University Standing Committees Charges

(Updated September 23, 2026)

Academic Standards Committee

Motion to approve the updated charge accepted by the Faculty Senate – January 28, 2026.

Charge: The Academic Standards Committee is charged with reviewing the policies and procedures utilized to maintain its academic standards, and to collaborate with Office of Academic Integrity and other relevant institutional groups to make revisions as appropriate. The committee will provide recommendations for educational information/efforts about academic standards for students and faculty, with particular attention given to education for students of differing cultural backgrounds. Finally, they will review historical case data and gauge faculty and student understanding of and thoughts about the Academic Standards case resolution processes to inform efforts listed above. Elected members will serve for staggered 3 year terms.

Composition:

- Six members of the faculty
    - at least one of whom is a Faculty Senator
    - from at least four different colleges or schools
- Two representatives from the Provost's Office
- One student government representative
- One GAPSA representative

Admissions Committee

(Charge as revised and approved by the Faculty Senate February 3 , 2021 & October 15, 2025)

Charge: Be in dialog with the Admissions Office about current admissions practices and outcomes, and provide reports to the Faculty Senate. Explore aspects of admissions standards that may affect student recruitment, enrollment, success, and retention. Be a resource to the Admissions Office for providing input from faculty perspectives. Bring recommendations to the Faculty Senate regarding issues impacting the admissions process. Communicate to all university faculty via the Faculty Senate about activities they can engage in to help the Admissions Office

Committee Membership: The committee membership comprises seven members:

- Dean of Admissions or their designate (co-chair)

- Senate-appointed member from Senate Budget and Resources committee (co-chair)

- 5-elected members with staggered three-year terms.

Meetings: The Committee will meet once per semester, in the first half of the semester, with more meetings scheduled as needed.

Adult Learning and Executive Education Committee

(formerly the Non-Traditional, Interdisciplinary, and Adult Learning Committee, charge revised and approved by the Faculty Senate April 23, 2014)

Charge: To actively consult with the Provost's Office and the Office of Continuing Professional Education to support, evaluate and refine programs in the areas of adult learning and executive education, including program development, admission policies, awareness programs, online resources, program evaluation, and degree completion initiatives.

Athletic Council

(Charge updated and approved by the Faculty Senate September 22, 2021; previously approved by the Athletic Council)

Charge: To act in an advisory capacity to the President in all matters pertaining to Intercollegiate athletics. The Council provides general review of the policies and operations of the University's athletic program with primary focus on academic integrity and student-athletes well-being. The Council provides the opportunity to involve faculty, administration, students, and other concerned groups of the University. The Council assists with educating the university community about intercollegiate athletics.

Committee on External Academic Relations

(Charge as revised and approved by the Faculty Senate - November 18, 2009)

Composition: Six members who are elected for two-year terms. Three members of the

Committee should be senators, two others are elected from the faculty at-large, and one ex-officio member is the Provost's designee.

At the beginning of each academic year the Committee must meet to select the representatives to the Virginia Faculty Senate from among its members, excluding the ex-officio member. At least one of these representatives must be a senator. In case of vacancies, the Nominations Committee nominates the new members, and the Committee internally evaluates and possibly reallocates the assigned responsibilities.

Charge:

A. Represent GMU faculty at Virginia higher education faculty governance organizations, including the Faculty Senate of Virginia. The seats allocated to GMU at the Faculty Senate of Virginia are to be filled by members of CEAR.

B. Report to the GMU faculty senate on the proceedings of the Virginia Faculty Senate and voice back to this organization issues of relevance to GMU.

C. Gather information on key matters about higher education in state legislation, state committees, and local venues, and report back to the GMU Senate.

D. Provide forums and avenues for the exchange of ideas with representatives of SCHEV, state legislators representing Northern Virginia, and community groups related to higher education in Northern Virginia.

Effective Teaching Committee

(Charge revised and approved by the Faculty Senate April 23, 2014)

Charge: To develop and help implement procedures which encourage and reward effective teaching, and to enable faculty to improve their teaching effectiveness independent of any evaluation procedures, and to implement procedures or evaluation of effective teaching. Also, to recommend policy to the Senate and to monitor the use of such policy for the evaluation of teachers and courses, including the following:

A. Review, improve, and provide guidance for Institutional Research and Reporting on the course evaluation form and related procedures at least once every three years;

B. Review existing policies relating to the faculty evaluation process, identify alternatives to these policies and recommend changes to the Faculty Senate;

C. Work closely with the Center for Teaching Excellence to support the use of formative and self-assessment techniques and materials for promoting faculty professional growth and teaching effectiveness, including strategies for robust student feedback.

