried, getting things ready, but...

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00:38:20.880 --> 00:38:26.189

Lee Black: for the Senate standing committees, there typically is going to be at least one open seat.

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00:38:26.370 --> 00:38:28.180

Lee Black: Sometimes 2 to 3.

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00:38:28.680 --> 00:38:33.360

Lee Black: I'm looking at, this semester's... actually, let me see if I can share it with you.

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00:38:36.030 --> 00:38:37.100

Lee Black: There we go.

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00:38:38.470 --> 00:38:39.890

Lee Black: This is...

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00:38:43.090 --> 00:38:43.900

Lee Black: Whoops.

241

00:38:46.320 --> 00:38:47.549

Lee Black: It's not right.

242

00:38:51.950 --> 00:39:04.159

Lee Black: Okay, so this is the, ballot that's going to be up today, but because we had a delay in getting input from the new senators, it was not able to be included with the, the board book for this week.

243

00:39:04.610 --> 00:39:12.159

Lee Black: But we go through the process where you'll get a survey to fill out indicating what communities you're interested in serving on.

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00:39:12.310 --> 00:39:16.510

Lee Black: And then, the committee, will draw from that to.

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00:39:16.620 --> 00:39:35.439

Lee Black: include nominees for the meeting per vote. It's important to know that we're only allowed to include the number of nominees for open seats. So, although more faculty members, more senators indicated interest in academic policies, we only have one name on here because there was only one opening.

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00:39:35.780 --> 00:39:36.910

Lee Black: So...

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00:39:37.090 --> 00:39:51.169

Lee Black: You're able to, at the meeting, extract any committee that you want to nominate yourself to, if you're not already nominated, to make it a contested seat, or you can vote for the slate as presented without addition to it.

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00:39:51.470 --> 00:39:54.160

Lee Black: As far as...

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00:39:54.380 --> 00:40:01.430

Lee Black: you know, more involvement in getting elected, you can always contact me, you know, currently, right now, the Dalmatians committee chair.

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00:40:01.680 --> 00:40:04.299

Lee Black: If you're interested in a specific committee.

251

00:40:04.490 --> 00:40:08.909

Lee Black: Now, outside of the universe... outside of the Senate Standing Committees, we also have university committees

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00:40:09.160 --> 00:40:23.369

Lee Black: that we'll be, electing for in the fall, at least for the next, round. And you'll be getting a survey about those committees in the next few weeks, and there's a lot of university committees, that you can serve on that do a lot more,

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00:40:23.610 --> 00:40:41.340

Lee Black: different kinds of functions than what we do in the Senate itself. So there's a lot of opportunities to be involved. If you're interested in specific committees, you can always contact nominations members to indicate your interest, and we can try to get you on an election slate. But it's really, you know, it's driven by the surveys, and then

254

00:40:41.530 --> 00:40:48.590

Lee Black: The committee going through the survey results and figuring out who to place where based upon the needs for different colleges.

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00:40:48.830 --> 00:40:55.680

Lee Black: different levels of faculty, so tenure track, tenure term. Some committees don't allow for

256

00:40:55.870 --> 00:40:58.489

Lee Black: term, term faculty on the committee.

257

00:40:58.650 --> 00:41:11.950

Lee Black: If there's a mix of requirements, we have to make our choices based upon whether we need a term member to replace somebody's term, or a

tenure track for tenure track. So, a lot of variables go into it, but you can always let us know what your interests are.

258

00:41:16.260 --> 00:41:17.300

Solon Simmons: Milan, go ahead.

259

00:41:17.670 --> 00:41:29.470

Mohan Venigalla: Oh, I just wanted to add a little bit more to that committee thing. One of the... Lee mentioned about the requirement that, like, there are a couple of university committees that require

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00:41:29.680 --> 00:41:33.439

Mohan Venigalla: everybody to be tenured, like, grievance Committee is one.

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00:41:33.960 --> 00:41:43.480

Mohan Venigalla: And the UPTRAC is another one. Those two are the university committees, and there is a reason for that one. And also, some committees do not limit

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00:41:43.670 --> 00:41:57.630

Mohan Venigalla: whether you should have a tenure, or you should be... you can be a term or not, but Faculty Matters Committee has specific requirements. Because of the nature of the committee's charge.

