

To: Melissa Broeckelman-Post
Faculty Senate President
From: Gene Shuman
de facto Chair, Senate Recreation Advisory Committee
Subject: Annual Report of the Senate Recreation Advisory Committee

The current committee consists of Esther Peters (COS), Jianli Pan (CEC), and myself (CEC). We are the faculty Senate representatives to the university-wide Recreation Advisory Board. Most of the activities of the Board pertain to the operation of the Mason Recreation organization and have little impact on the wider faculty. The Board is supposed to meet approximately monthly, although only five meetings were held during the current academic year (starting October 2022). This report gives a summary of what was discussed during those meetings and calls out the items that are likely of interest to the general faculty community.

The committee charge:

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.

Below is a summary of issues discussed during meetings this year that are potentially of interest to the Senate and wider faculty community.

Leadership and Staff Vacancies. There were six vacancies during the year, the most significant being the Mason Recreation Executive Director. The ExDir search ended with the hiring of Sheldon Tate, currently the Associate Director of Programs at the University of Missouri.

Physical plant improvement projects. There are a number of active projects meant to update or improve the physical plant, especially in the West Campus area. Things such as replacing light poles and repairing existing structures. The one item of interest to the Senate is the conversion of old basketball courts to eight Pickleball courts, an activity whose popularity has grown significantly in the past few years. These will be ready for use o/a June 1. The courts are lighted for night use and will initially be free to use. That may or may not change. Further, Mason Rec expects to establish a league for the sport.

Fee Based Class Request(s). Recreation asks the wider GMU community, including faculty, for suggestions on addition fee-based classes they could offer, in addition to their current offerings.

Recreation Hall of Fame. Recreation recognizes and honors its high performing past employees with induction into a Hall of Fame. A wall was established in the lobby of the RAC to hold plaques for those so designated. The Board participates in selecting honorees from a pool of candidates. This year six were elected and their induction into the HoF took place at a ceremony 2/18/23 at the Auld Shebeen restaurant in Fairfax City.

Recreation Employee of the Year. Recreation recognizes one current employee as 'Employee of the Year'. The Board is asked to vote on that from a pool of candidates provided. Voting takes place in April with the 2023 award to be made on 5/9/2023.

A request was made to provide information on the interaction between the GMU President and Provost and the faculty, and was specifically given as four questions. Regarding the Recreation Advisory Board there is nothing to report in this area.