

George Mason University Faculty Senate Minutes

Meeting Date: August 26, 2026

Location: Zoom

Time: 3:00-4:30 PM

[Meeting Agenda Packet](#)

1. Call to Order

Faculty Senate President Solon Simmons called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m. The minutes from the previous meeting were approved as presented without additions or corrections.

2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the previous meeting of [April 22 & 29, 2026](#) (combined session) were approved as presented without additions or corrections.

3. Opening Remarks & Announcements:

President Simmons welcomed senators to the first meeting of the academic year and recognized George Schindler as the new Board of Visitors liaison to the Faculty Senate. He noted recent changes in the Board's composition and welcomed continued engagement with university leadership.

President Simmons reported that the new Provost intends to attend Faculty Senate meetings as well as Faculty Senate Executive Committee meetings. Going forward, a dedicated time slot will be reserved during Senate meetings for Provost remarks and updates.

He reviewed several organizational updates, including the continuation of summer operations by the Faculty Senate, the election of standing committee memberships in the spring to provide continuity throughout the summer months, and the focus of the August meeting on annual committee nominations and appointments.

Several appointments and upcoming events were announced:

- Zachary Schrag was appointed President Pro Tempore.
- The Senate Sergeant-at-Arms positions will continue to be held by Kerri LaCharite and Victoria Grady.
- Efforts are underway to identify a parliamentarian and review the role's responsibilities under the bylaws.
- President Washington is scheduled to attend Faculty Senate meetings on October 14 and January 27.

- Rector is scheduled to attend Faculty Senate meetings on November 18, 2026, and March 31, 2027.
- Faculty Senators will be invited to attend a reception with President Washington at the Matthew House on September 22 from 5:30 – 7:30 PM.
- The General Faculty Meeting is scheduled for March 17, 2027.

President Simmons stated that one of his primary goals during his final year as Faculty Senate President is to strengthen the Faculty Senate's position as an independent partner working collaboratively with the administration in support of shared governance. He emphasized improving the visibility, transparency, and effectiveness of relationships in Faculty Senate Standing Committees and University Standing Committees. President Simmons also stated that the Senate would like University Standing Committees to play a more central role in university operations, noting that strong engagement through these committees represents a key component of effective shared governance.

4. Committee Elections and Appointments

University Standing Committees – [Appendix A](#)

Lee Black, Chair of the Nominations Committee, presented the election slate for University Standing Committees and outlined several updates from the version distributed with the agenda, including changes to Research Advisory Committee appointments and Writing Across the Curriculum and Academic Policies Committee representation.

After discussion regarding the election process, the Faculty Senate voted to approve the slate of nominees for University Standing Committees as a block, with the exception of the Faculty Roles and Rewards Committee, which was extracted for separate consideration following a self-nomination from Burak Tanyu.

During discussion of the Faculty Roles and Rewards Committee election, members reviewed committee composition requirements related to tenure status and college representation. Following a ballot vote between Burak Tanyu and Kathleen Wage, Kathleen Wage was elected to the open position, receiving 22 votes to 6.

Representatives to Individual Committees – [Appendix B](#)

The Senate approved nominees to serve on the Cybersecurity Working Group, Faculty Staff Parking Appeals Committee, and Recreation Advisory Committee.

Following nominations from the floor, President Solon Simmons volunteered to serve as Faculty Senate representative on the University Naming Committee and was elected by voice vote.

Jennifer Suh was nominated from the floor and elected as Faculty Senate representative to the Outstanding Achievement Award Committee.

Faculty Senate Standing Committees – [Appendix C](#)

The Senate approved the election of Don Starr to the Academic Policies Committee and reelected Anna Pollack as Faculty Senate Secretary.

Following nominations from the floor, Catherine Sausville was elected to fill an open seat on the Faculty Senate Nominations Committee for the remainder of the term.

5. Committee Reports

Academic Policies Committee

- Committee Chair Douglas Eyman reported that the committee's early work this year will focus on reviewing recommendations from the Undergraduate Grading Task Force and forthcoming recommendations from the Graduate Grading Task Force. Senators were encouraged to submit comments or suggestions as those reviews move forward. The committee expects to review several policy proposals originating from the Graduate Council throughout the year and encouraged senators to submit potential policy revisions early to avoid end of year congestion.
- President Solon Simmons asked for an update on the status of AP6 and AP7 and what may be expected this year. Douglas Eyman explained that AP7 primarily concerns research and that most of the content in that section does not fall under the purview of the Academic Policies Committee. He noted that its status remains an open question. Regarding AP6, he stated that the Graduate Council has done a strong job overseeing graduate policies and related revisions. At this time, he does not anticipate any major changes, but any future AP6 revisions would be brought to the Faculty Senate for consideration and vote.

