

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY
MINUTES OF THE FACULTY SENATE MEETING
NOVEMBER 17, 2021
Electronic Meeting, 3:00 – 4:15 p.m.

Number of attendees: 114

[List of names](#) at end of minutes

- I. Call to Order:** Chair Melissa Broeckelman-Post called the meeting to order at 3:01 pm.
- II. Approval of the Minutes:** Hearing no corrections or additions, the minutes of October 20, 2021 were approved as submitted.
- III. Opening Remarks – Melissa Broeckelman-Post, Chair**
- Thanks to Tom Wood for serving on Mason Sustainability Council and Alok Berry for serving on 50th Anniversary Celebration Planning Committee
 - Dec 1, 2021 is special FS meeting with President Washington. There will be a link to submit questions in advance. We will have other time for questions from the floor as well, but if you want to make sure that something is addressed, we ask that you share it there.

IV. Committee Reports
A. Senate Standing Committees

Executive Committee – Melissa Broeckelman-Post, Chair

- Held Senate Coffee Chat early (Fri, Nov 12 9:30am), because Chair is at a conference this week. These will continue, usually the Friday *after* the FS meeting. All are welcome to join.

Academic Policies – Suzanne Slayden, Chair

- No report

Budget and Resources – Kumar Mehta & Matthew Theeke, Co-Chairs

- No report

Faculty Matters – Solon Simmons, Chair

- Provost Extension Review Committee (PERC) report was completed and submitted to President Washington. Now that task is complete, PERC is disbanded
- Faculty Matters Committee is interested in where the Task Force on Reimagining Faculty Roles and Rewards is going, happy to hear that a second meeting (is scheduled). The committee is very interested in workload, as many people are.
- Committee will be busy completing the Faculty Evaluation of Administrators survey. We have not yet received all the data for that, in part because of the work of the PERC committee.

Nominations – Richard Craig & Charlotte Gill, Co-Chairs

- No report.

Organization and Operations – Lisa Billingham, Chair

- Meeting again tomorrow and have some charges to review. Reminder to those who serve on University or Faculty Senate Standing Committees to reach out to anyone on O&O committee if you have concerns about committee charges.
- We have received a signed contract from our ombuds finalist. There will be an official announcement once the candidate has notified current place of employment. This person will begin in February 2022. Working on opportunity for Senate to meet the individual.

B. Other Committees/Faculty Representatives

Admissions Committee [Report](#)

Athletic Council [Report](#)

Graduate Council [Report](#)

Grievance Committee [Report](#)

Multilingual Students Academic Success Committee [Annual Report 2020-2021](#)

Recreation Advisory Committee [Report](#)

Technology Policy Committee [Report](#)

External Academic Relations Committee – Isaac Gang & Chaowei Yang, Co-Chairs

- Reviewed information in submitted reports from [External Academic Relations Committee](#) and [Faculty Senate of Virginia](#), then took questions
- Senator asked if any progress had been made with regard to lower funding that Mason receives per student, relative to other universities – discussion indicated some progress has been made, but continues to be a focus for the administration.
- Some discussion about Mark Smith seeming unaware of the committee – Senators noted it was probably due to turnover in committee members, as several prior members of the committee had worked closely with Mr. Smith
- Some discussion about tuition benefit issue – this is an issue at several universities (was discussed in Faculty Senate of Virginia), was discussed in recent meeting of Mason’s BOV Finance & Land Use Committee (<https://vimeo.com/showcase/8557205/video/631081086>)

Research Advisory Committee – Lance Liotta, Chair

- Chair Liotta introduced Mike Laskofski, Associate Vice President of Research Services, to discuss a series of research administration operational improvements to improve our ability to submit grants and monitor grant activity, in line with Mason’s R1 status.
- AVP Laskofski thanked Senate for inviting him, and then reviewed a [series of slides](#) summarizing projects that are intended to reduce administrative burdens on faculty, which have become much greater over the years due to increasing regulations.
 - Research Administration Management Portal (RAMP) is a 2½ -year project to develop one system for all research administration and compliance systems. After extensive

- discovery and RFP process, identified RAMP (Huron Research Suite) as best option for Mason. RAMP is widely seen as most usable such product on market, and is currently being used by over half of R1 universities in US. IRB, grants, etc. will all be housed in the same platform, with easy-to-access status updates, etc.
- Also engaged in streamlining processes, better defining roles and responsibilities, and addressing deficiencies in support for researchers. Nearly all R1 universities have research administrators in local units – Mason is now working toward that. Starting with a pilot in a few colleges, but already talking with other colleges about doing this.
 - A third project is streamlining research-related reporting, to more easily get data.
 - We have a website for RAMP: <https://ramp.gmu.edu>.
 - Academic Representatives Group formed about 6 months ago and includes three representatives from each college and school, with several faculty representatives. We meet with this group every month to provide updates and get feedback
 - PI Advisory Group has been recently formed, will have the first meeting in December.
 - Senators asked questions about distribution and tracking of indirect costs across PIs, departments, and colleges/schools. VP Laskofski and Chair Liotta clarified that some processes were in place to address this issue, and that this would be easier under the new research administration platform.
 - A Senator asked how the new system would integrate with MicroStrategy. VP Laskofski replied that data in the new system should be accessible via MicroStrategy.
 - Chair Liotta noted that the faculty advisory group could be useful for newer faculty who are interesting in writing grants but need mentoring/collaboration.
 - A Senator asked a question cooperative agreements with federal agencies and costs related to job advertisements and relocation. VP Laskofski invited the Senator to email him.