Faculty Handbook Revision Committee

(Approved by the Faculty Senate April 28, 2010; revisions approved March 2, 2022 & March 19, 2025)

Charge: The Committee will review the Faculty Handbook each year for potential changes. Proposed changes may also be brought to the Committee by any member of the faculty, administration, or Board of Visitors. The Committee is charged to confer with other members of the faculty and the administration during the review, as appropriate. The Committee will present its proposed revisions to the President, Provost, and Faculty Senate for discussion. All motions to recommend alterations to the Faculty Handbook shall be read and debated at two successive regular meetings of the Senate held in the same academic year before being called to a vote. A meeting of the Senate called solely to complete the agenda of a previous meeting shall not count as a "successive" meeting. During a discussion meeting, the President, Provost, or Faculty Senate may recommend changes to be considered by the Committee. The Committee will review all recommended changes. At the meeting during which the Committee presents its final set of proposed changes, the Faculty Senate may accept or reject the proposed revisions but may not amend them. Revisions that are approved by the Faculty Senate are then presented to the Board of Visitors. All revisions require the formal approval of the Board of Visitors.

Composition: Three members of the instructional faculty elected by the Faculty Senate to 3-year terms. Two faculty must be tenured and one faculty must be a term faculty at the rank of Associate Professor or higher. At least one member must be a Senator. Because the Chair will also serve on the Faculty Senate Executive Committee, the Chair must be elected from among the Senators on the committee.

In order to maintain continuity, the faculty members of the Committee shall have staggered terms. The Chair of the committee is appointed by and from among the elected faculty members;

- A non-voting administrator appointed by the Provost from the Provost's office;

- A non-voting administrator from Human Resources appointed by the Vice President of Human Resources.

Faculty Equity and Inclusion Committee (FEIC)

(Approved by the Faculty Senate December 5, 2018, formerly Minority and Diversity Issues Committee. See FS Agenda December 5, 2018 , p. 3)

Composition: Five members. Term, tenured and tenure-track faculty are eligible to serve on this Committee. Members serve staggered two-year terms.

Charge: Working with the Offices of the Provost, Faculty Affairs, and Office of Compliance, Diversity and Ethics to foster equity and inclusion among the faculty with the goal of improving recruitment, retention, and overall well-being of under-represented faculty members.

Faculty/Staff Parking Appeals Committee

(Motion approved by the Faculty Senate March 4, 2020 to establish three (3) Faculty representatives to serve on the University's Faculty/Staff Parking Appeals Committee).

Charge: To make final decisions in the parking citation appeals process for faculty, staff & visitors on behalf of the University's Parking & Transportation Department. Three-(3) Faculty and/or Staff representatives are required to form a quorum & will meet as frequently as once a month, but historically about four-(4) times per year, to hear appellants, review facts & make decisions to waive, downgrade or uphold citations. The University's Parking Coordinator, or Director of Parking & Transportation, will serve in an ex-officio, non-voting capacity.

Membership: Three-(3) Faculty members with staggered terms for continuity.

Grievance Committee

(Charge as revised and approved by the Faculty Senate – November 18, 2009. Composition amended September 23, 2026)

In March 1998, the Faculty Senate approved the creation of the Grievance Committee, replacing the *ad hoc* University Grievance Committee, effective September 1998. The Charge was amended by a Faculty Senate vote on February 12, 2003 to enable the Committee to hear grievances from research faculty on matters of infringements of academic freedom, unfair or inappropriate conditions of employment, and any other due process issue. The charge was further elaborated in the Faculty Handbook adopted in 2009 concerning termination for cause and grievances against administrators.

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.

Charge: To investigate grievances of tenured, tenure-track, and term faculty:

A. which involve faculty matters from more than one local academic unit. Issues of investigation include alleged infringements of academic freedom, alleged unfair or inappropriate conditions of employment, alleged unfair or inappropriate termination for cause, and any other due process issue with the exclusion of retention, promotion and tenure appeals; (See also Faculty Handbook *Section 2.93 Termination of Appointment for Tenured, Tenure-Track, and Term Faculty Members for Cause (pp. 47-49)).*
B. which are not addressed by, or do not fall within the purview of the grievance committee of the pertinent local academic unit; (See also Faculty Handbook *Section 2.10.1 University Policies (p. 48)*) and
C. for local academic units that do not have grievance committees established, or when a grievance committee does not conform to the written procedures of the local academic unit. Other faculty appeals from local academic unit grievance committees are excluded. (See also Faculty Handbook *Section 2.10.3 Faculty Work Assignments (p. 49)* in case where Grievance is against a dean or director).
D. which involve administrators at or above the level of Dean or Director. (See also Faculty Handbook *Sections 2.11.2 Grievances, 2.11.2.1 Policies Concerning Grievances, 2.11.2.2 Grievance Procedures (pp. 53-54)).*

