

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY
AGENDA FOR THE FACULTY SENATE MEETING
September 23, 2026
3:00-4:15 p.m.
[Zoom Link](#)*

- I. Call to order
- II. Approval of the Minutes: [August 26, 2026](#)
- III. Opening Remarks & Announcements from the President of the Senate
- IV. Special Guests & Discussion
- V. Senate Standing Committee Reports
 - A. Academic Policies
 - B. Budget and Resources
 - C. Faculty Matters
 - D. Nominations ([Action Items](#))
 - E. Organization and Operations (Action Items 1, 2)
 - F. Faculty Handbook (Action Items)
- VI. New Business
- VII. Remarks for the Good of the General Faculty
- VIII. Adjournment

* Note: For security purposes, all attendees must login using any valid Zoom account to join the meeting. Having trouble joining the meeting with the link above?

- 1. If using GMU Zoom Account (required for all Faculty Senators)
 - a. Go to <https://gmu.zoom.us>
 - b. Click on [Sign into Your Account]
 - c. Use GMU login credentials to login. (May require 2FA authentication)
 - d. Once logged in – click on “JOIN A MEETING”
 - e. Enter the Meeting ID (see highlighted above) and click JOIN
- 2. Joining Senate Meeting using an account other than GMU Zoom Account
 - a. Go to <https://zoom.us>
 - b. Click on [SIGN IN]

- c. Use credentials for your existing zoom account
- d. Once logged in – click on “JOIN A MEETING”
- e. Enter the Meeting ID (see highlighted above) and click JOIN
- f. If asked for Passcode: enter the Passcode (highlighted above)

Proposal to revise the composition of the Grievance Committee

Faculty Senate Organization and Operations Committee

September 23, 2026

Background

The Grievance Committee investigates grievances of tenured, tenure-track, and term faculty under certain circumstances.

Currently, the composition requires five tenured faculty, and the Faculty Senate bylaws currently require a minimum of three colleges or schools be represented in each Senate Standing and University Standing Committee.

Unfortunately, this still allows a committee composed of three faculty members from the same college/school. If all three recuse because of a case in their college/school (as has happened), the committee is left without a quorum.

Changing the composition will reduce the chance that multiple members will need to recuse themselves from a given case.

Proposed amendment

Existing

Composition: Five members. Non-tenured faculty, chairs, and others serving in administrative capacities are ineligible to serve on this Committee. Members serve staggered two-year terms.

Proposed

Composition: Five members, drawn from at least three colleges or schools, **no more than two of whom may be from the same college or school**. Non-tenured faculty, chairs, and others serving in administrative capacities are ineligible to serve on this Committee. Members serve staggered two-year terms.

O&O Motion 2. Adopt as Standing Rule 2: Disallowance of Secondary Amendments

The Organization and Operations Committee moves that the Faculty Senate adopt the following as Standing Rule 2:

Disallowance of secondary amendments

No formal motions for secondary amendments are allowed. After an amendment to a main motion or a substitute motion has been discussed, the presiding officer may propose that it be modified by general consent. If any member objects to that modification, the Faculty Senate will proceed with debate and a vote on the amendment or substitute as originally worded. After that vote, the presiding officer may call for additional amendments to the main motion.

UNIVERSITY STANDING COMMITTEES AY 2026-2027

Faculty Senators appear in BOLD type.

**Provost appointee*

September 23, 2026

GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE

Nadine Kabbani (COS – 2028)

Jim Lawrence (COS – 2028)

Manjusha Nair (CHSS – 2027)

Deborah Rupp (CHSS – 2027)

1 Opening

(1-year term to complete term of former member, and eligible for reelection)

TBD

MASON CORE (3-Year Term)

Abena Aidoo Hewton (CEHD – 2027)

Leslie Dwyer (Carter – 2029)

Michael Hunzeker (Schar – 2027)

Minjoo Kim (CVPA – 2028)

Don Starr (CVPA – 2028)

Courtney Adams Wooten (CHSS – 2027)

Andrea Zach (CHSS – 2028)

1 Opening

(1-year term to complete term of former member, and eligible for reelection)

Cheryl Oetjen (CPH)

WRITING ACROSS THE CURRICULUM (3-Year Terms)