Mason Core Committee – Laura Poms, Co-Chair

- There has been a lot of discussion about Mason Core – Co-Chair Poms wanted to correct some possible misconceptions. Many people are planning to attend upcoming meeting tomorrow, which is delightful. Main focus of meeting will be reviewing course proposals submitted by different departments that are interested in Mason Core designations. Committee will also hear initial presentations about updates and enhancements being considered for the Mason Core from various task forces. These are still works in progress – there are no formal proposals to respond to yet. Visitors are welcome to listen in during meetings, but no public comments during tomorrow’s meeting. When Mason Core Committee’s proposals are ready for discussion, will host a series of town halls to get feedback, and put things up on the website with an online survey for thoughts and ideas. It is very important to get everybody’s perspective, because Mason Core affects all parts of the university. Even after that work finishes, proposals then go to Academic Policies, and then go before the Faculty Senate. Nothing is done until all steps are complete.
- Senator asked for description of changes currently under consideration. Co-Chair Poms responded that was not possible, because there are no formal proposals, only working documents that are not yet fully formed or ready for public discussion.
- Senator asked who is participating on task forces. Co-Chair Poms indicated it is mostly led by Mason Core Committee members, but also involves others. She reiterated that once the committee finishes its work in developing proposals, there will be extensive community engagement for feedback. Senator noted that sometimes that type of process has led to less opportunity for substantive input, as proposals become too “set” to change.

- Senators thanked Co-Chair Poms and the Committee for its extensive work.

Custodial Services Committee – Senator Kumar Mehta

- Provide brief update on the by which new Custodial Services provider was chosen. Committee was formed during summer 2021. I served as the Faculty Senate Executive Committee representative to the committee. Nine proposals were received and scored independently by committee members. Six providers were invited for oral presentations and Q&A. The committee further narrowed down to three and asked additional clarifying questions in two rounds. We picked one, Arkatype Contractors, with which further negotiations were conducted and finalized.
- Our decision was based on several factors. The entire proposal was very well written. There was a good operating plan. On the labor side, it had a starting wage that was among the highest of the respondents and exceeded the minimum wage. Arkatype was the only one, if I recall correctly, who had both paid sick leave and paid time off. It also had one of the highest percentage of full-time workers for the contract and the same for the sub. It was also SWAM certified (Small Woman Minority Owned Business).

Student Government – Holly Stephens, Student Government - Faculty Senate Liaison

- Ms. Stephens noted that multiple students have expressed concerns about slow grading times. The lack of feedback poses a problem for students, particularly in completing subsequent assignments. A student Senator proposed a possible rule that would require professors to input grades in Blackboard for assignments within two weeks. Ms. Stephens requested feedback to bring back to the student Senator.
- Multiple Faculty Senators noted that slow grading time is often related to unmanageable workload for faculty. One Senator invited Ms. Stephens to attend an upcoming meeting of the GMU Coalition for Workers Rights (Friday at noon) to work with faculty in that group on addressing faculty workload, which could also address problems with grading time. Another Senator noted that the AAUP is discussing a proposal to limit the number of students in a writing-intensive class. A third Senator noted that many units are also addressing this, such as a major effort underway in CHSS to more clearly define workload, which might include things like limiting the number of students in certain types of classes.
- Other Faculty Senators noted possible problems with unintended consequences of a “one-size-fits-all” rule, such as faculty members having to reduce the extent of feedback they provide, or creating fewer assignments that involve in-depth feedback, in order to comply with a timeline.
- Multiple Faculty Senators recommended approaching upper administration (e.g., Provost, President, Deans) about the issue.
- Ms. Stephens thanked everyone for the feedback, and indicated a desire to obtain better data through a survey and then return with more information.

V. New Business

- 50th Anniversary Celebrations Committee – Alok Berry
 - Main celebrations start April 4-8, with many more during Fall 2022. Committee would like to more faculty members.
 - Chair Broeckelman-Post asked for volunteers. No one volunteered in the meeting, but members were encouraged to consider it and email Alok Berry (aberry@gmu.edu).

VI. Announcements

[Appendix C](#)

- Several announcements were submitted via report prior to the meeting:
 - [Mason COACHE Update – Kim Eby, Associate Provost, Faculty Affairs and Development](#)
 - [Mason FACTS Update – Molli Herth, Program Manager, Faculty Affairs and Development](#)
 - [1st Gen Faculty Affinity Group Survey](#)
 - [LGBTQ+ Faculty/Staff Alliance Events](#)
- Provost Ginsberg made several announcements:
 - Thanked faculty and entire university community for successful fall semester, noting he was proud to be part of a university community that together created a successful environment for our students, faculty, and staff.
 - Wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving, and reminded everyone the university would close completely on Wednesday.
 - Thanked faculty who attended reception for Faculty Senate a couple of weeks ago at the Mathy House.
 - Thanked Solon Simmons and members of the Provost Extension Review Committee for their work, noting he had not expected to serve more than 2 years when he began, but that he was very pleased to have been asked to consider doing so.
 - Noted that the Task Force on Reimagining Faculty Roles and Rewards has begun its work, and that he anticipated there would be productive discussion and important recommendations.
 - Reminded faculty that searches were underway for 3 deans (School of Business, College of Education and Human Development, College of Health and Human Services) and two divisional deans (School of Computing, School of Engineering). Faculty Senator has been appointed to each of the search committees.
 - Addressed the recent state elections, noting Governor-elect Youngkin recently talked about being the “education governor.” It remains to be seen what impact the election has on higher education and Mason in particular in the coming years.
 - Commented positively about recent success of Mason women’s and men’s basketball teams.
 - A Senator asked if any major changes were expected in Spring. Provost Ginsberg responded that things would look fairly similar in terms of modality, with roughly 70-75% of classes being face-to-face, 25-30% virtual. So far, registrations are a bit ahead of last spring.
- Chair Broeckelman-Post reminded everyone of the Special Meeting on Dec 1 with President Washington, and wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving.