Graduate Grading Process Task Force

(Charges Added by Faculty Senate April 30, 2025)

Goal

The Graduate Grading Process Task Force, following the prior work of the Grading Process Task Force, will consider the grading scheme used at George Mason University for its graduate students and programs and make a recommendation for our future grading processes. The Task Force is asked to be mindful of students and programs with a variety of backgrounds, as well as the communicative value of grading schemas to students once they leave the institution.

Charge

The Grading Process Task Force is charged with doing the following:
1. Review the data and findings provided by the Grading Process Task Force (spring 2025).
2. Survey graduate faculty and advisors about current grading schemes and request suggestions for changes (or a lack of change) to these schemes.
3. Make a recommendation about which grading scheme best fits the institution's mission, providing a rationale and support for that recommendation. This recommendation shall be submitted to the Graduate Council for review and ratification.
4. Graduate Council will forward the reviewed and approved recommendations to the Academic Policies committee, which will bring the recommended changes to the Faculty Senate for a vote.
5. The Task Force Chair shall be someone with a wide understanding of the Mason educational system and specifically of the graduate programs we offer.

Deliverable Outcome

The Task Force is charged to bring a report, including proposed action items and rationales, to the Faculty Senate (via the Graduate Council and Academic Polices committee) for subsequent approval and implementation by University Administration.

Timeline

Given that the work of the Grading Process Task Force and its report will provide a starting point for this work, this new task force shall complete its work and submit its report and recommendations within one academic year of its inception.

Composition

The task force shall include one faculty representative from each school or college that offers graduate degrees, a representative from the Academic Policies Committee, a representative from the Graduate Division of the Office of the Provost, a representative of GAPSA, and a representative from the University Registrar.

Intellectual Property Committee

(Added by the Faculty Senate – April 30, 2025)

Charge:

• Create and maintain a list of all intellectual policies that includes links to those full policies with a brief "human-readable" summary or guidance for each policy.
• Regularly review current university policies on intellectual property.
• Seek input from the wider GMU community regarding IP policies and any concerns that may exist regarding the scope, clarity, and efficacy of such policies.
• Identify potential issues to address in response to faculty input or committee determination after policy review.
• Propose specific modifications to current IP policies to address any identified areas of concern, either by amendment to the existing policies where possible, or by wholesale rewriting of polices when necessary.
• Communicate to all GMU faculty via the Faculty Senate regarding any concerns raised in response to solicitation of input and regarding any modifications or rewriting of existing IP policies.
• The first meeting each year must be scheduled within the first six weeks of the fall semester.

Composition: This committee is comprised of eight members:

• Three faculty members elected by the Senate representing at least three colleges or schools.
• One faculty representative from the Technology Policy Committee, elected by that committee.
• One faculty representative from the Faculty Handbook Committee, elected by that committee.
• One member appointed by the Provost.
• One member appointed by the Chief Information Officer.
• One member appointed by the Executive Director of Engaged Teaching at the Stearns Center.

One member of this committee shall serve on the Policy Management Group.

Mason Core Committee

(Charge as revised and approved by the Faculty Senate – April 1, 2009, composition of membership amended September 7, 2011. Revisions including new name: Mason Core Committee approved by the Faculty Senate Dec. 4, 2013. Revisions approved by the Faculty Senate February 3, 2021. Revised charge and composition approved by the Faculty Senate on April 26, 2023.)

Charge

The Committee will work in cooperation with the Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education on all matters concerning the Mason Core (formerly general education).

For all foundation, exploration, and integration Mason Core requirements, the Committee will approve courses to fulfill these requirements.

(The) Committee will develop procedures for assessing, reviewing, and recertifying courses that carry a Mason Core attribute. Utilizing Mason Core assessment data, the committee will review and revise, as necessary, the overall structure and outcomes of the Mason Core. The Committee will review and approve procedures used to substitute or waive Mason Core requirements. The Committee will confer with the Faculty Senate Committee on Academic Policies when changes to Mason Core requirements impact the entire university and/or would be a substantive change to the university catalog. The Committee will provide an annual report to the Faculty Senate. The report shall include a) The courses approved for inclusion in or removed from the Mason Core, and b) Changes in the criteria for the Mason Core. More frequent reports to the Faculty Senate might take place as adjustments to the Mason Core program may warrant.