Budget and Resources Committee

- Chair Delton Daigle summarized the committee's work from the previous year, highlighting efforts to improve budget transparency and the successful acquisition of faculty salary data from Human Resources. This information was used to develop a five-year salary trend analysis.
- The committee will continue monitoring implementation of the university's budget model and participate in the second phase review process. Committee members will report back to the Senate as additional information becomes available. Updates were also provided on research and cross collaboration committee activities.

- Senators were informed that preliminary reports have been shared with the Provost and additional updates are expected during the fall semester. During discussion, members emphasized the importance of establishing university wide expectations regarding financial transparency and sharing information at the school and college level.

Faculty Matters Committee

- Chair Mohan Venigalla reported that several faculty concerns remain under review, including discrepancies between term faculty contract language and provisions contained in the Faculty Handbook. The committee plans to discuss these issues with Provost Underwood during the fall semester. The committee is also reviewing questions related to faculty salary concerns and administrative responsibility for resolving such issues. Faculty Evaluation of Administrators results are expected to be published in the near future.
- In an additional update, Professor Venigalla noted that the committee's work during the previous year resulted in significant changes to the P&T framework and that substantial implementation work remains ahead. The committee will continue working closely with the Provost's Office and faculty governance representatives over the next two years. Vice Provost Gesele Durham briefly introduced herself in her interim Faculty Affairs and Development role.

Organization and Operations Committee

- Co-Chair Catherine Sausville reported that the committee will conduct its annual review of Faculty Senate bylaws and will examine potential updates related to the parliamentary position. The committee will also review the possibility of creating a new Faculty Senate Standing Committee. Senators were encouraged to verify their information on the Faculty Senate website and communicate any committee charge or composition updates.
- Co-Chair Zachary Schrag discussed the proposal for a new Standing Committee on Teaching and Student Affairs. Should the proposal move forward, it would represent the first new Faculty Senate Standing Committee since 2003. Additional information and supporting materials will be circulated to the Senate before formal consideration. Zachary Schrag also reported that the Senate recently adopted a standing rule on video recordings and noted ongoing efforts to make meeting recordings available. He also shared that O&O is considering an additional standing rule related to amendments, with the goal of providing clear documentation so senators can better understand the items before them for a vote.

6. New Business

President Simmons expanded on ongoing discussions regarding the relationship between University Standing Committees and Faculty Senate Standing Committees. He outlined a vision for creating clearer reporting relationships, stronger communication channels, and improved coordination among committees involved in shared governance.

Particular attention was given to the possibility of creating a Teaching and Student Affairs Standing Committee and to strengthening coordination among committees focused on teaching, student success, and university life.

7. Remarks for the Good of the General Faculty

Senators discussed possible future revisions to the composition of the Grievance Committee. Concerns were raised regarding college representation, recusals, continuity, and the use of alternate members when conflicts arise. O&O will continue examining potential changes.

A reminder was shared about the [Faculty, Staff, and Affiliate Choir](#) by Dr. Lisa A. Billingham. Information sessions were scheduled to begin the following day, and faculty were encouraged to participate regardless of prior musical experience.

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned following a motion, second, and unanimous voice vote. President Simmons thanked senators for their participation and expressed optimism about the year ahead.

Action Items

- Academic Policies Committee to bring any future AP6 policy changes to the Faculty Senate for review and vote.
- O&O Committee to review Faculty Senate Bylaws and the parliamentary role.
- O&O Committee to continue evaluating the proposed Teaching and Student Affairs Standing Committee.
- O&O Committee to examine potential revisions to the Grievance Committee structure.

Attendee List

University and Senate Committee Election Results

APPENDIX A

UNIVERSITY STANDING COMMITTEES AY 2026-2027

Faculty Senators appear in BOLD type.

*Provost appointee; **Dean of Admissions appointee; *** Office of Access, Compliance and Community appointee; ****Re-election to Committee

August 26, 2026

ACADEMIC STANDARDS – 3-year terms

Alexandria Zylstra (CCB -), Chair

James De Marco (CPH -)

Valerie Olmo (COS -)

Michael Hurley (CHSS -)

Melissa Broeckelman-Post *

LaShonda Anthony (Director, Academic Standards Office)*

2 Openings

Peter Streckfus (CHSS)

Katherine “Raven” Russell (CEC)

ADMISSIONS - 3 year terms

Jennifer Chism (Assistant Dean of Admissions) **

Todd Kashdan (CHSS – 2028)