VII. Remarks for the Good of the General Faculty – none.

VIII. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 4:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Keith Renshaw
Secretary

Appendix A Committee Reports

Admissions Committee – submitted by Alok Berry, Chair, November 9, 2021

The Fall 2021 enrollment report as presented by Melissa Bevacqua, Director Undergraduate Admissions

While the official fall enrollment census has not been published yet, we project to have exceeded 39,000 total students this fall. We have our largest incoming class to date. Some data of interest is that only 37% of entering freshmen submitted standardized test scores as part of the admission process for Fall 2021, likely a bi-product of the global pandemic as well as our continued position as a Score Optional institution, which we have been for the last 15 years. Our data suggests that our academic profile of new, first-time students is just as strong, if not stronger, than the Fall 2020 cohort. While community college enrollment has trended downward nationally, we still enrolled a strong cohort of around 3,000 transfer students this fall. While graduate enrollment has trended up nationwide, our enrollment of new graduate students has remained steady and strong at around 3,400. Our overall success can be attributed to enhanced local marketing and recruitment efforts, proactively promoting and communicating campus safety precautions for COVID-19 including plans for in-person courses and campus activities, enhanced financial aid awarding, expanded virtual recruitment programming and digital marketing, and the hard work of an amazing enrollment management and admissions team. We are actively recruiting our next classes for Spring and Fall 2022. Early indicators are we will have strong applicant pools, but it is still very premature to predict where we will land in the cycle. Please monitor this site <https://oiep.gmu.edu/data-analytics-research/enrollment/>

Athletic Council Update – submitted by Dominique Banville, Faculty Athletic Representative and Chair, Athletic Council, November 9, 2021

The Athletic Council met for the first time on November 4, 2021. In attendance were: Ken Walsh, Bethany Usher, Pam Patterson, Bill Dracos, Ayush Saxena, Thomas Moore, Debi Corbatto, Malcolm Green, Nena Rogers, Todd Bramble, Andrew Lieber, Jenny Everett, Zach Bolno, Emily Lewantowicz, Delton Daigle, Chris Green, Bob Baker, and Dominique Banville.

Due to a last-minute conflict in his schedule, Asst. Vice-President and Director of Athletics Brad Edwards was unable to attend. He was represented by Dr. Debi Corbatto, Deputy AD and Senior Woman Administrator who introduced some of the new individuals that have joined the Inter-Collegiate Athletic Department recently: Malcolm Grace (Compliance), Todd Bramble (Intercollegiate Sports), Andrew Lieber (Capital Planning & Facilities and Events), and Jenny Everett (Chief Financial Officer).

Nena Rogers (Senior Associate AD, Academic Services) provided an update on academics. Student-Athletes (SAs) obtain an overall 3.45 GPA for Fall 2020/Spring 2021 above the general student population GPA of 3.37. A total of 65 SAs were identified as Provost scholars (GPA of 3.75 or better for three consecutive semesters) and 332 SAs were named on the A10 Commissioner Honor Roll (GPA of 3.0 or better). Nena also mentioned that the work related to the Diversity and Inclusion Committee of the ICA is continuing.

Malcolm Grace (Deputy AD, Compliance) indicated that two new individuals have been hired to assist him: Dana Tate and Matthew Iwanski. He shared the outcome of the self-reported infraction related to financial aid discovered by the previous Deputy AD for Compliance Kristie Giddings.

Dr. Debi Corbatta shared the protocol and statistics related to COVID-19. She also mentioned that upcoming events are being planned to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Title IX. Dominique indicated that the A10 is planning events to start on the National Girls and Women in Sports Day (2/2/2022) and finish with the A10 Women Volleyball Championship in November of 2022.

Dr. Dominique Banville provided an overview of her activities as the FAR including multiple conference calls with fellow A10 FARs (monthly basis), participation in virtual sessions during the NCAA Regional Rule Seminar, and the Faculty Athletic Representative Association Conference, and participation in an APR Training. She administered the End of the Year Survey to all SAs and provided a report to ICA and the Office of President and submitted the Commissioner Honor Role data to A10. She was appointed to the NCAA Division I Progress Toward Degree Committee and participate in weekly conference calls (as needed) to hear appeals from SAs that have transferred from a 2-year institution toward a 4-year institution and have been deemed ineligible to participate due to a lack of progress toward completing their degree. She will be participating in the NCAA special convention on the proposed new constitution and attend the upcoming virtual A10 meetings in January. She plans on resuming traveling with teams in the Spring.

Malcolm provided details on key NCAA issues. First, he provided information on the Name, Image, and Likeness policy (NIL) and its impact on Mason SAs. Second, he explained that the temporary removal of standardized tests scores (SAT/ACT) for initial eligibility because of COVID-19 was being considered for permanent removal following pressure from outside groups such as the NBA Coaching association.

Third, he shared that a new system for the determination of Academic Misconduct is now in place which simplifies the analysis. Finally, he indicated that the APR scores had been submitted and that we are in good standing.