263

00:41:57.780 --> 00:42:02.620

Mohan Venigalla: that requirement is placed, that's one thing. The other thing I also want to mention is that

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00:42:03.270 --> 00:42:11.469

Mohan Venigalla: My understanding for the last 5 years I've been on the Senate, and then before that is that, I used to think, why not

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00:42:11.570 --> 00:42:19.290

Mohan Venigalla: Hello... whoever wants to serve on that, who are, willing to serve, why not allow that? And what...

266

00:42:19.870 --> 00:42:25.460

Mohan Venigalla: what I found out, and it is... it is a good practice, is that

267

00:42:25.860 --> 00:42:35.220

Mohan Venigalla: There has to be... I mean, the nominations company, as I understand, looks for uniform representation across the university, as opposed to

268

00:42:35.330 --> 00:42:37.550

Mohan Venigalla: One college serving on

269

00:42:37.870 --> 00:42:47.429

Mohan Venigalla: on one committee, like, a bunch of faculty from the same college serving on the committee. I just wanted to give my observations on that.

270

00:42:47.990 --> 00:43:11.340

Solon Simmons: And Matt, if you're interested, so you can go to that committee tab in the Faculty Senate website, and it's both got both composition and charges, and char... it'd be nice if they were in folders, maybe, but anyway, they're all listed the way they are, maybe, and I can work on that, but... but the idea would be to... you can, if you want to say, figure out what the composition is, is it... are you, you know, is it viable for you to be on that committee? You can always check to see what... and I think the main composition things are tenured versus term sometimes.

271

00:43:11.340 --> 00:43:36.200

Solon Simmons: and then college. I think that's the... those are the two main variables. There might be others that I'm not thinking of, but because we want... sometimes it's because we want to make sure term are represented so that they are, you know, not excluded, and sometimes because we believe that there's a certain kind of protection that is in very contested spaces, like grievance and Uptrak, where they are tenured. But then colleges are also, you know, the reason why. So you can check to see, do someone... is this... is there an opening for a person like me.

272

00:43:36.200 --> 00:43:40.720

Solon Simmons: And it is... and then you go to nominations, and nominations kind of make sure to channel all that stuff.

273

00:43:41.890 --> 00:43:42.939

Solon Simmons: Carrie, go ahead.

274

00:43:42.940 --> 00:43:53.850

Kerri LaCharite (she/her) George Mason University: This is a purely selfish question. Lee, can you email me whatever didn't get into the board book? What I'm finding is super easier to have and copy and paste than it.

275

00:43:53.850 --> 00:43:54.690
Solon Simmons: Oh, makes sense.

276
00:43:54.690 --> 00:43:55.440
Kerri LaCharite (she/her) George Mason University: thing.

277
00:43:55.440 --> 00:43:56.330
Lee Black: Yes. Sorry.

278
00:43:56.440 --> 00:43:58.420
Lee Black: Yeah, I'll send that to you now.

279
00:44:05.420 --> 00:44:06.719
Solon Simmons: Oh, Georgia, go ahead.

280
00:44:06.930 --> 00:44:20.600
Georgia A. Williams: Hi, good afternoon, everyone. I'm Georgia from the Forensic Science Program in the College of Science. I did have a question about the recordings for these meetings. Are they usually posted in the minutes?

281
00:44:21.720 --> 00:44:23.159
Solon Simmons: It's an O&O question, I think.

282
00:44:24.030 --> 00:44:40.270
Zachary Schrag: So this is a work in progress. So, you know, we used to meet in person before the start of COVID, we went to Zoom, and we... I don't know when we started recording those, sort of for the use of the,

283
00:44:40.660 --> 00:44:45.989
Zachary Schrag: secretary and clerk. But one of the things we discovered is once you

284
00:44:46.020 --> 00:44:53.740
Zachary Schrag: have things on Zoom as a public meeting, anyone in the world can watch them. And so, we've seen this,

285
00:44:53.760 --> 00:45:06.279
Zachary Schrag: once at Mason, more frequently at UVA, that people from, outside the Senate are, recording or posting the recordings, or getting them through the Freedom of Information Act.

286
00:45:06.340 --> 00:45:24.489

Zachary Schrag: So there's no privacy to what goes on in a Faculty Senate meeting, so we thought we might as well level the playing field and post the official recordings. Now, that said, that requires, discussions with the technical folks, and Anand has been doing great work on that, so we're not...

287

00:45:24.490 --> 00:45:44.300

Zachary Schrag: quite at the point where we are posting it, but today, we are proposing a standing rule that would allow that, and then, Anand has a way to figure it out. We had to tinker with, like, it's not going to be on the Senate webpage, it's going to be linked to something so that we don't use up our server space or something. I don't know.