Minjoo Kim (CVPA – 2028)

Sam Fairchild (COS – 2028)

TBD, Faculty Senate Budget and Resources Committee Representative

3 Openings

Esther Park (CPH)

Sheri Berkeley (CEHD)

Ashley Yuckenberg (CCB)

ADULT LEARNING AND EXECUTIVE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Sarojini Attili (COS – 2027)

Lisa Giacumo (CEHD – 2027)

3 Openings

Charles Ciorba (CVPA)

Erin D. Maughan (CPH)

Jenny Phan (CEC)

ATHLETIC COUNCIL

Dominique Banville (CEHD) (Chair, Faculty Athletic Representative)

James Scott Frampton (CCB – 2027)

3 Openings

Yikuan Li (CPH)

Saanyol I. Igbax (CEC)

Abishek Ray (CCB)

EFFECTIVE TEACHING

Sarojini Attili (COS – 2027)

Divya Varier (CEHD – 2027)

5 Openings

Doaa Bondok (CEC)

Angelina Harman (CPH)

Karen King (CCB)

Heather Toronjo Roberts (CHSS)

Thomas Wood (CHSS)

EXTERNAL ACADEMIC RELATIONS

Justin Gest (SCHAR)*, Chair

Bethany Letiecq (CEHD – 2027)

Marie Mele Thomas (CHSS – 2027)

Abhishek Ray (CCB – 2027)

2 Openings

Alexandra Masterson (COS)

Patrick McKnight (CHSS)

FACULTY EQUITY AND INCLUSION COMMITTEE

Andrea Landis (CPH – 2027)

Janani Umamaheswar (CHSS – 2027)

Michelle Williams (CPH – 2027)

2 Openings

Aminat Gbadamosi (CEC)

Rebecca Jones (COS)

FACULTY HANDBOOK REVISION (3-year terms)

Lisa Billingham (CVPA – 2028)

Cameron Harris (CCB – 2028)

Melissa Broeckelman-Post, Assistant Provost of Academic Affairs (Provost appointee)*

Jessica Pyryt, Director of Employee and Workforce Relations, Human Resources (VPHR appointee**)

1 Opening

Charlotte Gill (CHSS)

FACULTY ROLES AND REWARDS

Faculty Matters Committee (co-chair): **Mohan Venigalla (CEC)**

Interim Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs and Development (co-chair): Gesele Durham

Chair or designee of the Faculty Handbook Committee: **Lisa Billingham (CVPA)**

Kathy Ramos (CEHD – 2027)

Kevin Rockman (CCB – 2027)

Kelly Schrum (CHSS – 2027)

Elected Head/Department Chair: Mark Uhen (COS – 2027)

One Associate Dean of Faculty Affairs: VACANT*

One representative from Research Council: Naoru Koizumi (Schar)*

Provost-appointed Head/Department Chair: Emily Ihara (CPH)*

3 Openings

Elizabeth Alman (CVPA)****

Cheryl Oetjen (CPH)

Kathleen Wage (CEC)****

GRIEVANCE

Todd Kashdan (CHSS – 2027)

Manjusha Nair (CHSS – 2027)

Deborah Rupp (CHSS – 2027)

2 Openings (Tenure Required)

Nadine Kabbani (COS)

Jim Lawrence (COS)

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Deborah Rupp (CHSS – 2027)

2 Openings

Ariel Goldenthal (CHHS)

Abhishek Ray (CCB)

MULTILINGUAL STUDENTS ACADEMIC SUPPORT COMMITTEE

Shelley Reid, Director for Teaching Excellence, Stearns Center, Co-chair
Anna Habib, Associate Director, Composition for Multilingual Writers and English

Department Liaison to
INTO and Mason Korea, Co-chair

Minjoo Kim (CVPA – 2027)

Laurie Miller (UC – 2027)

Representatives from specified areas below:

Maoira Kirker, Lead, Teaching and Learning Team, University Libraries

Susan Lawrence, Director, Writing Center, English

Shelby Broberg, Director, Communication Center, Communication

Tom Polk, Director, Writing Across the Curriculum, English

Aimee Weinstein (Term Assistant Professor, INTO George Mason University)

Yali Pan (Associate Director of Engagement & Assessment, International Programs &
Services)

Kristin Wright (Undergraduate Education)

Eunkyoung Park (Director of Co-Curricular Assessment, Institutional Effectiveness and
Planning)

Kheira Bekkadja (Student Senate)

Tamara Washington, Center for Culture, Equity and Empowerment

Joan Shin (CEHD- Graduate Education appointee)