Committee on External Academic Relations (CEAR) Report/Updates – submitted by Isaac Gang and Chaowei (Phil) Yang, Co-chairs, November 9, 2021

- On Wednesday November 3, 2021, members of CEAR met with Mark Smith, Mason's Executive Director of State Government Relations who shared more about how the Office of Government and Community Relations (<https://relations.gmu.edu/>) represents the university administration's positions in Richmond during the General Assembly and throughout the year with key stakeholders in the legislative branch, and how our group might support this work.
- In this meeting, CEAR shared with Mr. Smith (GMU Office of Government and Community Relations) potential areas of collaboration
- On Saturday October 23, 2021, CEAR leadership attended Faculty Senate of Virginia (FSVA) Fall meeting that discussed this year's agenda. In this meeting, several items of interest came up:
 - Identification of Post-election agenda including the issue of tuition waiver for employee dependents

- FSVA proposed a subcommittee to work on legislative agenda (Mason is represented by 2 or three volunteers)
- FSVA resolved to increase its visibility by reaching more faculty members (this can be done by "harvesting" faculty emails and improving the current FSVA database)
- FSVA resolved to advocate for high-speed Internet access in Virginia.
- FSVA shared how our respective Senate leaders interact with and are/aren't represented on our institution's BOV (or equivalent body)

Faculty Senate of Virginia- submitted by Isaac Gang, Melissa Broeckelman-Post, Rebecca Sutter, Jatin Ambegaonkar, and Chaowei Wang

We met on Saturday, October 23 via Zoom, and had discussion about the following items:

- Had discussion on the ways that the legislative agenda for the group might be impacted by the November 2 elections. Part of our discussion included tuition waivers for dependents of university employees, and we shared updates about GMU's efforts in this area.
 - A subcommittee, for which several GMU representatives volunteered, was proposed to work on a legislative agenda (this could be a sub bullet for your bullet 1) after the election.
- Discussed planned updates to the website.
- Discussed faculty governance in the VCCS and plans for an upcoming workshop
- Decided to hold another meeting later in the semester after the elections to talk in more detail about a legislative agenda
- Shared how our respective Senate leaders interact with and are/aren't represented on our institution's BOV (or equivalent body)
- There was a discussion to increase FSVA's visibility, and this includes finding ways to reach more faculty members (this can be done by "harvesting" faculty emails and improving the current FSVA database)
- FSVA resolved to advocate for high-speed Internet access in Virginia.

Graduate Council Report – submitted by Cristiana Stan, Faculty Senate Representative, November 10, 2021

Graduate Council Report
September 15 & October 20, 2021

1. The Graduate Council approved the temporary extension of the permissible deferral period due to COVID-19:

Due to the Covid-19 global pandemic, recently admitted students to Mason are facing a variety of issues that may have delayed their intended start term. As such, Mason has approved a temporary adjustment

of policy that permits students admitted for terms Spring 2020 through Fall 2021 to request that their enrollment be deferred or that their application be reconsidered for a period of up to two academic years. All requests will be sent to the academic program to review and approve and do not require approval from the Provost's office. Once approved by the academic program, they will notify the Office of Graduate Admissions and the deferral or reconsideration will be processed. Offers of funding are not guaranteed for deferrals or reconsiderations and are at the discretion of the academic program. Besides this temporary adjustment in time period, applicants are held to the language found in the catalog.

2. The Graduate Council approved the [Statement of Expectations for graduate and faculty interactions](#).
3. The Graduate Reimagining Task Force recommendations are shared with the university and feedback is collected.
4. Extension of the language proficiency test scores expiration from 2 to 3 years only for Spring 2020 and Fall 2021 applicants.
5. [SCHEV Program Approval process](#) pertaining to bachelors and masters.

Grievance Committee - submitted by John Farina, Chair, November 2, 2021

The University faculty grievance committee had no new business.

Multilingual Students Academic Success Committee – submitted by Shelley Reid and Anna Habib, Co-Chairs

Multilingual Students Academic Success Committee 2020-2021

Members	Unit/Office (committee membership term for elected members)
Shelley Reid, <i>Co-chair</i>	Director for Teaching Excellence, Stearns Center
Karyn Kessler, Co-Chair through January 2021	Academic Director, INTO Mason
Anna Habib, Co-Chair, beginning January 2021	Associate Director, Composition for Multilingual Writers English Department Liaison to INTO Mason and GMU-K
Sharon Doetsch-Kidder	Assistant Professor, English / INTO Mason (<i>through 5/22</i>)
Maoria Kirker	Lead, Teaching and Learning Team, University Libraries
Susan Lawrence	Director, Writing Center, English
Sara Mathis	Basic Course Coordinator, Communication
Tom Polk	Acting Director, Writing Across the Curriculum, English

Pierre Rodgers	Associate Professor, Sport Management (<i>through 5/22</i>)
Deborah Sanchez	Term Assistant Professor, INTO George Mason University (<i>through 5/21</i>)
Lori Scher	Assistant Dean, University Life
Kristen Wright	Undergraduate Education

Committee Meetings

October 28th, 2020

November 11th, 2020

February 12th, 2021

Overview of the Year

- Covid-19 Limitations: Because of the ongoing pandemic, our committee had fewer meetings than usual this year, and worked primarily to finish past projects and keep all members up to date on relevant initiatives
- Discussion topics: A key goal of the committee is to share resources across relevant initiatives. Among updates and resources shared this year:
 - Libraries initiative to develop anti-racist resources InfoGuide on finding diverse voices in academic research.
 - Composition program Working Group on Linguistic Justice and developing Program Philosophy and Aims Statement on Language equity and justice.
 - QEP efforts for Transformative Education through Equity and Justice: Anti- Racist Community Engagement.
 - Writing across the Curriculum program efforts to expand faculty support initiatives through Faculty Learning Communities and workshops for teaching writing intensive courses and supporting multilingual students
- Support for MIC: Co-chairs Karyn Kessler and Shelley Reid represented other committee members in contributions to the Mason International Collaborative (sponsored by the American Council on Education), which concluded in June 2021
- Key ongoing goals:
 - Integration with QEP/Stearns/ARIE Resource Development Team
 - Request for OIEP collaboration
- Election of new leadership and proposed revision to charge and membership
 - Following Karyn Kessler’s resignation, Anna Habib was elected as co-chair of the committee
 - Committee members drafted and then voted to support revisions to the charge and membership, and submitted that proposal in April 2021

- Proposed revisions to the charge will bring it into line with the ways that the expertise and practices of the committee have evolved in five years
- Proposed revisions to the membership will help us stay connected to offices and programs that are relevant to the committee's work

Appendix

1. During the past calendar year has the President, Provost, or Senior Vice President (or their respective offices) announced initiatives or goals or acted upon issues that fall under the charge of your Committee? If so, was your Committee consulted by the President, Provost, or Senior Vice President in a timely manner before the announcement or action? If not, do you believe your Committee should have been consulted? Would it have been helpful to have had the input of your Committee from the outset?