288

00:45:44.300 --> 00:45:59.470

Zachary Schrag: But anyway, the point is, the recording should be available, and, I think that will be helpful in part because sometimes people make certain promises, whether it's the rector, or the president, or even a committee chair.

289

00:45:59.870 --> 00:46:03.109

Zachary Schrag: If you look at the,

290

00:46:03.180 --> 00:46:17.000

Zachary Schrag: minutes from the last meeting. Let me see if I can... I was gonna queue that up. So, this was either the previous March or April meeting. We had a discussion about eliminating the...

291

00:46:17.010 --> 00:46:24.920

Zachary Schrag: or reducing the passing grade for English 102 and 302 in the Mason Core.

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00:46:25.010 --> 00:46:30.059

Zachary Schrag: And, at... part of that...

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00:46:30.070 --> 00:46:48.899

Zachary Schrag: I, or one of my colleagues, extracted this promise that departments may still require higher grades for prerequisites, which is to say, if you want to take History 499, I think, in my department, you still need a C in English 302. That C-minus is not going to do that, right? Having that in the minutes

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00:46:48.900 --> 00:47:00.809

Zachary Schrag: is really important, because 5 years from now, a student might say, I deserve to take the course, I got a C- in English 302, and we will pull out this minute that Anand will have carefully preserved.

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00:47:00.810 --> 00:47:21.589

Zachary Schrag: and say, no, no, it says right here, but in case that didn't make it in, the transcript would be a kind of backup to that, where, again, there are things that the previous rector said that I really wish I had on record. He's gone now, never mind, but I think the transcripts and recordings will be very helpful to us.

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00:47:25.060 --> 00:47:25.890

Georgia A. Williams: Thank you.

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00:47:28.850 --> 00:47:31.920

Zachary Schrag: The downside, obviously, is that you do need to...

298

00:47:32.030 --> 00:47:44.169

Zachary Schrag: be a little formal and careful in what you have to say, but, I think that's true whether or not we post the recordings, because we've had hundreds of people watch our meetings, most famously in July of 2025.

299

00:47:44.170 --> 00:47:50.850

Mohan Venigalla: So, Solomon, is this only for faculty senators, right? Are they incoming, are they existing?

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00:47:51.780 --> 00:47:54.470

Solon Simmons: We have a mixture, I think, don't we, here?

301

00:47:54.470 --> 00:47:55.590

Mohan Venigalla: Yeah, okay.

302

00:47:56.100 --> 00:48:04.000

Mohan Venigalla: This may be relevant, I want to bring it up, because it has been published in, Chronicle of Higher Education anyway.

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00:48:04.270 --> 00:48:10.180

Mohan Venigalla: So... Last spring, one of the meetings was foired by our previous rector.

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00:48:10.510 --> 00:48:13.930

Mohan Venigalla: And, Zach, you want to mention something about that?

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00:48:14.510 --> 00:48:25.579

Zachary Schrag: Well, as I say, you know, originally the recordings were regarded kind of as temporary documents that would be used to prepare the minutes and then deleted.

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00:48:25.890 --> 00:48:33.160

Zachary Schrag: But we actually... it turns out we had no control over who was, recording and who was sharing and preserving them, so...

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00:48:33.160 --> 00:48:41.580

Solon Simmons: So the way that happened was before... so I was on my Zoom account, I recorded, just out of just courtesy, and thought, okay, this makes sense, I can go back later, and the... good for the secretary.

308

00:48:41.750 --> 00:48:53.820

Solon Simmons: And then the rector heard about the meeting, didn't like what happened, FOIA'd it, didn't even come to me and say, hey, what happened, whatever, FOIA'd it, and I never... had they not told me about it, I wouldn't... they just did it behind the scenes.

309

00:48:53.870 --> 00:49:05.439

Solon Simmons: So this, this was also part of what helped us realize, well, these are public documents anyway, we, you know, this protects us too, because then you can say, no, that's not what I said, I actually said this, you know, and you can go see it for yourself.

310

00:49:10.020 --> 00:49:23.709

Solon Simmons: I mean, it seems so straightforward, why not record it like we do anything else? But it turns out it's, you know, it's... there's a lot to it, and people are worried, but we decided that if we're here as senators representing our colleagues, then we are, in a sense, accountable for what we say in the Senate meetings.

