

**GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY
AGENDA FOR THE FACULTY SENATE MEETING
FEBRUARY 4, 2015
Robinson Hall B113, 3:00 – 4:15 p.m.**

I. Call to Order

II. Approval of the Minutes of December 3, 2014

III. Announcements

President Ángel Cabrera

Provost S. David Wu

Linda Harber, Vice President Human Resources/Payroll and Faculty Staff Life

IV. New Business – Committee Reports

A. Senate Standing Committees

Executive Committee

Resolution on Varsity Athletics

[Attachment A](#)

Academic Policies

Resolution to Shorten Academic Add Period

[Attachment B](#)

Budget and Resources

Faculty Matters

Nominations

Organization and Operations

B. Other Committee Reports

V. Other New Business

Resolution of Appreciation to Delegate David Bulova

[Attachment C](#)

Student Government resolution in support of Gender Inclusion in Title IX

- Geoffrey Payne, Executive Secretary of Diversity & Multicultural Affairs
and Leila Raminpour, Student Senator and Faculty Senate Liaison

[Attachment D](#)

Branding – Renell Wynn, Vice President for Communications and Marketing

VI. Remarks for the Good of the General Faculty

VII. Adjournment

ATTACHMENT A

RESOLUTION ON FUNDING OF VARSITY ATHLETICS

WHEREAS for years George Mason University's support from the state has declined and is likely to continue to do so for the foreseeable future, and this reduced state funding has required cost-cutting measures that have affected the quality of instruction in various ways, e.g., unfilled faculty vacancies, less staff support, and reduced funding for academic activities; and

WHEREAS significant academic tuition increases have been imposed on Mason's students to at least partially offset the loss of state funds; and

WHEREAS Mason's Varsity Athletic program is supported by fees assessed on all students; and

WHEREAS Varsity sports are costly in terms of equipment, team travel for tournaments and competitions, recruiting travel and related expenses, coaching staffs, trainers, special tutoring for athletes, and scholarships, so that non-Varsity students are "taxed" to provide special benefits to a relatively small and elite group of Varsity athletes;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that information be provided in writing to the Faculty Senate regarding the costs associated with each Varsity sport, the revenues each Varsity sport generates, the number of Varsity athletes in each sport and -- to the extent that such information is available -- the total attendance for each sport during academic year 2013-2014 and the benefits arising from each Varsity sport. Also requested is information on how the overall costs of Mason's Varsity sports program have changed over time and the total amount of student subsidies. This information would be the basis for a constructive dialogue between the Central Administration and the Faculty Senate regarding spending priorities of Varsity sports and instructional activities at the University.

ATTACHMENT B

Academic Policies Committee

Feb. 4, 2015

Background

1. At the March 3, 2010 Faculty Senate meeting, a resolution was presented by the Academic Policies Committee and approved by the Faculty Senate for implementation in Fall 2011:

Resolution to Shorten Academic Add Period

Change catalog copy from: “The last day for adding a 14-week course is two calendar weeks after and including the first day of classes” to “The last day for adding a 14-week course is eight calendar days after and including the first day of classes.”

2. There have been periodic approvals of academic calendars by the Faculty Senate that incorporated the shortened Add period.

- For all Fall semesters since 2011, classes start on a Monday in August, one week before Labor Day. Eight calendar days would put the Add deadline on Labor Day Monday. The Add deadline is thus the next day, Tuesday, which is the 6th instructional day after and including the first day of classes.
- For Spring semesters, classes start either on the Tuesday after MLK Day or on the Monday a week after MLK Day. For years in which classes start the day after MLK Day, the Add deadline is 8 days; for years in which classes start a week after MLK Day, the Add deadline is 9 days. The Add deadline thus occurs on either the 6th or the 7th instructional day after and including the first day of classes.

There is no mention of the issue in any records of the Faculty Senate.