Composition: The membership of the Committee comprises 14 voting members:

A. Eight faculty elected by the Faculty Senate for staggered three-year terms ensuring that at least 6 academic units are represented, at least one should be a senator;
B. Four faculty appointed by the Provost;
C. The Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education;
D. One student elected by the Student Senate.

Ex-officio members are invited to provide input into the work of the committee and consist of the following:

A. The Mason Core Director
B. A representative from the Stearns Center
C. A representative from the Office of Institutional Effectiveness and Planning and
D. One representative from the Writing Across the Curriculum Committee

Meetings: Meetings will be held monthly during the academic year.

Multilingual Students Academic Support Committee

(Approved by the Faculty Senate - December 7, 2016; Revisions approved by the Faculty Senate September 8, 2021.)

In response to the 2015 Multilingual Student Task Force Report, the Faculty Senate established a new University Standing Committee, entitled Multilingual Academic Support.

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

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

Recreation Advisory Committee
(Approved by the Faculty Senate – February 9, 2011)

Charge: To act in an advisory capacity in all matters pertaining to faculty and staff use of recreational facilities.
Membership: Three faculty members, three staff members, and three members chosen by Human Resources and Payroll.

Reimagining Faculty Roles and Rewards
(Revised April 24, 2024 Annual Report)

Charge: The University Standing Committee on Faculty Roles and Rewards is charged with ensuring that the processes and timelines proposed to achieve the five goals laid out in the Task Force on Reimagining Faculty Roles and Rewards final report of Fall 2022 are implemented. These goals include:

- Creating transparent workload guidelines that are equitable and inclusive of all faculty appointment types.
- Redesigning reappointment, renewal, promotion and tenure (RRPT) guidelines that represents more inclusive frameworks for all faculty work.
- Developing a strategy for implementing continuous contracts (i.e. formulation of tenure) for full-time instructional (term) and clinical faculty.
- Clarifying the relationship between the annual review criteria and the RRPT criteria.
- Creating a robust culture of faculty cohesiveness through career development for all.

The Committee shall report to the Faculty Senate on the progress toward these goals at least once each year and shall confer and collaborate with the appropriate committees and campus offices. The committee shall recognize tenure as a major safeguard of academic freedom, the quality of education offered, and the continuity and stability of the institution.

Composition

- Chair or designee of the Faculty Matters Committee (co-chair);
- Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs and Development (co-chair);
- Chair or designee of the Faculty Handbook Committee;
- Three tenure-line I/R faculty, elected by the Faculty Senate;
- Three term I/R faculty, elected by the Faculty Senate;
- One Associate Dean of Faculty Affairs (or similar role, appointed by Provost);
- One representative from Research Council (appointed by Provost); and
- Two Local Academic Head/Department Chairs (one elected by the Faculty Senate, one appointed by Provost)

The committee shall be co-chaired by the member from the Faculty Matters Committee and the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs and Development. The overall composition of the committee MUST include representation from *at least* 6 different schools and colleges.

Research Advisory Committee

(Motion approved by the Faculty Senate to create a new University Standing Committee entitled "Research Advisory Committee" – November 2, 2016)

Composition: The composition of the committee will include seven tenure-line faculty members (at least one of whom is a Faculty Senator) elected by the Faculty Senate. These faculty members should represent a minimum of five different colleges/schools, with **at least two faculty** members at the level of Professor and at least two faculty members at the level of Associate Professor. These seven elected members will serve staggered 3-year terms. Finally, the committee will include one ex-officio member, who is one of the two faculty representatives to the BOV Research committee.

Charge: To work in concert with the Office of Research and its subsidiary offices (e.g., Office of Research Integrity and Assurance, Office of Sponsored Programs), as well as the Associate Vice President for Entrepreneurship and Innovation, in shaping the research initiatives and policies of the university. The committee will serve in an advisory capacity to the Vice President of Research, the Associate Vice President for Entrepreneurship and Innovation, and associated offices. In this role, the committee will meet at least twice per semester with the Vice President of Research, and as needed with other individuals and offices. The committee will provide a report on its activities to the Faculty Senate at least annually.

Technology Policy Committee

(Charges revised by Faculty Senate on January 29, 2025)

Composition: Seven members, at least two of whom must be senators and one an ex-officio faculty member designated by the Provost. The composition should be such that most academic units are represented. One member of this committee shall also be a representative to the Policy Management Group.

