

**GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY**  
**MINUTES OF FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Tuesday, September 19, 2017, 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., The Mason Club**

**Present:** Alan Abramson, Mark Addleson, Lisa Billingham, J.J. Davis, Shannon Davis, Tim Leslie, Keith Renshaw, Suzanne Slayden, Girum Urgessa.

**I. Approval of Minutes of August 23, 2017:** The minutes were approved.

**II. Announcements**

- Reminder: FS Reception at Mathy House: Thu Oct. 5 5:30 pm
- Reminder: EC meeting with President Cabrera: Fri Nov. 3 11:00 am

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

**A. Academic Policies – Suzanne Slayden**

We have not received the 2020-2021 calendar from the Registrar yet (the first one to integrate the regular AY and Wiley on-line classes).

We have these other items of business to consider:

Repeat policy (AP.1.3.4 Repeating a Course) – the registrar's is, or was, coupling this policy with the policy on Termination of the Major (**AP.5.2.4 Termination from the Major**). It might be good to slightly revise catalog copy.

Study elsewhere policy (AP.1.4.2)– a portion of text regarding sanctions for not seeking prior permission was removed from catalog without informing AP/Senate. Also, a change to the Registrar's form is causing a problem for undeclared students (need signature of major Dean).

Proportional add-drop deadlines (AP.1.3.2 Changing Registration ) for non-standard and summer courses. Currently, they are not proportional to the F.S.-mandated Add/Drop deadlines.

Catalog text on enrollment in the Washington Consortium has not changed since it became possible for freshmen and sophomores to enroll, in addition to juniors and seniors. We will recommend the catalog be revised.

Discussion: In response to question whether practical to do proportional Add/Drop for shorter term courses, the answer is "yes". For example, the Add deadline is based upon students attending 1 full week of classes. For shorter term classes, it is only necessary to calculate the same time equivalent to 1 week spent in class. If the deadline occurs in the middle of a class, the deadline would be extended to the end of that class. With respect to the Wiley on-line classes, the courses, admissions, rules, etc. are still ours and so they will have a proportional deadline also.

## **B. Budget and Resources – Tim Leslie**

We are working on four topics this year: (1) Budget Model, (2) Faculty Salaries, including how to post adjunct salaries; (3) tuition and fees increase redesign and (4) administrative salaries (from last year).

## **C. Faculty Matters – Alan Abramson and Girum Urgessa**

Highlights for the committee are:

- (1) Finish Faculty Evaluation of Administrators from last year, to do this year's in the fall.
- (2) Evaluation of department chairs uneven in university, to make recommendations: especially for feedback from the bottom up.
- (3) Status of Department Chairs – as tenured or not.
- (4) Study Leaves for faculty – reality as R1 institution, what is common practice?
- (5) Broader issues around faculty engagement.

Discussion/Questions:

Frustrations with Faculty Evaluation of Administrators: takes a huge amount of time to process but not used for anything? Is this the best assessment mechanism? Appears in *Section 2.63 Faculty Role in the Evaluation of Academic Administrators* in the [Faculty Handbook](#) (p. 32). Agrees with others to rethink the Faculty Evaluation of Administrators to make it more meaningful. To reassess questions, what's important to faculty and what's important to evaluators; a big task. The President/Provost information is sent to the Board of Visitors.

## **D. Nominations – Mark Addleson**

We are just about where we should be for this time of year, except for a few members appointed by committees. We are still looking to fill a vacancy on the Export Compliance Committee, suggestion made to contact Aurali Dade (Associate Vice President, Research Development, Integrity and Assurance) for suggestions.

Discussion/Questions

Suggestions made to increase number of committee members on Faculty Matters to handle increased workload, and to decrease number of committee members on Nominations from 5 to 3 members. Perhaps to open up membership into little groups (including non-Faculty Senators) to work on topics such as evaluation of department chairs, including 1-2 Faculty Senators among the group.

Some EXC members expressed concern about open-ended committees, where are we with the Ad Hoc Conflict of Interest Policy Committee? Deadline for report extended from Spring 17 to Fall 17. Some committees may be active for a year or two, and then activity drops off. Do some committees fall under the broad umbrella of others, such as AP or Faculty Matters? There is no strict 1:1 relationship; both AP and Faculty Matters have a lot of work to do already.

The reshaping of online (admissions) has created issues in some schools – admissions functions online, transferred to a central function. To reach out to them (the Admissions Committee) to look at how committees can be restructured or are superfluous.

The [Copyright in University Works Policy \(4002\)](#), provides for Intellectual Property Committee with three member appointed by the Faculty Senate for three year terms, beginning in Sept. , as well as a 4<sup>th</sup> faculty member jointly appointed by the Faculty Senate and the VP for Research. We need to evaluate the current description, possibly suggest updated language, and solicit nominees for this committee.