Example calendars for Fall and Spring semesters. (D_n = calendar day)

	Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.
Aug.		D ₁ (Classes begin)	D ₂	D ₃	D ₄	D ₅	D ₆
	D ₇	D ₈ Labor Day	D ₉ (Add deadline)				
Jan.		MLK	D ₁ (Classes begin)	D ₂	D ₃	D ₄	D ₅
	D ₆	D ₇	D ₈ (Add deadline)				
or							
Jan.		MLK					
		D ₁ (Classes begin)	D ₂	D ₃	D ₄	D ₅	D ₆
	D ₇	D ₈ (Add deadline by policy)	D ₉ (Add deadline approved)				

Motion

That the previously approved Academic Calendars be corrected so that the last day to Add conforms to the academic policy of March 3, 2010. The specific changes are:

- Tuesday, Jan. 31, 2017 to Monday, Jan. 30, 2017;
- Tuesday, Jan. 30, 2018 to Monday, Jan. 29, 2018; and
- Wednesday, Jan. 30, 2019 to Tuesday, Jan. 29, 2019

ATTACHMENT C

Resolution of Appreciation to Delegate David Bulova

Whereas the Fairfax Campus of George Mason University is situated within the 37th District of the Virginia House of Delegates, which has been represented by Delegate David Bulova since 2006;

Whereas Delegate Bulova has consistently supported the needs of higher education in Virginia and of George Mason University in particular;

Whereas Delegate Bulova has frequently met with the University's Faculty Senate and has always made himself available to its faculty;

Whereas Delegate Bulova has patroned and effectively supported legislation proposed by the Faculty Senate of Virginia and the Virginia Conference of the American Association of University Professors;

Whereas the Mason Faculty Senate looks forward to a productive working relationship with Delegate Bulova for many years to come;

The George Mason Faculty Senate enthusiastically endorses the recent decision of the Virginia Conference of the American Association of University Professors to honor Delegate Bulova with its Michael Harris Award which is given annually to recognize "exemplary service in support of higher education by a public official."

ATTACHMENT D

Suggested Amendments to George Mason University Policy 1201

In response to not only the student and community support, but also in regards to complying with both the Presidential and Gubernatorial Executive Orders, George Mason Student Government suggests the following amendments to be made to University Policy 1201:

*****Proposed Additions are in bold and increased font size*****

University Policy Number 1201

I. SCOPE

This policy applies to all George Mason University faculty, staff, students, university contractors, and visitors.

II. POLICY STATEMENT

George Mason University is committed to providing equal opportunity and an educational and work environment free from any discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability, veteran status, sexual orientation, **gender identity or expression**, age, marital status, pregnancy status or genetic information. George Mason University shall adhere to all applicable state and federal equal opportunity/affirmative action statutes and regulations.

The University is dedicated to ensuring access, fairness and equity for minorities, women, individuals with disabilities, and veterans (as covered by law) in its educational programs, related activities and employment. George Mason University shall thus maintain a continuing affirmative action program to identify and eliminate discriminatory practices in every phase of university operations.

Any employee who becomes aware of sexual harassment or other potentially discriminatory behavior must contact Compliance, Diversity, and Ethics.

Retaliation against an individual who has raised claims of illegal discrimination or has cooperated with an investigation of such claims is prohibited.

III. RESPONSIBLE PARTIES

Compliance, Diversity, and Ethics is responsible for administering and monitoring George Mason University's equal opportunity/affirmative action policies and procedures.

IV. COMPLIANCE

Inquiries about or complaints alleging violation of the University's equal opportunity/affirmative action policies should be directed to Compliance, Diversity, and Ethics. Mason Hall D201, MS 2C2, Fairfax, VA 22030. Phone (703) 993-8730. **During the 2014-2015 academic year, our office will be temporarily relocated to Research Hall, 3rd Floor, Room 344.*

V. EFFECTIVE DATE AND APPROVAL

The policies herein are effective April 3, 2006. This Administrative Policy shall be reviewed and revised, if necessary, annually to become effective at the beginning of the University's fiscal year, unless otherwise noted.