Members of our committee were included in the ARIE Task Force Committees as well as providing information to the Transformational Education QEP. We are looking forward to working with both initiatives going forward.

2. Did your Committee seek information or input from the President, Provost, or Senior Vice President or members of their staffs? If so, did they respond adequately and in a timely manner?

Not applicable.

3. Please suggest how you believe the President, Provost, Senior Vice President and/or their staffs might more effectively interact with your Committee in the future, if necessary.

Not applicable.

4. Please relate any additional information you may have regarding interactions between your Committee and the President, Provost, Senior Vice President, or their staff.

Not applicable.

Recreation Advisory Committee - submitted by Joel Martin, Chair, November 9, 2021

We have been developing a short survey to be administered to all faculty at Mason regarding their current use of campus recreation facilities and services. In order to advocate for the faculty we would like to collect this information in the coming months. We are particularly interested in future faculty use, as well as desires, as we have altered our work lifestyles due to the pandemic.

Technology Policy Committee – submitted by Delton Daigle and Kevin Dunayer, Co-chairs, October 14, and November 9, 2021

Technology Policy Committee Meeting Report - October 14, 2021 submitted by Delton Daigle and Kevin Dunayer, co-chairs

Below is a summary of some highlights of the meeting that included Kevel Borek (VP IT, CIO), Charlie Spann (Deputy CIO and Asst. VP), and Charlie Kreitzer (Executive Director, Online Operations) providing technology updates and initiatives that are ongoing, upcoming or completed in this academic year.

- Mason-Secure is being phased out by the end of the semester and will be replaced by Eduroam – an on campus wifi solution that allows users to port their access to other colleges using the same system. It is my understanding that Eduroam is now being used by more than 100 colleges nationwide including Georgetown, GW, UMD, etc. as well as a number of campuses worldwide. The Mason login using the full MASONID@gmu.edu email address will be used to access wifi at GMU as well as Wi-Fi at other campuses around the world partnered with Eduroam. Mason-Secure will cease operations after the Fall 2021 final exam period and a wide communication strategy is being pursued. Note – all classrooms will continue to be hardwired to the Mason network. This change (which should appear minimal to on campus users, only impacts Wi-Fi across campus).
- There is an RFP out right now to replace our legacy Northern Telecom based telephony systems.
- There have been substantial hardware upgrades to Mason data processing centers which should improve more demanding modelling strategies which will be able to compile models more efficiently.
- We will be piloting the Blackboard Ultra experience in the Spring 2022 semester. Joy Taylor will be recruiting volunteers (and there may be a faculty stipend involved).
- 2 new resources are being piloted to enhance the Blackboard experience – Voicethread and Harmonize.
- There was some brief discussion about long-term planning for what the university will look to in a post-Blackboard world (with an awareness that that shift away from Blackboard is NOT in the foreseeable future).

The next FSTP meeting will take place on November 4th at noon via Zoom. A formal FS report will be sent out after that meeting for inclusion in the Nov. 17th meeting.

The video of the Faculty Senate Technology Policy meeting can be seen here:

https://gmu.zoom.us/rec/share/gjKtDz6ZrHuxPk0Qx7JWiarLg0K-wD6U_0g-LpY_ylnhz3O46UN1vSULI4MZAplJ.4KaSfwoiXV3QshJS

Passcode: *vR%1svs

The Faculty Senate Technology Policy Committee met November 4th.

Members:

Delton T Daigle ddaigle@gmu.edu (Co-Chair)

Kevin S Dunayer kdunayer@gmu.edu (Co-Chair)

Jessica Matthews jmatthe2@gmu.edu

Laura L Miller llmiller@gmu.edu

Lee Andrew Solomon lsolomo@GMU.EDU
Geraldine G Walther gwalthe@GMU.EDU
Amy Hutchison ahutchi9@GMU.EDU

Below is a summary of some highlights of the meeting that included Kevin Borek (VP IT, CIO), Charlie Spann (Deputy CIO and Asst. VP), and Joy Taylor (Executive Director, Learning Support Services) providing technology updates and initiatives that are ongoing and upcoming this academic year.

Blackboard Ultra

The FSTP was informed that the license/contract for Blackboard/Blackboard Ultra will be up in February of 2023. The previously reported plan to pilot BB Ultra has been shelved indefinitely pending broader feedback from the GMU community. ITS is investigating and looking at how best to proceed after 2023. While it is possible to continue the existing license for BB Learn beyond Feb. 2023, it is a legacy system that offers neither the functionality, nor the cross-platform communication that newer LMSs offer. As such ITS is looking to collaborate with the university on how the evolution of the Learning Management System utilized by GMU should proceed. For example, should we be preparing showcase opportunities for BB Ultra, Canvas, etc. It should be noted that the Provost has expressed a strong interest on having a single outward facing portal to our student body, so the integration of our LMS would be one of the anchors of that evolution.