311

00:49:32.390 --> 00:49:57.379

Solon Simmons: And usually that wasn't a big deal until the Department of Justice got interest. So it's... we've just passed through a very strange moment, and I assume it's not going to be like that in the future. We just had a year where this Faculty Senate became one of the most notorious in the country, or maybe the most... I don't know, but we were very prominent just because of the fact that the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice specifically took an interest. We had a meeting on Wednesday. By Friday, we had a letter from the Civil... the director of the Civil Rights

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00:49:57.380 --> 00:50:05.499

Solon Simmons: division, to us to preserve our records. So we became very legalistic and thoughtful about things that we otherwise just took for granted.

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00:50:14.560 --> 00:50:18.659

Zachary Schrag: Other questions? We had some chatter before about Roberts, which I, again, I...

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00:50:20.480 --> 00:50:31.599

Zachary Schrag: I don't love, but have come to respect. And, you know, that's a document, the Roberts document, that I hope will evolve as we figure out

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00:50:31.760 --> 00:50:49.509

Zachary Schrag: you know, what are the... it's a power rule, right? You use 20% of the rules 80% of the time, and so if we can figure out what those 20% are, I think that can perhaps take out a lot of anxiety, because, there's so much in Roberts that

316

00:50:49.660 --> 00:51:05.679

Zachary Schrag: I've been on the Senate for, I don't know, 7, 8 years, and, you know, no one's ever moved to reconsider anything, and that would... that's like a third of Roberts right there. So, you know, what can be reconsidered when? Like, why would you do that? You just make up your mind and go on. So,

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00:51:05.820 --> 00:51:12.970

Zachary Schrag: You know, I really do hope that that will not be an impediment to people, but it can be helpful.

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00:51:12.980 --> 00:51:29.210

Zachary Schrag: When you've got a lot of things to discuss in 90 minutes and 50-some people, you know, whose turn it is to speak and what they're allowed to say turns out to be very important in getting through a long agenda in a fixed amount of time.

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00:51:29.800 --> 00:51:32.330

Solon Simmons: Yeah, time is the problem, really. That's the biggest challenge.

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00:51:32.330 --> 00:51:35.479

Zachary Schrag: Had we whirled enough in time, then...

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00:51:35.770 --> 00:51:38.019

Zachary Schrag: Speaking freely would be no crime, yeah.

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00:51:39.400 --> 00:51:40.950

Zachary Schrag: That didn't scan at all, but whatever.

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00:51:44.170 --> 00:51:54.569

Solon Simmons: But basically, if you're a senator, you know, you have the opportunity to speak on any motion, and they're also... I mean, it's not always the case that you can bring a motion based on time. That would be a new business generally.

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00:51:54.650 --> 00:52:12.789

Solon Simmons: But... so what often happens is that it... because we have these Senate standing committees, they bring the motion, and then we debate that motion, and we can amend the motion, and then we vote on it. And we've even divided the motion sometimes, because you've got a piece in it that really bothers people, and then they say, but I like the rest.

325

00:52:12.790 --> 00:52:17.260

Solon Simmons: And then sometimes you pull it out. Sometimes we throw it back to committee.

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00:52:17.670 --> 00:52:26.800

Zachary Schrag: But part of it, too, is if you don't know the terminology, and you say, what I'd like to do is have a vote on this part and not on this part, just say that.

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00:52:26.800 --> 00:52:27.279

Solon Simmons: Someone will say.

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00:52:27.280 --> 00:52:29.999

Zachary Schrag: oh, what you want to do is divide the question. Let's do more.

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00:52:30.000 --> 00:52:31.710

Solon Simmons: More of that, let's do more of that, yeah.

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00:52:31.710 --> 00:52:39.000

Zachary Schrag: So, you know, it's very tempting to try to throw the whole thing out the window, but,

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00:52:39.090 --> 00:52:48.470

Zachary Schrag: I have learned through bitter experience that that would be a bad idea, that, people just start talking at the same time, and we lose track of what we're talking about.

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00:52:48.530 --> 00:52:56.150

Zachary Schrag: Or it just takes a lot longer than it should. I mean, we've definitely had cases where everyone's agreeing.

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00:52:56.150 --> 00:53:17.470

Zachary Schrag: Right? And, it, you know, someone will say, well, does anyone want to disagree? Because the Faculty Senate full meeting is really not the time to just vent everything you feel, it's the time to enact the business of the Senate. So, if he's heard three speeches in a row, it's really his role to say, are we done with this? Can we vote on it and go on to the next thing?

