

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY
MINUTES OF THE FACULTY SENATE MEETING
SEPTEMBER 7, 2016
Robinson Hall B113, 3:00 – 4:15 p.m.

Senators present: Alan Abramson, Mark Addleson, Dominique Banville, Jim Bennett, Alok Berry, Lisa Billingham, Virginia Blair, Melissa Broeckelman-Post, Carol Cleaveland, James Conant, Shannon Davis, Charlene Douglas, David Gally, Pamela Garner, Dimitrios Ioannou, Bijan Jabbari, Rebecca Jones, Diana Karczmarczyk, Larry Kerschberg, David Kravitz, David Kuebrich, Timothy Leslie, Bethany Letiecq, Daniel Menascé, Linda Monson, Robert Pasnak, Daniel Polsby, Jeremy Rabkin, Keith Renshaw, Pierre Rodgers, Catherine Sausville, Joe Scimecca, Suzanne Slayden, James Steele, Susan Trencher, Gium Urgessa, Iosif Vaisman, Stanley Zoltek.

Senators absent: Peggy Agouris, Kevin Avruch, Kenneth Ball, Doris Bitler Davis, Deborah Boehm-Davis, Henry Butler, Ángel Cabrera, Rick Davis, Betsy DeMulder, John Farina, Pamina Firchow, Mark Ginsberg, Michele Greet, Jesse Guessford, Chris Kennedy, Kevin McCrohan, Kumar Mehta, Elavie Ndura, Sarah Nutter, Thomas Prohaska, Mark Rozell, June Tangney, Jenice View, S. David Wu, John Zenelis.

Visitors present: LaShonda Anthony, Director, Academic Integrity; Jessica Cain, Employee Relations Consultant, Human Resources/Payroll; Eve Dauer, Associate Provost, University Registrar; Pat Donini, Assistant Vice President of Human Resources, Human Resources/Payroll; Esther Elstun, Professor *emerita*, Modern and Classical Languages; Marc Fournier, Assistant Vice President of Business Services, Auxiliary Enterprises; Daniel Garrison, VSE – Information Science & Technology and Director, Distance Education; Linda Harber, Vice President, Human Resources/Payroll & Faculty/Staff Life; Megan Kirk, Human Resources Consultant, Human Resources/Payroll; Michelle Lim, Human Resources Faculty Initiatives Manager, Human Resources/Payroll; Erick Mitchell, Associate Director/Chief Investigator, Compliance, Diversity and Ethics; Janette Muir, Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education; Mary Oberlies, Conflict and Peace Studies Librarian, University Libraries; Regina Ryder, Employee Relations Consultant, Human Resources/Payroll; Marilyn T. Smith, Vice President/Chief Information Officer, Information Technology Services; Elizabeth Woodley, University Policy Manager and FOIA Compliance Officer – Compliance, Diversity, and Ethics.

I. Call to Order: Chair Keith Renshaw called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

II. Approval of the Minutes of April 27, 2016 and May 4, 2016: both sets of minutes were approved.

III. Announcements

Opening Remarks: Keith Renshaw. Welcome back and thank you for the time you have committed to the upcoming year. He outlined three broad goals for the year:

(1) Continue the further collaboration of faculty with administration. Over the summer he attended almost 25 meetings with different offices to increase collaboration, including faculty input to honor code revisions and call for greater faculty input in research matters. Also we will vote for a

faculty representative to the Gift Acceptance Committee today. Critical role for the Faculty Senate.

(2) Engaging Faculty Senate more in the work of the Senate, to encourage active participation, especially on committees. He encourages you to get involved and hopes to foster this as well.

(3) Engaging faculty at large in Faculty Senate work – to find ways to disseminate information and may be visiting department meetings to further this initiative.

Provost Wu is on his way back from Mason Korea. He will share his goals for the academic year at the October meeting. Rector Davis will also be here.