1 Opening

Alexandra Masterson (COS)****

RESEARCH ADVISORY COMMITTEE (3-year terms)

Michael Bloom (CPH – 2028)

Johanna Bockman (CHSS – 2028)

Denise Hines (CPH – 2028)

Burak Tanyu (CEC – 2028)

Sarah Wittman (CCB), *ex officio* Faculty Representative to BOC Research Committee

3 Openings

Jatin Ambegaonkar (CEHD)

Rosalina Christova (COS)

John Dale (CHSS)****

TECHNOLOGY POLICY

Tawnya Azar (CHSS – 2027)

Laurie Miller (UC – 2027)

Bernard Schmidt (CEC – 2027)

John Dale (CHHS – 2027)*

3 Openings

Delton Daigle (SCHAR)****

Kevin Dunayer (CVPA & CEHD)****

Socrates Dimitriadi (CEC)

UNIVERSITY PROMOTION, TENURE AND RENEWAL APPEAL (UPTRAC)

Todd Kashdan (CHSS – 2027)

Cristiana Stan (COS – 2027)

Two alternates, must be tenured faculty:

Douglas Eyman (CHSS – 2027)

Mohan Venigalla (CEC – 2027)

1 Opening

Nirup Menon (CCB)

WRITING ACROSS THE CURRICULUM (3-Year Terms)

Tom Polk, WAC Program Director, *ex-officio*, co-chair

Eric Anderson (CHSS - 2027)

Daniel Hanley (COS - 2027)

Susan Lawrence (University Writing Center)

Courney Adams Wooten (Composition Program)

Vacant (Student Senate)

Jen Fehsenfeld, University Libraries, *ex officio*

Chris Lee, Office of Institutional Effectiveness and Planning, *ex officio*

Laura Poms, Mason Core Committee, *ex officio*

7 Openings

Silvia Danielak (Carter)

Seth Hudson (CVPA)****

Rod Raehsler (CCB)

Katherine “Raven” Russell (CEC)****

Leslie La Croix (CEHD)****

Michelle S. Williams (CPH)

Schar - Vacant

APPENDIX B

FACULTY REPRESENTATIVES TO INDIVIDUAL COMMITTEES AY 2026-2027

Faculty Senators appear in BOLD type

* reelection to committee

FACULTY REPRESENTATIVE TO THE CYBERSECURITY WORKING GROUP

1 Opening

Umit Karabiyik (CEC)

FACULTY REPRESENTATIVES TO THE FACULTY/STAFF PARKING APPEALS COMMITTEE

Rochelle Jones (CEC – 2027)

Deborah Rupp (CHSS – 2027)

1 Opening

Sam Steen (CEHD)

FACULTY SENATE REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UNIVERSITY NAMING COMMITTEE

1 Opening (Faculty Senator)

Solon Simmons (Carter)

FACULTY SENATE REPRESENTATIVE TO THE OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD COMMITTEE

1 Opening (Faculty Senator)

Jennifer Suh (CEHD)

FACULTY SENATE REPRESENTATIVE TO THE RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

1 Opening (Faculty Senator)

Alok Berry (CEC)

APPENDIX C

FACULTY SENATE STANDING COMMITTEES AND SECRETARY AY 2026-2027

Committee members are elected to serve two-year terms.

August 26, 2026

ACADEMIC POLICIES

Douglas Eyman (CHSS – 2027), Chair

Chris Barthold (CEHD – 2027)

Kerri LaCharite (CPH – 2027)

Kelly Wentland (CCB – 2028)

1 Opening

Don Starr (CVPA)

NOMINATIONS

Lee Black (CPH – 2028)

Richard Craig (CHHS – 2027)

Jennifer Salerno (COS – 2027)

Benoit Van Aken (COS – 2027)

1 Opening

Catherine Sausville (COS)

SECRETARY OF THE SENATE (1-year Term)

1 Opening

Anna Pollack (CPH)

University and Senate Committees Composition Post Election

UNIVERSITY STANDING COMMITTEES AY 2026-2027

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TBD, Faculty Senate Budget and Resources Committee Representative

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Robyn Madar, Assistant Vice President and Chief Learning Officer, Human Resources
(VPHR appointee**)

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Mohan Venigalla (CEC – 2027)

Two tenured administrators, appointed by the Provost for 2-Year Terms:

Ann Ardis (Dean, CHSS 2024 - 2026)*

Kenneth Ball (Dean, CEC 2025 - 2027)*

One alternate tenured administrator, appointed by the Provost for 1-Year Term:

Cody Edwards (Dean, COS 2025 - 2026)*

WRITING ACROSS THE CURRICULUM (3-Year Terms)