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00:53:17.470 --> 00:53:24.110

Zachary Schrag: not just, let's all agree that we feel this way about the undergraduate C-.

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00:53:25.460 --> 00:53:26.400

Solon Simmons: Go ahead, Lisa.

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00:53:27.500 --> 00:53:28.040

Solon Simmons: Why?

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00:53:28.040 --> 00:53:44.100

Lisa Billingham: And I would say that I think that comfort comes with time, but Zach, I would also agree that at some point, if we've been sitting listening long enough, and we really realize that we are in agreement.

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00:53:44.940 --> 00:53:52.239

Lisa Billingham: Sometimes, We as chairs, are waiting for someone to just call the... would someone call the question?

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00:53:52.240 --> 00:53:53.340

Solon Simmons: That's a big one.

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00:53:53.340 --> 00:54:06.859

Lisa Billingham: And that's a big one, and I try not to be that person, because I'm one of the older, more senior people, I guess, on the Senate now. But at some point, sometimes I'm like, alright, I'm gonna hedge my bet, and I'm gonna throw my hand up and say.

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00:54:07.060 --> 00:54:16.729

Lisa Billingham: I think, let's call the question, and then if the discussion really isn't over, then that really, procedurally, would be something for Solon to help the.

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00:54:16.730 --> 00:54:18.620

Solon Simmons: And that's a two-thirds, am I right?

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00:54:18.620 --> 00:54:23.839

Zachary Schrag: That is a two-thirds. And again, like, once you start thinking about why do we have this rule.

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00:54:23.950 --> 00:54:27.580

Zachary Schrag: a lot of them make sense, that...

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00:54:27.700 --> 00:54:30.580

Zachary Schrag: Calling the question, you know, shuts people up.

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00:54:31.020 --> 00:54:41.520

Zachary Schrag: But sometimes people need to shut up. That's, that's, you know, just very blunt about it, that, if you have, you know.

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00:54:41.910 --> 00:54:47.420

Zachary Schrag: You might have 5 people in the Senate who feel passionately that the Senate is about to do something terrible.

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00:54:47.530 --> 00:55:05.449

Zachary Schrag: But those people should not be allowed to filibuster. We do not have a filibuster in the Faculty Senate, so that's what the rules do. Now, laying on the table, everything I've read says, don't use this motion. I don't know why the motion's still in there. I could not find a single example of a

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00:55:05.450 --> 00:55:15.849

Zachary Schrag: proper use of laying on the table. So, you know, this is where I get really frustrated, and I will say these parliamentary authorities, most of them are not particularly empirical, they don't actually observe

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00:55:15.900 --> 00:55:26.329

Zachary Schrag: assemblies, you know, going on, and so, as a historian, I try to be more empirical. I just say, let's keep a record of what it is that we do, and

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00:55:26.450 --> 00:55:37.080

Zachary Schrag: Emphasize the things that are most likely to happen, and document new changes, and just ignore the vast bulk of that big, thick book.

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00:55:38.700 --> 00:55:55.290

Lisa Billingham: Well, and I will offer, while my mic is still on, what I tell new senators is I've been around a long time, and I love tea or coffee or going across to O.G George's or the Winehouse for a glass. If you're a new senator, and you just really want to ask questions, you have to...

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00:55:56.140 --> 00:56:06.070

Lisa Billingham: Sometimes on the floor isn't the place to ask it the first time you're really trying to figure things out. Zach is really great about procedure, and...

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00:56:06.230 --> 00:56:12.219

Lisa Billingham: all of us that have been here, we want you to be a success. I think that's one thing I wanted to say is.

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00:56:12.400 --> 00:56:32.150

Lisa Billingham: we want everyone to be a success, and for every... everyone's voice to be heard. We have some... I will say, we have some people that tend to speak a lot more than others, and sometimes when things are ready to be passed, we haven't heard enough voices saying, my college is behind this.

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00:56:32.620 --> 00:56:42.449

Lisa Billingham: And so, thinking about being that voice sometimes in the Senate is also an important thing to consider. And if you have questions about committees.

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00:56:43.070 --> 00:57:02.639

Lisa Billingham: look at the charges, but reach out to us. Anyone on O&O can talk to you about the difference. The university standing committees are wider committees, because it's... I'm just going to do this as a base reminder, and then, Zach, I promise I'll stop talking, and give Lisa an open mic, right? The university standing committees

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00:57:03.730 --> 00:57:13.939

Lisa Billingham: I would also say, as a senator, I try to watch what's open there for the rest of the people in my college, if there's... if we're looking for representation. I'm in CBPA.