Eric Anderson (CHSS - 2027)
Silvia Danielak (Carter – 2029)
Daniel Hanley (COS - 2027)
Seth Hudson (CVPA – 2029)
Rod Raehsler (CCB – 2029)
Katherine “Raven” Russell (CEC – 2029)
Leslie La Croix (CEHD – 2029)
Michelle S. Williams (CPH – 2029)
Schar - Vacant

1 Opening

Matthew Scherer (Schar)

FACULTY REPRESENTATIVES TO INDIVIDUAL COMMITTEES AY 2026-2027

FACULTY SENATE REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UNIVERSITY SURVEY REVIEW COMMITTEE

1 Opening

Nominations to be taken from floor

See attached Committee Charge

University Survey Review Committee Charge (DRAFT)

Related Policy: University Policy 1149: University Surveys

Background

George Mason University uses surveys to support institutional planning, assessment, and decision-making. The provost convened the Internal Survey Development Working Group in Fall 2025 to establish a centralized process for approving and prioritizing University Surveys. The Working Group proposed *University Policy 1149: University Surveys* and the accompanying *University Survey Procedures* in Spring 2026 and both were approved in Summer 2026.

The University Survey Review Committee (“the Committee”), as the designated authority for reviewing and approving University Surveys under Policy 1149, serves as the university-wide governance body responsible for balancing institutional assessment needs with the survey burden placed on students, faculty, and staff. Through coordinated review and scheduling of surveys, the Committee helps ensure that surveys remain a valuable, effective, and sustainable tool for gathering information and informing university decision-making.

Charge

The Committee is charged with implementing University Policy 1149 by reviewing, prioritizing, approving, and coordinating University Surveys administered to George Mason students and employees. Specifically, the Committee will:

- Review University Survey requests in accordance with University Policy 1149 and the University Survey Procedures.
- Issue final determinations on survey applications, including approval, conditional approval requiring revision, or denial.
- In accordance with the published survey prioritization criteria, prioritize survey activities that advance university strategic goals and inform institutional decision-making.
- Reduce survey fatigue and overload by minimizing the approval of overlapping surveys of the same populations and/or administration periods.
- Promote high-quality survey design and responsible data collection practices.
- Collect, review, and store post-administration documentation such as raw data files, analysis of results, and deliverables.
- Monitor implementation of the survey review process and recommend procedural improvements as needed.
- Review the effectiveness of the survey governance process and recommend updates to procedures, resources, or supporting materials as needed.

Structure

The Office of Institutional Effectiveness and Planning (OIEP) will lead the implementation of University Policy 1149 and provide administrative support for the Committee. OIEP will chair the Committee and work with relevant offices to identify and appoint Committee members.

The Committee includes both standing and ad hoc members. Standing members will participate in the Committee's ongoing work, governance, and routine review activities. Ad hoc members will serve in an advisory capacity and will be engaged on an as-needed basis when survey proposals involve issues within their areas of expertise, responsibility, or governance.

The Committee will include representatives from key university stakeholder groups with expertise in areas such as:

- Survey research and evaluation, OIEP
- Institutional research and analytics, OIEP
- Undergraduate education
- Graduate education
- University Life
- Human Resources (ad hoc)
- Faculty Senate (ad hoc)
- Institutional Review Board (ad hoc)

The Committee will coordinate, as appropriate, with offices responsible for research compliance, data governance, institutional planning, and other stakeholders involved in survey administration and data use.

Meeting Cadence

The Committee is a standing committee and will begin its work upon appointment of members. The Committee will meet regularly to review survey submissions and conduct Committee business. Meeting frequency will be determined based on survey submission volume and university operational needs. Additional meetings may be scheduled during periods of high survey activity or when policy implementation issues require Committee attention.

Ad hoc members will not be required to attend regularly scheduled Committee meetings. They will be invited to participate in Committee discussions and review survey submissions on an as-needed basis when matters relevant to their subject-matter expertise, functional area, or stakeholder group are under consideration.

Support

OIEP, in partnership with the Office of Transformation Management and Operations, will provide administrative and operational support to the Committee, including:

- Pre-review of survey submission completeness
- Submission of complete survey submissions to the Committee for review
- Schedule regular and ad-hoc Committee meetings
- Collect and store Committee meeting notes, records, and documentation in shared Teams space
- Assist with developing and maintaining supporting resources, procedures, and guidance materials for Policy website
- Manage the University Survey Calendar on the Policy website in coordination with OIEP website personnel

- Communicate with University Survey Administrators as needed