Eduroam Update

Earlier this year, Information Technology Services (ITS) announced that eduroam would replace MASON-SECURE as Mason's primary Wi-Fi network this fall.

Based on feedback from the Mason community, ITS is currently investigating acquiring an onboarding solution to simplify the transition from MASON-SECURE to eduroam. As a result, ITS is delaying the official retirement of MASON-SECURE until summer 2022.

The eduroam Wi-Fi network is still currently available in all campus buildings. As a reminder, any individuals teaching, working, or attending classes in residence halls should continue to connect to eduroam using their Mason email address (NetID@gmu.edu) and Patriot Pass Password.

Microsoft Intune Deployment

Microsoft Intune is a cloud-based service that focuses on mobile device management.

ITS is continuing to deploy Microsoft Intune across the university. There are currently over 3,100 Mason-owned devices enrolled. The next group of OUs to be included in the Intune enrollment process will start on Monday, November 15. This includes around 1,000 additional Mason-owned devices.

The next FSTP meeting will take place on January 10th 2022 at noon via Zoom. A formal FS report will be sent out after that meeting for inclusion in the next scheduled meeting.

Business outside of this meeting

Kevin Dunayer, Delton Daigle, Joy Taylor, and Lisa Billingham met on November 9th to discuss streamlining and optimizing the collaboration network for ITS innovation (Note: Melissa Broeckelman-Post, chair of the faculty senate, was also intended to be a participant but had a scheduling conflict). The charge for the FSTPC was to update its charge and clarify its role as a body that considers emergent technology issues and serves as a venue to represent faculty interests on technology decisions made by the university. This may involve a recommendation to alter both the mandate and the permanent membership of this committee. Joy Taylor will compile a list of all university groups that make up the various technology interests on campus (there are in fact several committees) and make a recommendation for consolidating and eliminating some. ITS has indicated that they intend to provide Faculty Senate, through this committee, its plans, innovations, and proposals as they emerge or in advance if possible so that our broader university community can both be informed and collaborate with the shared mission of making sound decisions for the teaching and research conducted at George Mason University.

Respectively submitted by Delton Daigle and Kevin Dunayer Co-Chairs of the FSTP

Appendix B Research Advisory Committee Report



RESEARCH ADMINISTRATION OPERATIONAL IMPROVEMENTS

November 17, 2021

Faculty Senate

Presented by: Mike Laskofski, Associate Vice President, Research Services mlaskofs@gmu.edu



AGENDA

Reducing Administrative Burden

Research Administration Management Portal (RAMP) Project

Research Administration Project

Research Reporting Project

Communications and Outreach

Questions

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

2

REDUCING ADMINISTRATIVE BURDEN



3

Reducing Administrative Burden

- Administrative burden on faculty is a concern nationally
- Federal Demonstration Partnership (FDP) is an association of 217 research institutions (including Mason) and 10 federal agencies
- FDP [2018 Faculty Workload Survey](#) of over 11,000 Principal Investigators nationally found that **44% of faculty federal research time spent on administrative tasks (not active research)**
- Lack of systems, inefficient processes and insufficient local support increases faculty burden
- Mason's research infrastructure has not kept pace with growth in recent years but current projects will move us closer to what is expected from an R1 and **make things easier for faculty**



RAMP PROJECT UPDATE



RAMP and Benefits for Faculty

Why RAMP

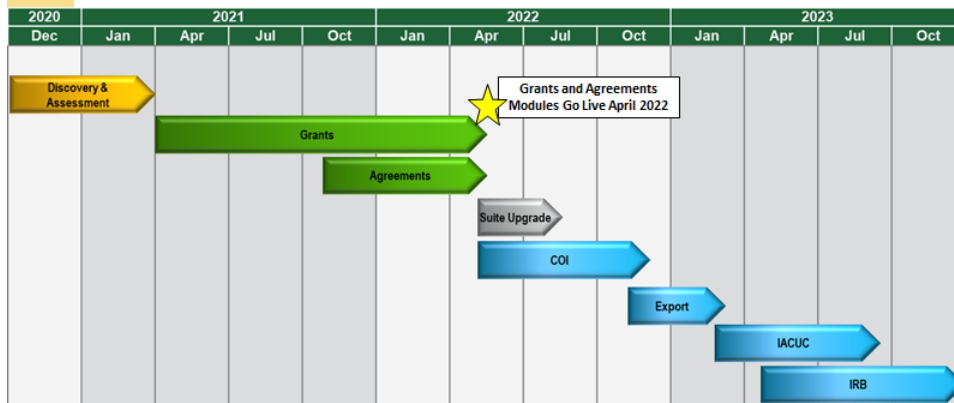
- Current systems are outdated, not integrated, at their capacity, and are not sustainable
- RAMP (Huron Research Suite) is used by more top research universities than any other research administration technology and is used by more than 50% of R1 Universities

Benefits for Faculty

- **One platform** for Mason's research applications
- Overall easier access and **better user experience for faculty**
- Workflow **transparency** to track status of a record, who has it and next steps
- Dynamic SmartForms only request required data
- System validations **reduces duplication of effort and risk of submission errors**
- More robust reporting capabilities



RAMP Project Timeline



RESEARCH ADMINISTRATION PROJECT UPDATE



Research Administration Project

- Nearly all R1 universities have capable research administrators supporting faculty locally, either in departments, schools, or centers
- Clear roles and responsibilities and streamlined business process will **improve overall efficiency** and result in long-term cost savings
- University Finance will directly support this activity by providing financial assistance for new or recent hires over a four-year period
- Partnering with Human Resources to create job classes that will **improve retention** and **quality of workforce** and develop a more flexible recruiting strategy
- We will pilot in CEHD, COS, CHHS before rolling out campus wide
- This will be an iterative process; feedback is critical
- **Goal is for faculty to spend more time on active research**