Appointments: Charlene Douglas will serve as chair pro tempore. Suzanne Slayden will serve as Parliamentarian. Linda Monson and Catherine Sausville will serve as Sergeants-at Arms

IV. Committee Reports

A. Senate Standing Committees

Executive Committee – Keith Renshaw, Chair

In a survey distributed by the Executive Committee over the summer, three issues were identified: term and adjunct faculty; budget model, and online teaching. We will discuss how to handle these.

Academic Policies – Suzanne Slayden, Chair

We will present the three year calendar going forward for approval. Some changes will be made to the grade appeals section of the catalog – to improve archaic language and some procedures will be presented for your consideration/approval. All catalog changes must be approved by the Faculty Senate. Unofficial policy for posthumous degrees – currently, there are no clear guidelines; this Committee will work with Provost Office to develop an official policy.

Budget and Resources – Susan Trencher, Chair

We have had several meetings with Sr. VP J.J. Davis, who will also meet with the Executive Committee. We will continue to meet with her this year.

Faculty Matters – no report at this time.

Nominations – Mark Addleson, Chair

As new chair of the committee, Mark thanked Jim Bennett, the previous chair, for his assistance. Nominations slate published with agenda and will be voted on in this meeting. He also thanked the people who came forward as nominees and hopes all Committee members participate in the work this year.

Organization and Operations - Lisa Billingham

Former chair Mark Houck went on study leave. Lisa Billingham graciously agreed to step in. She thanked Chair Renshaw for his support. The Committee is considering a proposal to create a council to support Multilingual Student Success, and whether to bring charge forward with financial support. Please see [Attachment A](#) draft proposal for a Research Advisory Committee. We hope to bring forward proposals for discussion at our next meeting in October.

B. Other Committees/Faculty Representatives – no other reports.

V. Special Orders

A. Elections

Over the course of the summer calls go out for volunteers to serve. If you see a committee you wish to put yourself forward for, the floor is now open for nominations.

Election of Members of Faculty Senate Standing Committees:

The Committee on Nominations presents the following nominations for AY 2016-17:

**FACULTY SENATE STANDING COMMITTEES
(2-year terms; all members are Senators)**

ACADEMIC POLICIES (3 Vacancies)

Continuing Members: Catherine Sausville (COS), James Steele (CHSS)

Nominees: Diana Karczmarczyk (CHHS), Chris Kennedy (COS), Suzanne Slayden (COS)

BUDGET AND RESOURCES (4 Vacancies)

Continuing Members: James Conant (Schar School of Policy and Government)

Nominees: Shannon Davis (CHSS), David Gally (Business), Tim Leslie (COS), June Tangney (CHSS)

FACULTY MATTERS (2 Vacancies)

Continuing Members: Alan Abramson (SSPG), Doris Bitler Davis (CHSS), Joe Scimecca (CHSS)

Nominees: Elavie Ndura (CEHD), Girum Urgessa (VSE)

ORGANIZATION AND OPERATIONS (3 Vacancies)

Continuing Members: Lisa Billingham (CVPA), John Farina (CHSS)

Nominees: Ginny Blair (CHHS), Carol Cleaveland (CHHS), Jenice View (CEHD)

No further nominations were made from the floor. A motion to close nominations was seconded and the Senate voted to approve the nominations to the Academic Policies, Budget and Resources, Faculty Matters, and Organization and Operations Committees.

NOMINATIONS (4 Vacancies)

Continuing Member: Larry Kerschberg (VSE)

Nominees: Nominations must come from the floor. Mark Addleson (Schar School of Policy & Government), Michele Greet (CHSS), Daniel Menascé (VSE), and Linda Monson (CVPA) were nominated and the nominations were seconded. A motion to close nominations was seconded and the Senators voted to approve the nominations to the Nominations Committee.

SECRETARY of the SENATE (1 Vacancy)

Duties of the Secretary of the Senate include compiling and distributing the minutes; serving as a member of the Executive Committee. In cooperation with the Chair, they set the meeting agenda. When there is more than one nominee, a secret ballot is required.

