

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY
MINUTES OF THE FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
SEPTEMBER 24, 2015
Merten Hall room 2500, 3:00-4:15 p.m.

Present: Jim Bennett, Charlene Douglas, Mark Houck, Tim Leslie, Keith Renshaw, Joe Scimecca, Suzanne Slayden, Susan Trencher, S. David Wu, J.J. Davis, Rose Pascarell, Linn Jorgensen.

I. Approval of Minutes of August 27, 2015: The minutes were approved.

II. Announcements

Rector Davis addresses the Faculty Senate October 7, 2015. President Cabrera's fall address to the Faculty Senate date changed from December 2nd to November 4th, 2015. Claudio Cioffi-Revilla to present update on restructuring plan for the Office of Research rescheduled from the Sept. 9th meeting.

Provost Wu – Online Education: To set the stage, we have been involved in online education for some time; 50+ programs in place. Many of our competitors have been partnered with third party vendors for more professional approach – comparative landscape very difficult for us. To take a close look at partnership opportunities – an exhaustive process --- surveys, benchmarks, etc. - to improve and enhance capabilities for online education. Many peer institutions (Johns Hopkins, Georgetown, James Madison, William and Mary) already have such partnerships. To take a very thoughtful approach; to ask Faculty Senate to elect a committee to help us evaluate process to select. . Over the summer there were 15-18 presentations, narrowed down to three.

Discussion/Questions:

Why wasn't this more highly publicized over the summer? Concern expressed how this plays out in terms of resources and costs, has lots of implications. We don't understand what budget implications will be.

Provost Wu: We did announce we are encouraging partnerships at Faculty Senate meetings several times; the entire vendor selection process was publicized and faculty participated. Participation by academic units is completely voluntary; to start with a very small number to be vetted by faculty. Some partners can make investment we can't do ourselves, GMU leveraging opportunity; we could not do alone. Program will include market research – will program generate sufficient enrollment?

What do they evaluate? What are criteria? How to evaluate after a year? A few years to evaluate record?

Provost Wu: There is a long list of criteria. Also track record of partnerships with experience with partnership such as University of Kentucky and Purdue University. All contracts would have specific conditions, including "outs" to meet specific performance criteria. He deferred to Michelle Marks to share with you specific criteria used. In final negotiation process to get Charlene Douglas, Keith Renshaw and others from the Faculty Senate involved to look under the hood.

As a proponent of online education, Chair Douglas is certified in online education. We have worked very hard, to get products used in classrooms. Faculty who have taught online classes also noted their departments have many concerns about it.

Study Leave Policy for tenured instructional faculty – change to part of the Faculty Handbook? Provost Wu responded we are not changing study leave itself, but how it is managed. Formerly managed by Vice President of Research Office, it became increasingly complicated and challenging as the university grew

larger and larger. After discussions with deans and directors, study leave will now be managed by colleges/schools, revenues not to change. Colleges and schools have additional tools to leverage resources, such as hiring adjuncts, faculty covering load in some occasions. Goal to increase number of faculty taking advantage of study leave, the norm in large research universities.

Question: Faculty member applying now for leave: His school published different criteria including requirement to submit two page report on last leave. Provost Stearns said there was no need to write a report for last leave. Rules may also have changed in other schools. Provost Wu replied he will have to address some transitional issues. Intention to increase number of faculty participating; colleges/schools may also have additional requirements.

Sr. Vice President JJ Davis reported on the Budget Town Hall Monday (September 21, 2015). We have made arrangements to cover Mason faculty situated in federal facilities in the short term should the federal budget not be approved by October 1st.

Rose Pascarell (Vice President, University Life) and Dr. Linn Jorgenson , Director, Office of Disability Services to discuss issues in plugging holes in disability services. The Vice President for University Life has oversight for Academic Integrity and Disability Services. The national average of college students with disabilities is 10%, only 4.2% of students at Mason have disabilities. We have seen a dramatic increase in the number of students for whom we provide accommodations. Dr. Jorgenson distributed a detailed handout, "Disability Services and Academic Integrity" illustrating the increase in the number of students registered and exams given from 2010-11 – 2014-15. The document also included an outline of Procedures, Safeguards, Numbers, and Considerations. Testing is most used accommodation we offer. Some students due to medical conditions cannot sit in classroom for a long time, as well as other things, as you see in the classroom. Topics discussed included exam rooms, cameras, number and location of proctors, procedures for delivery of completed exams, notetaking volunteers, and assistive technologies for notetaking. Every faculty member needs to know exams can be scanned and emailed to faculty. Disability Services is trying to revisit processes and do a better job, your assistance and feedback are needed; it is a two-way street. Some faculty members require students to show university ID card for exams, others do not have time limits and allow students to complete exam with faculty member elsewhere; suggestion to display a sign such as "WE SCAN EVERYTHING YOU DO AND WILL EMAIL IT TO FACULTY MEMBER" may help decrease number of incidents.