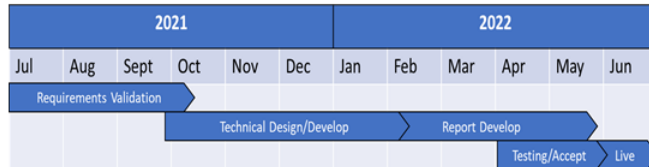


RESEARCH REPORTING PROJECT UPDATE

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Research Reporting

- Establish an integrated, robust reporting solution in collaboration with ITS
- Improve the quality and availability of reporting across the research community to enable **access to information** and **data driven decision-making**
- Phase 1 of the project will align with Go Live date of April 2022 with future phases expanding reporting capabilities



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COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH

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Communications and Outreach

Communication	Details
RAMP Kick-off Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> April 2021 Approximately 120 participants including Associate Deans, Faculty and other key stakeholders
RAMP project website	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> https://ramp.gmu.edu/ Background and information about the RAMP project Communicates status, updates and important project information
Academic Reps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monthly meetings which includes up to three reps from each College/School including faculty Provide project updates, share information, answer questions, get buy-in and support
Regular Stakeholder Updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research Council OSP Advisory Group RAMP Project Leadership and Core Teams Research Administration Executive Committee and Working Group
Faculty Senate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Met with Research Committee in September and will meet with Senate in November
PI Advisory Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kickoff in December
Executive Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated in October
University-wide Communications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research ListServ Article for the George and/or Provost newsletters
Outreach and Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training team developing outreach and training plan with input from stakeholders



QUESTIONS?

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Appendix C ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mason Coache – Kim Eby, Associate Provost for Faculty Affairs and Development

COACHE update for the November Meeting of the Faculty Senate

Mason has been a partner with the [Collaborative on Academic Careers in Higher Education](#) (COACHE) at the Harvard Graduate School of Education since 2018. COACHE is a national, research-based initiative designed specifically to understand the job satisfaction of full-time instructional and research faculty. Our purpose in engaging with COACHE is to deepen our understanding of faculty satisfaction at Mason with respect to our areas of strength and areas for growth. Data from COACHE has allowed Mason administrators, deans and faculty to better understand faculty satisfaction. Results from our prior survey were disseminated broadly so that we could collectively and proactively take steps to address the areas identified as needing attention.

Our Mason Leadership Team includes representation from many of Mason's Colleges/Schools, as well as other key collaborators across campus. **In Spring 2022, Mason will administer the second iteration of the survey.** We hope to be as successful this coming spring as we were in spring 2019, when we had a response rate of 63%, nearly 16.7 percentage points higher than similar institutions that administered the survey.

Over the next few months, in preparation to administer the survey, we will finalize questions and peers with whom we will compare ourselves. Our goals for the spring survey are to assess our progress since spring 2019, to integrate COACHE metrics into Mason's strategic planning efforts, and to advocate for high-quality data that measures progress around faculty satisfaction related to aspects of faculty work life. Data sharing with colleges/schools has led to important discussions among leadership teams about how to use COACHE data to measure progress on issues important to faculty and it is critical to continue this practice. Over the next few months, we will be reaching out in multiple venues to ask faculty to actively participate in the Spring 2022 survey to ensure we continue to have high quality data to help us enhance faculty satisfaction.

Mason FACTS – Molli Herth, Program Manager for Faculty Affairs and Development

Mason FACTS

Review, Promotion & Tenure (RPT) Tool

All reappointment, renewal, promotion, and tenure templates are live in RPT. User Tool Kits are available via the Mason FACTS website (<https://provost.gmu.edu/faculty-matters/mason-facts-faculty-activity-and-collaboration-tools>). User Tool Kits empower users to confidently navigate system features for the full reappointment, renewal, promotion and tenure review life cycle

Faculty 180 (F-180)

Over the summer, we partnered with Information Technology Services (ITS) and the Office of the Provost to revise the Mason FACTS Project Charter to clarify business goals and better articulate an inclusive project scope.

Given the timeline of the Chart of Accounts (CoA) initiative and the current status of the F-180 system, we are working to align F-180 with the new CoA. We convened data experts for our enterprise systems to conduct a CoA impact analysis to facilitate this re-alignment.

The impact analysis will assess each of the F-180 Base Data File (BDF) models in comparison to the first draft of the CoA mock conversion to determine potential effects of the CoA revisions. Already, we have identified some BDFs that will not be directly impacted by the CoA work. We will begin some preliminary mapping for these files and, through this process, we hope to uncover areas for data cleaning that might be warranted while we await the next CoA mock conversion.

1st Gen Faculty Affinity Group Survey

Were you a 1st Gen student who is now a faculty member? If so, we would like to invite you to join the 1st Gen Faculty Affinity Group. Please complete this brief survey so that we can connect with you.