Nominees: Charlene Douglas (CHHS), ~~Timothy Leslie (COS)~~, Susan Trencher (CHSS)
Tim Leslie withdrew his nomination. Senator Douglas and Senator Trencher made brief statements in support of their candidacies. Ballots were distributed and tabulated by Linda Monson and Catherine Sausville, Sergeants-at-Arms. Charlene Douglas received the majority of votes and was elected Secretary.

Election of Members of University Standing Committees: We will vote page-by-page (as appears in agenda) for equal numbers of nominees en masse.

The Committee on Nominations presents the following nominations for AY 2016-17:

UNIVERSITY STANDING COMMITTEES

**(Members and nominees in bold type are Faculty Senators;
2-year terms unless otherwise noted)**

The floor is open for nominations to the Academic Appeals, Academic Initiatives, Admissions, and Adult Learning and Executive Education Committees. No nominations were made from the floor. A motion was made and seconded to close nominations and the nominees were elected.

ACADEMIC APPEALS (2 vacancies)

Continuing Members: **Bob Pasnak (CHSS)**, Peter Pober (CHSS), Carmen Rioux-Bailey (CEHD)

Nominees: **Carol Cleaveland (CHHS)**, **Jenice View (CEHD)**

Provost Appointee: **Pamela Garner (CHSS)**

ACADEMIC INITIATIVES (2 vacancies)

Continuing Members: **Mark Addleson (Schar School of Policy and Government)**, Leslie Dwyer (S-CAR), **Tim Leslie (COS)**

Nominees: Nirup Menon (School of Business), Christy Pichichero (CHSS)

Ex Officio: Solon Simmons (Vice President of Global Strategy)

ADMISSIONS (2 vacancies)

Continuing Members: **Betsy DeMulder (CEHD)**, Christiana Stan (COS), Esther Lee Yook (CHSS)

Nominees: Matt Peterson (CHSS), Ashley Yuckenberg (School of Business)

Dean of Admissions appointee: Darren Troxler (Associate Dean of Admissions)

ADULT LEARNING AND EXECUTIVE EDUCATION COMMITTEE (2 vacancies)

Continuing Members: Peter Farrell (VSE), **Larry Kerschberg (VSE)**, Shahron Williams van Rooij (CEHD)

Nominees: Christopher Koper (CHSS), Guiseppina Kysar (COS)

The floor is open for nominations to the Athletic Council, Effective Teaching, External Academic Relations, and Faculty Handbook Revision Committees. No nominations were made from the floor. A motion was made and seconded to close nominations and the nominees were elected.

ATHLETIC COUNCIL (3 vacancies)

Continuing Members: Amanda Allen Caswell (CEHD)

Nominees: Marcie Fyock (CEHD), Ana Stoehr (CHHS), Margaret (Peggy) Weiss (CEHD)

Ex-officio: **Dominique Banville (CEHD)** (Chair, Faculty Athletic Representative)

EFFECTIVE TEACHING (no vacancy limit: one member must be a Senator)

Continuing Members: Lori Bland (CEHD), Mihai Boicu (VSE), Howard Kurtz (CVPA), Lorraine Valdez Pierce (CEHD), Danielle Rudes (CHSS)

Nominees: **Rebecca Jones (COS)**, Alexandria Zylstra (School of Business)

EXTERNAL ACADEMIC RELATIONS (2 vacancies)

Continuing Members: **Alok Berry (VSE)**, **David Kuebrich (CHSS)**, **Pierre Rodgers (CEHD)**

Nominees: **David Kravitz (School of Business)**, Christy Pichichero (CHSS)

Provost Appointee: Peter Pober (CHSS)

FACULTY HANDBOOK REVISION (1 vacancy, 3-year term)

Continuing Members: **Alan Abramson (Schar School of Policy & Government - 2018)**, Cynthia Lum (CHSS-2017)

Nominee: **Suzanne Slayden (COS)**

Grievance Committee: As there are three nominees to fill two vacancies, Senators were asked to vote for 2 of the 3 nominees. No further nominations were made from the floor. Carol Cleaveland was elected to fill one vacancy on the committee. In a subsequent run-off vote, John Farina was elected to fill the second vacancy.