#### **E. Organization and Operations – Lisa Billingham**

Faculty Senators 2017-18 SCHAR election results pending

Bylaw/Charter changes: we will send to EXC our recommendations when ready. Is there a structure we can put into place for rotations on committees, to help preserve institutional memory (history). Most committees do have staggered terms, which should lead to rotation.

O&O has voted University Ombudsman suggestion made by Charlene Douglas should go to Faculty Matters. However, SVP Davis indicated she is scheduled to meet with Charlene to discuss this further, and offered to gather information for the group first. O&O and Faculty Matters agreed. SVP Davis will report back at a later meeting.

#### **IV. Other Committees/Faculty Representatives**

- Proposed changes to By-Laws – Undergraduate Council [Attachment A](#)  
Tim Leslie provided some background to rationale for proposed changes. No objections were raised.

#### **V. New Business, Updates, and Discussion**

Updates from Senior Vice President J.J. Davis:

- We are spending a lot of time in Richmond. Mason asked to submit priorities to prepare for new gubernatorial transition briefing. The top topics are (1) compensation, (2) financial aid; (3) restructure 2012 funding for Bull Run addition. It was originally intended for library space; since, it has been redesigned for

instruction/labs – the needed funds have increased from \$43M to \$71M. Arm-wrestling with Richmond to get the money. This is critical in terms of restricted space on Fairfax, and need for labs.

- Senators asked: Why is Bull Run Building now a COS debt? SVP Davis indicated that initially, it was built as part research, part instructional, and it was funded based on the idea of being “paid back” by future indirects to COS over time. COS dean very unhappy with this. University Committee looking at indirects – but these are faculty-written grants, which would mean we are becoming a self-supporting faculty. A Senator from the College of Science noted they are not hiring new faculty as consequences of this. SVP Davis pointed out that the new (Budget) Model documentation shows incentives and dollars following back to colleges. Not the way budgets were handled 5-10 years ago. She is also not sure that the entire debt has been transferred to COS at this time – will look into it.
- Uptick in controversial speakers not likely to decrease. Recent visit of Betsy DeVos event was privately sponsored. There was 48 hours’ notice on Jesse Jackson visit, open to everyone. We are likely to see uptick of additional speakers over the entire spectrum. We’re working hard. Charlottesville has given everyone pause – we will manage as well as we can. Level of activism increasing, proximity to DC, suggests we’ll have more rather than less. Our primary focus will be on safety.
- Discussion: Should we invite the Chief of Police to talk about preparations in light of Charlottesville? There is a collaboration of EHS and Police teams working through various issues. It might be possible to get more formalized information for faculty, staff, and students, such as a fact sheet. Important to make sure information how to handle disruption is distributed widely across campus, not just to faculty. Is it posted on the Provost Office website? Concern about graduate student instructors receiving information – JJ noted information distributed to everyone.
- Growth of West campus. Cheers and jeers – we need more physical space, particularly when Robinson is taken down. Fairfax City (County) not happy about growth. A lot of work to do, to understand infrastructure and environmental issues, both pro and con.
- Potomac Science Center opens now, beautiful state-of-the-art classroom space. COS and other groups will use it too. All state funding, maintenance is GMU’s responsibility.
- Last issue at October BOV meeting to discuss Robinson. Video and what it will mean to take the core of campus down in terms of disruption. Structural engineers went in and said it has to go down, could not literally renovate it. Concept looks wonderful.

- In December will get first cut of what new VA picture is. To find funding for IT construction of bandwidth. Once current, tried to impress in Richmond how serious situation is here.
- CHSS: interim dean of CHSS to be announced soon, not likely new dean will be in place before July 1, 2018.

Finally, Chair Renshaw asked EXC members to give some thought to committee structure, and also topics for discussion on the Senate floor.

- Brad Edwards potential visit to Faculty Senate November 1, 2017 – all agreed to keep him on agenda for this time
- UPTRAC Guidelines – Chair Renshaw working with this group to have them establish better procedures/guidelines
- Do we want a report on Faster Farther Campaign to FS?
  - Continues to be disagreement on this, but majority seem inclined to not have this
- Are there other groups we think should report to FS?
  - For consideration by EXC

#### **VI. Agenda Items for October 4,, 2017 FS Meeting**

- Draft FS Minutes September 6, 2017
- President Cabrera
- Announcements
- Committee Reports
  - Proposed changes to Undergraduate Council Bylaws

Respectfully submitted,  
 Meg Caniano  
 Clerk, Faculty Senate