

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY
AGENDA FOR THE FACULTY SENATE MEETING
MARCH 23, 2022
Electronic Meeting* , 3:00 – 4:15 p.m.

I. Call to Order

II. Approval of the Minutes: February 23, 2022 continuation meeting February 9

III. Opening Remarks – Melissa Broeckelman-Post, Chair

Change Special Faculty Senate Meeting with President Washington to General Meeting of the Faculty Wednesday April 20 3:00 – 4:15 p.m.

IV. Committee Reports

A. Senate Standing Committees

Executive Committee

Coffee Chat: Friday March 25 9:30-10:00 am

<https://gmu.zoom.us/j/93316017023?pwd=OEEvOHNaY01zMDYyUXBBZXgyeGs0UT09>

Academic Policies

[Appendix A](#)

Never Attended Grade

Budget and Resources

Faculty Matters

Nominations

Organization and Operations

B. Other Committees/Faculty Representatives

*Faculty Handbook Revision Committee**

[Appendix B](#)

V. New Business

COACHE Survey – Solon Simmons, Alexandra Masterson, and Kim Eby

VI. Announcements

[Appendix C](#)

Provost Ginsberg

Sr. VP Kissal

[Mason FACTS](#)

[Office of Academic Integrity](#)

VII. Remarks for the Good of the General Faculty

VIII. Adjournment

ELECTRONIC MEETING

For security purposes -- all attendees *MUST* login using any valid zoom account to join the meeting.

IMPORTANT: Faculty Senators must login using their GMU login/password from <https://gmu.zoom.us/> to be recognized.

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://gmu.zoom.us/j/96433001187?pwd=MmZsWXZlVGg0ZkxqU3l3MitJRFNlZz09>

In case of problems with joining the meeting, use the following information to join:-

- Meeting ID: 964 3300 1187
- Passcode: 922026

Having Trouble Joining the Meeting with the link above?

All attendees must sign in into zoom before joining the meeting.

1. If using GMU Zoom Account (required for all Faculty Senators)
 - a. Go to <https://gmu.zoom.us>
 - b. Click on [Sign into Your Account]
 - c. Use GMU login credentials to login. (May require 2FA authentication)
 - d. Once logged in – click on “JOIN A MEETING”
 - e. Enter the Meeting ID (see highlighted above) and click JOIN
 - f. If asked for Passcode: enter the Passcode (highlighted above)
2. Joining Senate Meeting using an account other than GMU Zoom Account
 - a. Go to <https://zoom.us>
 - b. Click on [SIGN IN]
 - c. Use credentials for your existing zoom account
 - d. Once logged in – click on “JOIN A MEETING”
 - e. Enter the Meeting ID (see highlighted above) and click JOIN
 - f. If asked for Passcode: enter the Passcode (highlighted above)

Appendix A

Academic Policies Committee

Never Attended Grade

Currently, instructors enter “NA” as the final grade for a student who has never attended the course. However, an F appears on the student’s transcript (the NA remains on the student’s internal record). As usual, the F grade carries 0.00 quality points towards the GPA.

However, the policy does not appear in the catalog, except possibly for this sentence:

AP.1.3.2 Changing Registration

“...Students are responsible, both financially and academically, for all courses in which they remain officially enrolled.”

The committee examined the transcripts of several students and discovered that in most of those cases, students had multiple F’s and W’s and generally low GPA’s. These were students in academic trouble.

The AP Committee recommends that the NA policy be changed. The grade notations A-F should be reserved for “earned” grades. A student who has never attended a course has not earned an F grade. For students who never attend one or more courses and are already in academic trouble, the current policy makes it almost impossible for them to recover good academic standing.

In addition to recommending approval of the policy change, below, the committee recommends that the university administration take steps to identify students who are not attending class early in the semester and drop their enrollment. This change may also help to identify students who are in academic trouble.

Motion: The Never Attended policy be changed and the text of the new policy be included in the University Catalog Section AP 3.3 Additional Grade Notations.

AP.3.3 Additional Grade Notations

Satisfactory/No Credit (S/NC)

Incomplete (IN)

Incomplete, extended (IX)

In Progress (IP)

Absent with permission (AB)

Special Provision (SP)

Never Attended (NA)

The grade of NA (Never Attended) is assigned to a student who is enrolled in a course but has never attended. Never Attended means that the instructor has no evidence that the student ever attended class and no work was ever submitted. The NA will appear on the transcript and count toward attempted hours. The NA has no effect on the GPA. There may be financial aid implications for non-attendance. Tuition is not refunded.

Appendix B

Faculty Handbook Revisions Committee

Proposed Revisions to the Faculty Handbook

Proposed revisions to the 2021 Faculty Handbook will be presented for discussion. Please see <http://www.gmu.edu/resources/facstaff/senate/FacultyHandbook/fac-hndbk-rev-2022.htm>

At this meeting of the Faculty Senate, the Committee will present the revisions and ask for discussion. Afterwards, the Committee will discuss and amend the revisions if necessary.

At the Apr. 6, 2022 Faculty Senate meeting, the Faculty Senate will be asked to approve the revisions.

If approved by the Faculty Senate, the revisions will be submitted to the Board of Visitors for final approval.

The Committee welcomes comments and suggestions before and after the Faculty Senate meeting.

Faculty Handbook Revision Committee: Timothy Gibson(CHSS), Solon Simmons (Carter School), Suzanne Slayden (COS)

Term Faculty Representative: Cindy Parker (SBUS)

Provost's Office: Renate Guilford, Kim Eby

Human Resources: Danielle Gilson

Appendix C Announcements

Mason FACTS – submitted by Molli Herth, Program Manager, Faculty Affairs and Development, Office of the Provost, February 23, 2022

The Faculty Affairs & Development (FAD) Office met with college and school leadership teams to assess the implementation of the Review, Promotion & Tenure (RPT) tool during the 2021/2022 review cycle. RPT collected and routed casebooks for reappointment, renewal, promotion, and tenure:

- Tenure-line faculty promotion and/or tenure
- Tenure-line third-year renewal
- Term faculty promotion and multi-year appointment
- Renewal and promotion for University Librarian professional review

The feedback from these sessions and faculty surveys was overwhelmingly favorable. The RPT tool translated institutional and unit-level RPT guidelines into system templates that are intuitive and user-friendly.

Moving forward, we will work, in partnership, with academic leadership and provide platforms to gather faculty insights as we identify and incrementally roll out minor system updates that improve system functionality and end-user experience.

Template Configuration Workshops will occur from March 3, 2022, to March 10, 2022, in support of system Administrators as they build unit templates for the 2022/2023 academic year. Template configuration workshops provide step-by-step instructions for complete replication of the institutional templates at the unit level.

Looking for a Volunteer Opportunity?

**Partner with the Office of Academic
Integrity as a member of the Mason
Honor Committee!**

Apply by visiting oai.gmu.edu

Faculty Requirements:

- Minimum of Master's Degree
- Current CV/Resume