GRIEVANCE (2 vacancies)

Continuing Members: Sheri Berkeley (CEHD), Rutledge Dennis (CHSS), Michael Summers (COS)

Nominees: **Carol Cleaveland (CHHS)**, **John Farina (CHHS)**, John Riskind (CHSS)

The floor is open for nominations to the Mason Core, Minority and Diversity Issues, Salary Equity Study, and Technology Policy Committees. No nominations were made from the floor. A motion was made and seconded to close nominations and the nominees were elected.

MASON CORE COMMITTEE (2 vacancies, 3-year terms)

Continuing Members: **Dominique Banville (CEHD – 2018)**, Kelly Dunne (CHSS – 2017), Rebecca Ericson (COS – 2018), Matthew Scherer (Schar School of Policy & Government - 2018), Mara Schoeny (S-CAR –2017), Carol Urban (CHHS-2017)

Nominees: **Melissa Broeckelman-Post (CHSS -2019)**, Tamara Maddox (VSE – 2019).

4 Provost Appointees: Doug Eyman (CHSS), Cheryl Druehl (School of Business), Andrea Weeks (COS), Peter Winant (CVPA)

3 Ex-Officio: Janette Muir (Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education), Chair, Kim Eby (Director, Center for Teaching and Faculty Excellence), Stephanie Hazel (Associate Director, Institutional Assessment)

MINORITY and DIVERSITY ISSUES (2 vacancies)

Continuing Members: Richard Craig (CHSS), Odette Willis (CHHS), Xioquan Zhao (CHSS)

Nominees: Lori Bland (CEHD), **Elavie Ndura (CEHD)**

SALARY EQUITY STUDY (0 vacancies)

Continuing Members: **Bijan Jabbari (VSE)**, Kristy Lee Park (CEHD), **James Steele (CHSS)**

Provost Appointee: **Doris Bitler Davis (CHSS)**

Equity Office Appointee: Julian Williams (Vice President of Compliance, Diversity and Ethics)

TECHNOLOGY POLICY (2 vacancies, 2 must be Senators)

Continuing Members: Gerald Hanweck (School of Business), Dieter Pfoser (COS), **Catherine Sausville (COS)**, Mark Koyama (CHSS)

Nominees: Ashley Yuckenberg (School of Business), **Stanley Zoltek (COS)**

Provost Appointee: Dan Garrison, VSE, Director Online Education.

The floor is open for nominations to the University Promotion, Tenure, and Renewal Appeal and Writing Across the Curriculum Committees.

UNIVERSITY PROMOTION, TENURE AND RENEWAL APPEAL (1 vacancy)

Continuing Members: **Dimitrios Ioannou (VSE)**, **Iosif Vaisman (COS)**

Nominees: Christopher Koper (CHSS)

Continuing Alternates: **Elavie Ndura (CEHD)**, Stefan Toepler (SSPG – 2017)

Provost Appointees: Cody Edwards (Associate Provost for Graduate Education – 2018), Mark Ginsberg (Dean, College of Education and Human Development- 2017)

Provost Alternate Appointee: Solon Simmons (Vice President for Global Strategy – 2017)

WRITING ACROSS THE CURRICULUM (4 vacancies: CHSS, COS, SCAR, VSE)

Continuing Members: David Gallay (School of Business), Margaret Miklancie (CHHS), Gregory Robinson (CVPA), Kristien Zenkov (CEHD)

Nominees: Douglas Irwin-Erickson (S-CAR), Misty D. Krell (CHSS), Kamaljeet (Kammy) Sanghera (VSE), Garry Sparks (CHSS), **Stanley Zoltek (COS)**

Ex Officio: Michelle LaFrance (WAC Program Director)

Misty Krell and Garry Sparks were nominated to fill one CHSS vacancy on the Writing Across the Curriculum Committee. No further nominations were made from the floor. Ballots were distributed and Misty Krell was elected.