Charge: The Committee will actively advise the Vice-President of Information Technology and other administrators in investments and in development and implementation of digital technologies that impact education and research practices of the University. The Committee will consult with the Chief Information Officer / Vice President – Information Technology about the faculty spending priorities and report to the Senate the current and projected ITS budgets at least once per academic year. The committee will request input from the faculty at large at least once per year about technology policy issues. These actions will ensure that the recommendations issued by the Committee reflect the position of the faculty concerning allocations to programs and/or individuals. The Committee will coordinate with ITS, the President's Office, the Provost's Office, and other university stakeholders, to create and maintain a cohesive data governance framework, as

well as to collaboratively recommend university IT resource, intellectual property, and data compliance policies.

University Promotion, Tenure and Renewal Appeal Committee

(Approved by the Faculty Senate February 13, 2013 and by the Board of Visitors March 20, 2013; inclusion in the Faculty Handbook effective July 1, 2013. Revisions approved by the Faculty Senate February 1, 2017 and by the Board of Visitors May 11, 2017; inclusion in the Faculty Handbook effective July 1, 2017.)

Charge:
Upon written appeal, the UPTRAC reviews the decision of the Provost or President not to recommend tenure, promotion, or renewal. The committee must publish and follow standard procedures for its conduct that are consistent with provisions in this section. The committee members (including the member chosen by the appellant) do not act as advocates for either the appellant or the university. The committee does not review the merits of the tenure, promotion, or renewal case itself.

Composition: The UPTRAC shall be composed of three tenured faculty members and two alternate tenured faculty members, elected by the Faculty Senate to staggered terms; and two tenured administrators and one alternate tenured administrator, selected by the Provost to staggered terms. Committee terms are for two years. No two committee members may be from the same local academic unit or administrative unit. A member can serve a maximum of two consecutive 2-year terms, although subsequent non-consecutive service is permitted. Elected alternate members' terms formally begin during the first year that they participate in an appeal. For the purpose of service on the UPTRAC, a local academic unit administrator is considered an administrator.

The appellant will choose a tenured administrator to serve as the sixth member of the committee for the duration of the appellant's appeal. The administrator must be someone who does not have a conflict of interest, who did not participate at an earlier stage of the appellant’s promotion, tenure, or renewal process, and who does not come from the same administrative unit as one of the Provost's appointees.

If any member of the UPTRAC has a conflict of interest, participated at an earlier stage of the appellant’s promotion, tenure, or renewal process, or is otherwise unable to serve, such member shall not participate in the appeal, and an alternate will serve instead. In the event there are not sufficient faculty alternates to serve, the Faculty Senate shall elect additional alternate members to serve for the appeal. If the need for faculty alternates arises after the last Faculty Senate meeting of the academic year, the Faculty Senate Executive Committee will select the alternate(s). In the event there are not sufficient administrators to serve, the Provost shall select alternate members to serve for the appeal.

Writing Across the Curriculum Committee

(Charge revised April 26, 2023, composition revised September 17, 2023)

Charge: To advise and collaborate with administrative and academic units to support faculty who teach with writing across all academic disciplines. Specifically, the WAC Committee:

A. Provides guidance related to writing courses and writing instruction for faculty, academic units, university leaders, other committees, and the full Senate;
B. Works with the Mason Core Committee on the overall structure and outcomes of general education writing, including Writing-intensive courses;
C. Collaborates with the Office of Institutional Effectiveness and Planning and other units on the assessment of writing and writing-enriched learning;
D. Identifies the needs of Mason's student writers and faculty who teach with writing;
E. Supports the intentional integration of writing and writing instruction into courses across the curriculum at Mason, including Writing-intensive courses;
F. Acknowledges and celebrates the accomplishments of Mason faculty who teach with writing to recognize best practices specific to their discipline;
G. Advocates for equitable practices and conditions that foster meaningful teaching and learning with writing across the curriculum.

Composition: The committee will be composed of:

- The Director of Writing Across the Curriculum or a representative from that office.
- One faculty representative from each of the academic units offering undergraduate curricula, including one Faculty Senator; elected representatives will serve staggered three-year terms.
- Four additional faculty or student representatives, one from each of the following units: University Writing Center, Composition, INTO Mason, and Student Senate.
- Three non-voting ex-officio members from the following: University Libraries, Mason Core Committee, and Office of Institutional Effectiveness and Planning.

Elected representatives can serve a maximum of two consecutive three-year terms; subsequent non-consecutive terms are permitted.