LGBTQ+ FACULTY/STAFF ALLIANCE

NOVEMBER EVENTS

ARLINGTON LGBTQIA+ COFFEE/TEA ON CAMPUS (ORGANIZED BY ULIFE ARLINGTON)

Thursday, November 18th
4:00-5:00pm
<https://ularlington.gmu.edu/events/>

VIRTUAL SOCIAL HOUR & ALLIANCE BUSINESS MEETING

Thursday, November 18th
6:00-7:00pm
<https://go.gmu.edu/NovemberMeeting>

TRANS DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

Thursday, November 18th
7:00pm
Wilkins Plaza (near clock tower), Fairfax Campus

DROP-IN BROWN BAG LUNCH

Monday, November 29th
11:00-1:00pm
LGBTQ+ Resources Center, Fairfax Campus

LIST OF ATTENDEES

November 17, 2021

Senators present: Karen Akerlof, Matt Andre, Ann Ardis, Kenneth Ball, Alok Berry, Lisa Billingham, Ginny Blair, Michelle Boardman, Melissa Broeckelman-Post, Hyun Young Cho, Jim Conant, Richard Craig, Betsy DeMulder, Douglas Eyman, Daniel Garrison, Tim Gibson, Mark Ginsberg, Victoria Grady, Ken Griffin, Bijan Jabbari, , Kerri LaCharite, Bethany Letiecq, Lisa Lister, Tamara Maddox, Kumar Mehta, Daniel Menascé, Laurie Miller, , Marvin Powell, Keith Renshaw, Greg Robinson, Pierre Rodgers, Esperanza Roman-Mendoza, Jessica Scarlata, Zachary Schrag, Gene Shuman, Solon Simmons, Suzanne Slayden, Cristiana Stan, Benjamin Steger, Kun Sun, Rebecca Sutter, Matt Theeke, Susan Trencher, Mohan Venigalla, Anne Verhoeven, David Wong, Tom Wood, John Zenelis, Jie Zhang.

Senators absent: Alan Abramson, Robert Baker, Rick Davis, David Gallay, Ed Gero, Charlotte Gill, Lauren Kuykendall, Germaine Louis, Fernando Miralles-Wilhelm, Alpaslan Özderem, Maury Peiperl, Rachelle Perkins , Ken Randall, Mark Rozell, Catherine Sausville, Gregory Washington.

Visitors present: Wayne Adams (Director of Academic Administration, CHHS), Marie Alice Arnold (Interim Executive Director, Global Education Office), Mary Bramley (Director, Donor Relations and Stewardship, University Advancement and Alumni Relations), Laurence Bray ((Associate Provost, Graduate Education), Lisa Breglia ((Senior Associate Dean, Undergraduate Academic Affairs, CHSS), Alecia Bryan ((Admin Faculty/ Associate Director of Development/ CHSS Development), (Shannon Davis (Associate Dean, GMU Korea), Deb Dickenson ((Vice President for Finance, Fiscal Services), Kathleen Diemer (Associate Vice President, Advancement Relations), Fatou Diouf (Assistant Professor, Info Systems and Operations Management, School of Business), Kim Eby (Associate Provost, Faculty Affairs and Development),,, Cynthia Fuchs (Interim Director, Film and Video Studies, CVPA, Isaac Gang (Associate Professor, CEC, DAEN), Marcy Glover (Ops Manager/Office of the Provost), Brooke Gowll (Associate Director of Research Development, Dean's Office, CHSS), Renate Guilford (Associate Provost for Academic Administration), Sharon Heinle (Assistant Vice President and Controller, Fiscal Services), Rebekah Hersch (Interim Associate Vice President for Research and Innovation), Molli Herth (Program Manager, Faculty Affairs and Development, Office of the Provost), Virginia Hoy (Term Asst Professor, English & BIS), Seth Hudson (Associate Professor, Computer Game Design, CVPA), , Ibrahim Kargbo, Misty Krell (Director of Academic Affairs, School of Integrative Studies), Steve Kuchera (Associate Director of Business Services, Mason Recreation), Michael Laskofski (Associate Vice President of Research Services), Jaime Lester (Associate Dean of Faculty Affairs, Strategic Initiatives, CHSS), Lance Liotta (Chair, Faculty Senate Research Advisory Committee), Kimberly MacVaugh (Librarians' Council Vice-Chair), Christopher Magee (Social Sciences Librarian, University Libraries) Wendy Mann (Director, Digital Scholarship Center, University Libraries), Andre Marshall (Vice President for Research, Innovation, and Economic Impact), Dhafer Marzougui (Associate Professor, Physics and Astronomy), Doug McKenna (University Registrar), Janette Muir (Vice Provost, Academic Affairs), Cheryl Oetjen (Interim Director, School of Nursing), Amanda Ogisi (Assistant Dean, Undergraduate Academic Affairs, CHSS), Kristina Olson (Associate Professor & Associate Chair, Modern and Classical Languages), Sarah Parnell (Operations and Administration Manager, Office of the Provost) Tom Polk (Acting Director, Writing Across the Curriculum,) Laura Poms (Mason Core co-chair, Associate Professor, GCH), Andrea Reeves (Senior Personnel Operations Analyst, Office of the Provost), Shelley Reid (Stearns Center), Marguerite Rippey (Associate Dean, CHSS), Ellen Drogin Rodgers (Associate Dean, Student and Academic Affairs, CEHD), Susan Schriefer (MOL clinical core coordinator), Sheena Serslev (Associate Director, Institutional Assessment, OIEP), Pam Shepherd (Communications Director, Office of the Provost), Matthew Smith (Director of Accreditation/Office of the Provost), Paula Sorrell (Associate Vice President, Office of Research, Innovation and Economic Development), Holly Stephens (Student Government Liaison), Girum Urgessa (Associate Professor/CEIE), Maria Uriyo (Assistant Professor, Health Administration and Policy, CHHS), Ken Walsh (Chief of Staff, Office of the President), Tobi

Walsh, (Assistant Vice President, Capital Strategy and Planning, Office of the Senior Vice President), Preston Williams (Presidential Communications Manager, Office of Communications), Bob Witeck (BOV Liaison to the Faculty Senate), Elizabeth Woodley (University Ethics Officer, Institutional Compliance), Chaowei Yang (Prof, Director, NSF Spatiotemporal Innovation Center, Geography and Geoinformation Science), Melanie Yousefi (Assistant Professor), Steven Zhou (GAPSA President).