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Leslie La Croix (CEHD – 2029)

Michelle S. Williams (CPH – 2029)

Schar - Vacant

Susan Lawrence (University Writing Center)

Courney Adams Wooten (Composition Program)

Vacant (Student Senate)

Jen Fehsenfeld, University Libraries, *ex officio*

Chris Lee, Office of Institutional Effectiveness and Planning, *ex officio*

Laura Poms, Mason Core Committee, *ex officio*

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Deborah Rupp (CHSS – 2027)

Sam Steen (CEHD – 2028)

FACULTY SENATE REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UNIVERSITY NAMING COMMITTEE

Solon Simmons (Carter – 2028)

**FACULTY SENATE REPRESENTATIVE TO THE OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
COMMITTEE**

Jennifer Suh (CEHD – 2028)

FACULTY SENATE REPRESENTATIVE TO THE RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Alok Berry (CEC – 2028)

FACULTY SENATE STANDING COMMITTEES AND SECRETARY AY 2026-2027

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Kerri LaCharite (CPH – 2027)

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Richard Craig (CHHS – 2027)

Jennifer Salerno (COS – 2027)

Catherine Sausville (COS – 2027)

Benoit Van Aken (COS – 2027)

SECRETARY OF THE SENATE (1-year Term)

Anna Pollack (CPH)



Reva and Sid Dewberry
Family School of Music
MASON CHOIRS
George Mason University®

FACULTY/STAFF CHOIR

INFORMATION SESSION

THURSDAY, AUGUST 27
5 PM CFA MONSON TIER

FIRST REHEARSAL

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3
5 PM CFA MONSON TIER

Love to sing? So do we.

Faculty, staff, retirees, and grad students — all
welcome, no audition required.

Thursdays, 5–6 pm



Directed by Dr. Lisa Billingham | Accompanied by Dr. Lisa Bloy

email lbillin1@gmu.edu for more information

Name (original name)
Anan Shahriar
Kerri LaCharite (she/her) George Mason University
Solon Simmons
Kylie Sertic
Alexandra Masterson
Preston Williams
Lee Black
Delton Daigle
James Broderick
Matt Scherer
Kelly M Wentland
Tom Wood
Douglas Eyman
Christine Barthold
Mohan Venigalla
Zachary Schrag
Kelly Schrum
Cameron J. Harris
Robert Osgood
Don Starr
Jamie L Clark
Burak Tanyu
Dominique Banville
Anne Osterman
Catherine Sausville
Nirup Menon
Remy Franklin
Kevin Dunayer (he/him)
Ben Gatling
Lori Scher
Johanna Bockman
Jenny Meslener
Cynthia Fuchs, Dir Film and Video Studies
george.schindler
Robyn Madar (she/hers)
Carlos F Sanchez
lbillin1
read.ai meeting notes
Seth Hudson (he/him)
Amy Lebrecht
Fireflies.ai Notetaker Alexandra Masterson
Jennifer Beck-Wilson
Bethany Letiecq

dtoombs
Dan Kelly
Jessica Scarlata
Jennifer Suh
Sue-Ming Yang
Anna Pollack
Jason Skidmore
Caitlin Carney
Georgia A. Williams
Kevin L Jackson
Whitman Brown
Karen Manley
Xiaomei Cai
Ann L Ardis
Charlotte Gill (she/her)
Jenna McGwin
Kimberly S Dight
Benoit Van Aken
Chris Ackerman
Melanie O'Brien
Pat D.
Samuel C Huneke
Michelle Boardman
Michele Schwietz
Mohammad Salama
jpyryt
Daniel Walsch
Chris Magee
Mieko Palazzo
Dawn M Oram
Sarah Parnell
Kate Imholt
Shannon Davis
Eugene Kontorovich
Thomas Polk
Lisa Thrasher
Marguerite Rippy
Lisa Breglia
Alireza Ermagun
Melissa Broeckelman-Post
ThanhVu (Vu) Nguyen
Jessica Pyryt
Carolyn Boyer
Victoria M Grady

Susan P Sandler
aberry
Gesele Durham
Olivia Thompson
Diego Ortega
markrozell
Frank Strike
richards
Eunkyoung Park
Devon Johnson
Laurence
Daniel Garrison
Lisa A Giacumo
Sheena G Serslev
Olivia Bowman
Kimberly R Jackson Davidson
Caroline J Sutter
PJL
qle2
Doug McKenna
Francesca Molinaro
Brett Josephson
Pallavi Rai Gullo (she/her)
Niki Maria Vlastara
Keith Renshaw (he/him)
Kimberly Meltzer