Honor Code Violation Procedures/Outcome

Whenever a faculty member makes a charge, we ask them to make a recommendation. If the evidence is so clear and over a period of time, likely action is expulsion. The Dean of Students may make/approve recommendation for expulsion or suspension.

In some instances students can file for medical withdrawal - everything is put on hold – cannot come back until pending charges resolved. Pending charges notation appears on transcript. Sometimes medical withdrawal privileged over plagiarism or vice versa. The statute of limitations for medical withdrawal is at most 3-4 months, not in perpetuity. Executive Committee members in unison queried: How to close loop? Where does faculty member enter into loop? How to close loop in perpetuity? If a faculty member is unjustly accused, there is something wrong with the Honor System given such an egregious case. Court records public, but different laws govern student records, such as FERPA.

III. Progress reports, business, and agenda items from Senate Standing Committees

A. Academic Policies – Suzanne Slayden

We will ask the Registrar for the academic calendar for three years ahead, also the summer school calendar. The Summer School calendar is now managed by the Registrar's Office; a change from Cathy Evans to Registrar's Office. Changes in summer school administration over the years recalled; the Executive Committee remains interested in summer school.

B. Budget and Resources – Susan Trencher

Several faculty asked about \$360M raised for the Capital Campaign to date: Where does it come from? J.J. Davis responded it is the accumulation of all gifts from 2008; she will send us the macro.

C. Faculty Matters – Keith Renshaw and Joe Scimecca – no report.

D. Nominations – Jim Bennett – no report.

E. Organization and Operations - Mark Houck

The committee is dealing with two issues.

IV. Other Committees/Faculty Representatives

A. Effective Teaching Committee

Recommendations Student Course Evaluation Form

[Attachment A](#)

Chair Douglas noted the Effective Teaching Committee has done a great deal of work on this report. Executive Committee members offered several questions and observations including validation, need for differentiation between adjunct and full-time faculty, and different uses among colleges/schools of evaluation results. The committee will present its report at the October 7th Faculty Senate meeting.

B. University Standing Committee Chairs 2015-16:

- Athletic Council – Linda Miller (CVPA), Faculty Athletic Representative, Chair (per committee charge)
- Mason Core Committee – Janette Muir, Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education, Chair – per committee charge
- Minority and Diversity Issues – Elavie Ndura (CEHD), Chair; Richard Craig (CHHS), co-chair, Odette Willis (CHHS), Secretary

Pending Election Results/Meetings Scheduled late Sept/early October: Academic Appeals, Academic Initiatives, Admissions, Adult Learning and Executive Education, Effective Teaching, External Academic Relations, Faculty Handbook Revision, Grievance, Salary Equity Study, Technology Policy, UPTRAC, and Writing Across the Curriculum .

V. Agenda Items for October 7, 2015 FS Meeting

- Draft FS Minutes September 9, 2015
- Rector Davis
- Provost Wu
- Sr. Vice President J.J. Davis
- Announcements

- Effective Teaching Committee Recommendations Student Course Evaluation Forms – Betsy DeMulder and Lorraine Valdez Pierce (*Other Committees, Faculty Representatives*) [Attachment A](#)
- Update on restructuring plan for the Office of Research- Claudio-Cioffi Revilla, (*Other New Business*)
- Exam Procedures – Office of Disability Services
- Adjournment

VI. New Business, Updates, and Discussion

Reappointment of President Cabrera: Joe Scimecca and Charlene Douglas elected as Faculty Representatives to Presidential Reappointment Committee; Suzanne Slayden elected as alternate. Townhall with President Cabrera [required per Handbook] on Wednesday, October 14th from 3:00-4:30 p.m., Merten Hall room 1201. The Presidential Reappointment Committee's final meeting is scheduled for November 14th. As the President will come to the November 4th Faculty Senate meeting, this provides faculty unable to attend the October 14th Town Hall an opportunity to ask questions. Reappointment term is for five years. The Committee has devised questions to be distributed to all faculty and staff, also to gather information from students. Suggestion made to permit faculty to submit paper responses to the Faculty Senate Office for faculty unwilling to participate in online survey.

VII: Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Meg Caniano
Faculty Senate clerk

Attachment A

The Effective Teaching Committee Annual Report April 2015 is posted on the Faculty Senate website at http://www.gmu.edu/resources/facstaff/senate/MINUTES_FS_2015-16/Effect%20Tchg%20Comm%20Annual%20Report%20April%202015.pdf