A motion was made and seconded to close nominations and the nominees to University Promotion, Tenure, Renewal Appeal and the Writing Across the Curriculum Committees were elected.

Election of Faculty Representatives:

The Committee on Nominations presents the following nominations for AY 2016-17:

FACULTY REPRESENTATIVES – NEW NOMINEES

Elavie Ndura (CEHD) is nominated to serve a two year term as Faculty Representative to the GMU Foundation – Gift Acceptance Committee (AY 16-17-17-18)

Doris Bitler (CHSS) is nominated to serve as Faculty Senate Representative to the Graduate Council.

Alan Abramson (Schar School of Policy & Government) is nominated to serve as Faculty Senate Representative to the University Naming Committee.

Doris Bitler (CHSS) is nominated to serve as Faculty Representative to the Outstanding Achievement Awards Review committee.

FACULTY REPRESENTATIVES – CONTINUED SERVICE

The following are nominated to serve on the committees specified. These are one year terms, and the individuals have agreed to serve again.

Steven Bamford (CHSS): Faculty Representative to the Police Chief Search Committee

Dimitrios Ioannou (VSE): Faculty Representative to the Advisory Board for Export Compliance

Timothy Sauer (COS): Faculty Representative to the Recreational Advisory Committee

Charlene Douglas (CHHS): Faculty Representative to the FERPA Committee

No further nominations were made from the floor and a motion to close nominations was seconded and the nominees elected. Thank you very much for agreeing to serve.

The Faculty Senate encourages all committees to hold open meetings in conduct of their business and let people know and hopes you will become involved. Each Faculty Senate Standing Committee should meet right after this meeting to select a chair. If more than one person wishes to serve as chair, hold a vote. If more than one person wants to be chair, must be by majority vote or must hold run-off between the top two candidates. All other committees are encouraged to meet as soon as possible to elect a chair. Chair Renshaw will be connecting President/Provost's Offices with relevant committees and will serve as point-of-contact.

VI. New Business

A. Criminal Background Checks - Pat Donini, Assistant Vice President, Human Resources and Payroll.

In March 2013 the Faculty Senate passed a motion requesting annual report on Criminal Background Checks from April 1 – March 31. There was not enough time to include this at the end of the academic year, so the report below is from Fiscal Year 2016 instead. Are there any questions?

Faculty Senate Report – Criminal Background Checks Fiscal Year 2016

1. How many criminal background checks were conducted between July 1 last year and June 30 this year?

A total of 1,369 background checks were completed for the university during this timeframe. We switched to a new vendor, Truescreen, March 1st of this year.

HireRight: 690

Truescreen: 679

2. How many criminal background checks covered full-time faculty? Adjunct faculty?

165 full-time faculty and 120 adjunct faculty

3. How many potential employees or individuals changing positions within the university refused to allow HR&P to conduct background checks? How many of these were potential or actual faculty members?

No one refused to complete a background check.

4. How many individuals failed to be hired or to change positions within the university because of the outcome of background checks? How many of these were faculty?

There was one (1) instance of background check results impacting the hire or re-hire of an individual. This instance did *not* involve a faculty member.

5. How many people were terminated due to background checks? How many of these were faculty? Without compromising confidentiality, what were the bases of these actions?

One (1) person was terminated as a result of the background check. This person was *not* a faculty member. The basis was Mason job duties and the conviction.

6. How much did it cost the university to conduct background checks during the reporting period?

The cost for background checks during this period was approximately \$54,800. The average cost for background checks with HireRight was \$50. The average cost for background checks with Truescreen (new vendor) is \$27.

HireRight: \$36,500 Truescreen: \$18,300

7. Were there any violations of confidentiality or other aspects of the Background Investigation Policy during the reporting period? Without compromising confidentiality, explain.

