

**GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY
AGENDA FOR THE FACULTY SENATE MEETING
NOVEMBER 7, 2018
Robinson Hall B113, 3:00 – 4:15 p.m.**

I. Call to Order

II. Approval of the Minutes of October 3, 2018

III. Announcements

IV. Committee Reports

A. Senate Standing Committees

Executive Committee

Academic Policies

Budget and Resources

Faculty Matters

Nominations

Organization and Operations

[Attachment A](#)

[Attachment B](#)

B. Other Committees/Faculty Representatives

Report of the Internal Review Committee on Gift Agreements– Provost Wu

[Link to report](#)

V. New Business

Letter of Solidarity with Catholic University – Betsy DeMulder

[Attachment C](#)

VI. Remarks for the Good of the General Faculty

VII. Adjournment

Attachment A

Academic Policies Committee

Agenda item for Nov. 7, 2018

- 1) George Mason University Three Year Calendar: Fall 2018 – Summer 2021 8-Week Modular; *Online Only* (https://registrar.gmu.edu/wp-content/uploads/3-Yr_8-Week-Modular-Calendar_online-only_FINAL-25-June-2018-Web.pdf) was posted 6/25/2018. The Faculty Senate was not asked to review this calendar, which pertains only to the 8-week on-line "Wiley" courses. The Add and Drop deadlines are 1 week; the self-withdrawal (W) period is through the 4th week.

The Academic Policies Committee **moves** that it is not necessary for the Registrar to submit the Modular Calendar to the Faculty Senate for annual approval unless there is a change in the Add or Drop deadlines.

- 2) Last year, the Faculty Senate approved the 2018 Summer Calendar with newly calculated Add/Drop dates that were proportional to the 15-week Academic Year dates. The Drop deadline for AY 2018-2019 was changed suddenly, and the deadline for AY 2019-2020 has not yet been established. Changing the deadlines for the short summer term would only involve a shift of a day or two.

The Academic Policies Committee **moves** that the 2019 Summer Calendar use the same Add/Drop deadlines as were used in Summer 2018.

- 3) Until Fall, 2018, the Drop deadline had been 5 weeks for the regular Academic Year semesters. The administration changed the deadline to 14 days in August, 2018. On Sept. 5, 2018, the Faculty Senate approved a Drop deadline of 22 calendar days after and including the first day of classes. The AP committee continues discussions with the administration regarding an acceptable Drop deadline. In the meantime, it is necessary to choose a temporary deadline for next semester.

The Academic Policies Committee **moves** that the Drop deadline for Spring, 2019 be established as Tuesday, Feb. 12, 2019, which is 22 calendar days after and including the first day of classes.

Attachment B

The Nominations Committee presents the following nominees to fill three vacancies on the Effective Teaching Committee:

Divya Varier (CEHD)

Tom Wood (CHSS)

Alexandria Zylstra (Business)

Attachment C

Catholic University of America (CUA) is seeking faculty senate support and solidarity

BACKGROUND: According to the CUA webpages,

Since 2010, CUA has watched the University's administration under President John H. Garvey respond to steadily falling enrollment by making ever deeper cuts to the budget; by calling on staff and faculty to take buyouts and early retirements; by repeatedly [raising student tuition](#); and by firing staff members and adjunct faculty, sometimes at the cost of expensive legal settlements. CUA has watched buildings and infrastructure [crumble](#), and has seen departmental and research budgets frozen and graduate support severely compromised...Over the past academic year, CUA provost, Andrew Abela, put forth a plan called "[A Proposal for Academic Renewal](#)." The proposal purports to solve enrollment problems by **a) firing tenured and tenure-track faculty, as well as full-time contract faculty [without cause]**; b) classifying academic units as either research, professional, or teaching units, each of which would have a different status and teaching load; and c) reorganizing separate schools into combined units without providing a rationale or sufficient funding.

THE ASK

CUA faculty reject the proposal and have successfully negotiated some new terms. However, they are seeking solidarity with other institutions of higher education locally as they continue their fight. They are asking us to sign on to their letter, as shown [he\re](#) and printed below:

Joint Statement of Solidarity

Washington, DC, October 2018

We, the undersigned, are university faculty organizations, as well as individual university faculty members, in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan region.

At many universities in the region, our colleagues are experiencing threats to academic freedom, the weakening of faculty governance, and the decline of tenure via the expansion of full- and part-time non-tenure-track (contract) positions. Contract faculty, including graduate student workers, lack the essential protections of tenure.

At the same time, universities are accepting external funds from powerful political lobbies that seek to fill faculty positions with people who adhere to their ideological or political preferences. The increasing influence of business-world models, the hiring of presidents and other executive-level administrators from outside academia, and the commercialization of learning diminish the influence of faculty, staff, and students as stakeholders in the pursuit of the university's mission. In the name of financial accountability, faculty have been excluded from decisions about the restructuring and elimination of academic offerings.

We urge all universities in the region to take action to counter these disturbing trends by taking the following steps:

- Uphold the principles of [academic freedom](#), [shared governance](#), and [tenure](#) as defined by the American Association of University Professors;
- Abide by faculty handbooks or equivalent handbooks explicating policy and procedure;
- Protect tenure and non-tenure-track faculty members, and support the efforts of tenure-track and non-tenure-track faculty to expand tenure and improve their economic welfare;
- Decline any funding, internal or external, from organizations or individuals that seek to undermine, or are ideologically opposed to academic freedom, shared governance, and tenure;
- Solicit and heed the voices of all stakeholders in the process of achieving the mission of the university;
- Commit to transparency of communication with the community about initiatives or changes that impact the fundamental purpose of the university.

We stand in solidarity with all faculty, students, and university administrators working to realize these goals.

Signed,

The Catholic University of America Faculty Assembly

The George Washington University Faculty Association (GWUFA)

Gallaudet University Faculty Senate