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00:57:13.940 --> 00:57:24.700

Lisa Billingham: And we find that that's the one college in something particular where we don't have representation, but there may be something that's a faculty issue where it would be important to be a part of that, so...

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00:57:25.110 --> 00:57:29.650

Lisa Billingham: Just welcome to all of you that are new, and I hope those of you that don't have a class can...

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00:57:29.950 --> 00:57:35.459

Lisa Billingham: come and have a glass of water or something that you would like at Old George's at 5 o'clock.

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00:57:35.460 --> 00:57:54.419

Zachary Schrag: Yeah. And again, if people are free at 3 o'clock, I strongly encourage you to watch that session, take notes, ask, you know, ask us later, like, what the heck was that? Because, you know, the next... well, we'll see if we need a spillover, but, you know, most...

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00:57:54.530 --> 00:58:01.810

Zachary Schrag: there's at least a decent chance that the next Faculty Senate after this one, you'll be a voting member, and,

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00:58:02.380 --> 00:58:05.970

Zachary Schrag: You know, there will be... I don't think so. I don'.

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00:58:06.780 --> 00:58:14.319

Mohan Venigalla: I don't think so. I think that this session of the Senate ends on the graduation day, so I'm not mistaken.

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00:58:14.320 --> 00:58:17.060

Zachary Schrag: Right, but when are we next meeting? We might have one spillover?

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00:58:17.060 --> 00:58:17.690

Solon Simmons: My name is Phil.

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00:58:17.690 --> 00:58:21.390

Mohan Venigalla: No, the spillover's still the same, same sanity.

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00:58:21.390 --> 00:58:26.890

Zachary Schrag: So I'm just saying, if this is our last meeting until August or September,

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00:58:27.030 --> 00:58:30.770

Zachary Schrag: This is the chance for new senators to watch and learn.

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00:58:31.110 --> 00:58:37.509

Solon Simmons: Yeah, yeah, yeah. And if you ever hear a call to question, I just want to say that. Just know, that's fighting words, just so be ready to know what you believe, you know?

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00:58:37.510 --> 00:58:42.999

Zachary Schrag: I would prefer the term closed debate, but again, this is where we get into the archaic language.

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00:58:43.810 --> 00:58:46.080

Zachary Schrag: Feels good.

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00:58:46.080 --> 00:58:47.809

Solon Simmons: They call the question.

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00:58:47.810 --> 00:59:02.710

Zachary Schrag: I don't know, I think closed debate really gets people's attention. Yeah. And so there are a few cases like that where, you know, we may have, additional standing rules coming up. All of this is a work in progress, as, you know, Anand's...

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00:59:03.050 --> 00:59:19.410

Zachary Schrag: presentation, I hope, made clear that, the website is a work in progress, the format of the board book is a work in progress, the format of the minutes is a work in progress, everything is amendable except a secondary amendment, and we're trying to...

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00:59:23.120 --> 00:59:26.200

Solon Simmons: But it's a good... it can be a really rewarding space.

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00:59:26.200 --> 00:59:36.339

Zachary Schrag: Well, let me just say one more thing, which is... this... this goes to, someone's talking about the compositions of committees, and, maybe it was... it was Lee or Mohan.

379

00:59:36.670 --> 00:59:54.789

Zachary Schrag: a lot of these committees are required to be drawn from multiple colleges, and one of the wonderful things is this is a way to meet people from other colleges at Mason, which, like, I... far beyond, anything else I've done in my time at Mason, so I hope you take advantage of the chance to

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00:59:54.920 --> 01:00:02.480

Zachary Schrag: Meet people whose teaching and research, you know, is some ways connected to your own, in some ways quite different.

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01:00:05.320 --> 01:00:06.100

Solon Simmons: Yeah.

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01:00:09.070 --> 01:00:22.149

Solon Simmons: Well, that might be a nice way to end this thing, so we'll be back in session, informal session, at 3, so as I say, please feel free to come to that and see what happens there, but it's been great. It's great to have you in the Senate, and look forward to working with you.

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01:00:23.240 --> 01:00:24.970

Kelly M Wentland: Thank you for doing this. Likewise.

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01:00:24.970 --> 01:00:26.430

Georgia A. Williams: Guys, thank you!