There were no violations of confidentiality

Discussion: Senator Kuebrich observed understanding was that after we saw how much need there was for this policy, we could reconsider it. The policy was passed hurriedly in summer without consultation with faculty because of molestation issues out of Penn State. A lot of schools have these policies. AAUP has a policy which opposes background checks for faculty because there doesn't seem to be a need for them. As a hiring issue, he sees it as a violation of faculty governance. It may cost more than \$54,800 as employee time also used. The English department surely could have used \$60K. Senator Kuebrich dislikes raising issue – in all his dealings with Human Resources they have been very positive, but it is a faculty governance issues. Would like to work at university where those who have a record of a criminal offense can have a second chance. Feels very strongly that this issue should be put up for a vote at a future meeting.

A Senator noted only one person dismissed, background check also a deterrent, better approach to revisit specific roles and responsibilities of position than a blanket rejection based on the background check.

Pat Donini, HR: Difference between check and refusing to hire those with criminal conviction if they are honestly reported and not related or at risk to students, faculty, or staff. We gather information, lots of conversation, not an automatic no, agrees that having done background checks at two different universities in northern Virginia, almost everybody has to do them, federal and the Commonwealth of Virginia. Unlike in earlier years, has expanded to all faculty, staff, and wage employees.

Chair Renshaw suggested connection with Faculty Matters Committee.

B. Conflict Of Interest [COI] Task Force - David Kuebrich Senate Resolution to Rescind Two Motions Previously Adopted

Preamble

At its May 4, 2016 meeting, the Senate passed the following two motions:

- 1) The Senate ad hoc Task Force on Donor Relations present to the Senate at its first fall meeting with a detailed COI policy applicable to private donations.
- 2) The Senate ad hoc Task Force on Donor Relations present to the Senate at its first fall meeting with a detailed proposal for a committee charged with approving the creation and/or expansion of GMU affiliated centers and with monitoring their ongoing activities as well as those of already existing centers.

Resolution

It is now proposed that these two motions be rescinded.

Rationale

The two action items were part of a larger proposal that asked the GMU Administration and Board of Visitors to postpone the request for SCHEV approval of the renaming of the Law School and delay enactment of the accompanying grant agreements in order to allow for a "more careful discussion." This request was not granted, thus obviating the need for the Task Force to work on these items over the summer. Also, since any COI policy or policy dealing with campus centers will need the support of the Administration to be adequately implemented, it is important for the Faculty Senate to collaborate with appropriate administrative offices in the development of these policies.

If this motion to rescind is passed, a new resolution entitled "Resolution Calling for the Creation of a Committee to Develop a COI Policy that Addresses Institutional Conflicts of Interest that may Arise from Private Donations, Ownership in Licensed Intellectual Property or Other Circumstances," will be introduced at today's meeting.

The resolution to rescind the two motions was seconded and approved.

Resolution Calling for the Creation of a Committee to Develop a Conflict of Interest Policy that Addresses Institutional COIs that may Arise from Private Donations, Ownership in Licensed Intellectual Property, or Other Circumstances

See [Attachment B](#). Senator Kuebrich introduced the motion and noted this differs from earlier motion of an advisory committee. Faculty voices should be determinate in these issues and was surprised to see other [motion](#) on the agenda.

Discussion: Likes the spirit of it. One problem: private donors don't give money to university state system, but to the GMU Foundation for purposes of central administration. The GMU Foundation scrapes 6% off the top of grants to pay for deans etc. to have memberships at country clubs, etc. Private sector donations very important in terms of lower state support, and international ventures that did not generate any monetary return. Loves spirit of the motion, but does not think it will get us very far.

As a new Faculty Senator, does not understand what contemplated committee will have jurisdiction over – troubled when you mentioned Koch Brothers who over the years have given a lot of money. Feels that needs to be given serious thought.

What are the strings attached to funding? That needs to be looked at carefully. What is downside of faculty involvement?

Is idea standards govern these things or to have an executive authority over them? Like deans, provost?

To establish objective standards in line with professional organizations; same standards for any donors whether Soros or Koch. Faculty exercising oversight over research policy and academic policy at the university. We hope to get more donations but we still have policies to protect reputation of university.

Reputation of university is important and faculty should have a say in. Re Mason Korea, concerned about reputation, same consideration applies to private donations.

O&O exists for this, and suggests O&O works on this to find a mutually agreeable policy. **A motion was made and seconded to refer to O&O to take on and flesh out and bring it back to the Senate.**

To be consistent with handling motion.

If O&O sets committee up, Faculty Senate will have a vote on how committee is set up?
Chair Renshaw: Yes.

Senator Kuebrich consulted with Aurali Dade (Assistant Vice President, Research Compliance), who is in charge of ORIA (Office of Research integrity and Assurance). There has been a collaboration between me, Chair Renshaw and the administration.

It is good to have another committee to formulate this and come back – “COI” is out there, whoever the donor is, does not have COI, has an interest, conflict is on the other side, for O&O to think about.

O&O can dance around, at core is GMU Foundation. We have been repeatedly told GMU Foundation is independent but costs for hiring fundraisers. Question of jurisdiction here.

By a show of hands, the Senate voted to refer the motion to O&O – 27 votes in favor, 6 votes opposed.

C. Course Evaluation Report – Lorraine Valdez Pierce, Effective Teaching Committee presented the following report on [Student Evaluation of Teaching](#). She noted this has zero to do with how the course evaluation forms are administered, revising the course evaluation form. The committee has been very busy, now meeting twice per month.

Discussion:

Asks for details regarding elimination of questions #16, 17, compared to last year’s report.

Professor Pierce: The committee spent a number of meetings discussing the pilot.

Does good teaching come with easy grades?

Whether teaching evaluations overall are valid. There is a lot of literature that suggests that student evaluation of teaching is a sham from the get-go, is there any examination of literature?

Professor Pierce: We have thoroughly evaluated the literature and practices at other universities such as Syracuse University. The form was merged into 7 categories, to get feedback to 5 or 6 categories. Suggested open forums.

D. Honor System: La Shonda Anthony, Director, Academic Integrity has agreed to postpone her presentation to a later date and time.

VI. Remarks for the Good of the General Faculty

VII. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 4:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Charlene Douglas
Secretary

ATTACHMENT A

DRAFT MOTION TO CREATE THE “RESEARCH ADVISORY COMMITTEE” AS A NEW UNIVERSITY STANDING COMMITTEE

Background

George Mason University is Virginia’s largest public research university. Research is a key focus of its strategic plan and associated 10-year goals. In the last year, George Mason was also moved into the “Highest Research Activity” classifications, becoming one 115 universities in that top ranking.

Despite the clear and increasing importance of research at George Mason, there is currently no group of faculty devoted to considering and providing input on issues related to research at George Mason. The new VP of Research, Deborah Crawford, has indicated a desire for greater and more systematic faculty input on issues related to research. Given that research is anticipated to be a major focus of the University in the foreseeable future, there is a need for an established, continuing committee to fulfill this purpose.

Therefore, it is moved that:

Motion

- 1) The Faculty Senate create a new University Standing Committee entitled “Research Advisory Committee.”
- 2) The composition of the committee will include five tenure-line faculty members (at least one of whom is a Faculty Senator) elected by the Faculty Senate. These faculty members should represent a minimum of three different colleges/schools, with at least two faculty members at the level of Professor and at least two faculty members at the level of Associate Professor. These five elected members will serve staggered 3-year terms. Finally, the committee will include one ex-officio member, who is one of the two faculty representatives to the BOV Research committee.
- 3) The charge of the committee will be: “To work in concert with the Office of Research and its subsidiary offices (e.g., Office of Research Integrity and Assurance, Office of Sponsored Programs), as well as the Associate Vice President for Entrepreneurship and Innovation, in shaping the research initiatives and policies of the university. The committee will serve in an advisory capacity to the Vice President of Research, the Associate Vice President for Entrepreneurship and Innovation, and associated offices. In this role, the committee will meet at least twice per semester with the Vice President of Research, and as needed with other individuals and offices. The committee will provide a report on its activities to the Faculty Senate at least annually.”

Attachment B

Resolution Calling for the Creation of a Committee to Develop a Conflict of Interest Policy that Addresses Institutional COIs that may Arise from Private Donations, Ownership in Licensed Intellectual Property, or Other Circumstances

Background

GMU currently has an Office of Research Integrity and Assurance (ORIA) which “promotes ethical and responsible conduct of research” and “provides policies, procedures, support, training and advice to aid researchers with compliance related to federal, state, university, and local regulations,” “identifies compliance risk,” and “monitors and investigates instances of noncompliance.”ⁱ This office, along with other offices on campus, administers the University’s Conflict of Interest policies for employees.

However, the University does not currently have a policy that addresses potential institutional conflicts of interest that may arise due to gifts to the University from private donors, ownership in licensed intellectual property, or other circumstances. Given that these scenarios are increasing in frequency, it is important that the University now create such a policy to ensure that it carefully oversees its intangible assets such as its intellectual prestige, integrity in teaching and research, and reputation of service to the public good.

Faculty members have the primary responsibility for preserving the integrity of their university’s teaching and research as well as its mission to serve the greater good;ⁱⁱ and the GMU Faculty Senate has the “fundamental general responsibility to speak and act for the General Faculty on matters affecting the University as a whole” as well as the “particular responsibility to formulate proposals on matters affecting the welfare of the University and on university-wide academic policy.”ⁱⁱⁱ

Therefore, be it resolved that

- 1) The Faculty Senate and the Administration collaborate to develop a detailed policy for dealing with conflicts of interest arising from private donations, ownership in licensed intellectual property, and other relevant circumstances;
- 2) The committee consist of three to five faculty from at least three different schools/colleges (at least one of whom will be a Senator, and one of whom will serve as chair) elected by the Faculty Senate, as well as one or more administrators (as the Administration sees fit) appointed by the President or Provost — and to ensure faculty governance, elected faculty should compose the majority of the committee;
- 3) The resulting policy include instructions for how its provisions are to be implemented;
- 4) The resulting policy be consistent with AAUP guidelines (or, if not, the Committee’s report should explain why one or more of these guidelines are inappropriate);
- 5) The committee complete its work and provide a final report no later than the Senate’s scheduled meeting on February 1, 2017.

ⁱ <http://oria.gmu.edu/>

ⁱⁱ In order to preserve the integrity of higher education against undue extra-mural influence, the AAUP has repeatedly asserted, sometimes in concert with other educational associations, that the role of the faculty is key. For instance, a 1966 policy statement jointly formulated by the AAUP, the American Council on Education, and the Association of Governing Boards, asserts faculty have the “primary responsibility” for ensuring the proper conduct of research activities (as quoted in Cary Nelson, *Recommended Principles*, AAUP Foundation/Univ of Illinois Pr, 2014, p.26). The AAUP also emphasizes that shared governance and academic freedom are “inextricably linked.” Accordingly, it cautions that the “relationship between industry and institutions of higher education in funding faculty research” poses a threat to “not only academic freedom and integrity but also the faculty role in institutional governance” (*RP*, 26). Warning that the “credibility and integrity of our nation’s universities are now at stake,” the AAUP “urges universities—and especially faculty senates” to “review, update, and strengthen their written policies and guidelines for structuring and managing academy-industry alliances and other sponsored research agreements on their campuses” (*RP*, 34). It is “entirely appropriate,” the AAUP states, “that faculty play the leading role in formulating standards” (*RP*, 26).

ⁱⁱⁱ <http://www.gmu.edu/resources/facstaff/senate/>