

**GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY**  
**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE FACULTY SENATE**  
**NOVEMBER 1, 2017**  
**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, Julie Christensen, James Conant, Shannon Davis, Charlene Douglas, Christy Esposito-Smythers, Dimitrios Ioannou, Bijan Jabbari, Chris Kennedy, David Kravitz, David Kuebrich, Timothy Leslie, Bethany Letiecq, Daniel Menascé, Daniel Polsby, Jeremy Rabkin, Keith Renshaw, Catherine Sausville, Joe Scimecca, Solon Simmons, Suzanne Slayden, Susan Trencher, Girus Urgessa, Iosif Vaisman, Shelley Wong, S. David Wu, John Zenelis, Stanley Zoltek.

**Senators absent:** Peggy Agouris, Kevin Avruch, Kenneth Ball, Henry Butler, Ángel Cabrera, Carol Cleaveland, Rick Davis, Betsy DeMulder, David Gallay, Michael Gilmore, Mark Ginsberg, Jesse Guessford, Tamara Harvey, Aditya Johri, Rebecca Jones, Diana Karczmarczyk, Larry Kerschberg, Germaine Louis, Robert Matz, Kumar Mehta, Maury Peiperl, Karen Reedy, Pierre Rodgers, Esperanza Roman-Mendoza, Mark Rozell, June Tangney, Jenice View, Emily Vraga, Masoud Yasai.

**Visitors present:** LaShonda Anthony, Director, Academic Integrity; Tom Butler, Associate Registrar; Eve Dauer, University Registrar; Pat Donini, Assistant Vice President, Human Resources, Director, Employee Relations; Sr. Vice President J.J. Davis; Rector Tom Davis; Cheryl Druehl, Associate Professor, Business, Mason Core Committee co-chair; Kim Eby, Associate Provost, Faculty Affairs and Development; Cody Edwards, Associate Provost, Graduate Education; Peggy Griesinger, Metadata Librarian, University Libraries; Linda Harber, Vice President, Human Resources/Payroll and Faculty/Staff Life; Michelle Lim, Human Resources Faculty Initiatives Manager; Tatianna Link, Associate Registrar; Chris Maier, Chair, Staff Senate/Facilities; Neda Masoudian, Equal Opportunity Specialist, Compliance, Diversity and Ethics; Janette Muir, Associate Provost, Academic Initiatives and Services; Vice Rector Jon Peterson, Holden Spence, Secretary of Diversity and Multicultural Affairs – Student Government; Rujshon Shali, Chair of Diversity Senate Committee – Student Government; Kyle Warfield, Equal Opportunity Specialist, Compliance, Diversity and Ethics; Brantley Willett, Associate Director, Academic Integrity; Julian R. Williams, Vice President, Compliance Diversity, and Ethics; Elizabeth Woodley, University Ethics Officer and Policy Manager, 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 October 4, 2017:** The minutes were approved.

III. **Announcements**

Chair Keith Renshaw introduced Rector Tom Davis and Vice Rector Jon Peterson. Rector Davis spoke on a wide range of topics including:

Term Faculty Task Force: The BOV has taken to heart the comments of the Term Faculty Task Force. Chair Renshaw noted the Task Force was created last Spring. Both he and Faculty Senator Girus Urgessa, along with a host of other faculty, serve on the Task Force. It is co-chaired by Kim Eby and John Cantiello, and Visitor Karen Alcalde is also participating. First meetings were held in spring 2017 and 59 of 61 unit heads across the university were interviewed over summer. We are using those data and practices from other universities to

develop a series of recommendations. There is a forum coming up on 11/6, and there will be a broad survey distributed in early spring with questions and likely problems and solutions. We will use feedback from that to refine recommendations, which will be presented for an open comment period. Final recommendations will be presented in Fall 2018. Rector Davis noted that it is long and hard work, but important work that will be completed.

Carl Rowan will stay on as police chief. This provides stability....he is highly regarded and we convinced him to stay on.

Korea Campus: Strategic part of the university but we are aware of the potential for conflict on the Korean peninsula. We continue to monitor issues, and follow the State Department protocols. Acknowledged there are risks, but the campus important financially and there is value in contributions of the student body.

Online Education: A lot of different strategies, a lot of opportunities there for us to look at; a variety of options to design courses, providing extra income for you (faculty) and the university. Purdue University bought a for-profit college. We are looking at a lot of options, not everyone will agree with us, but (1) looking towards the future, (2) different accreditations regarding certifications etc.; thinking ahead. Considering the overall brand of the university; we will not do anything that will undermine the good that is happening at the university.

The Rector and Vice Rector noted that this is not an area where the BOV feels it is in our best interest to be pioneering. To learn more from others' mistakes, to have opportunity to use Purdue as a case study. Important to sit back and be more informed when faced with a decision. Purdue is having difficulties with regulatory issues no one envisioned. Given there was an offer from Kaplan (who has now partnered with Purdue) to Mason, the Rector spoke about the partnership that was offered and the reasons the university did not proceed. Mason wanted to maintain curricular control and that was not part of the Kaplan plan.

Now the university is examining other potential relationships. This would be a separate degree, with many course offerings. There would not be different admissions standards and we would not bring in different faculty to run it. Mason faculty would have control over the curriculum; that was stated several times.

Faculty asked about the time frame. There are concerns about financing. There is no immediate plan for this to move forward, the university and the BOV are simply thinking through options. Faculty noted that the AAUP argues that faculty have primary responsibility for curriculum and concern was expressed at this as a possible fundraising mechanism. The Rector agreed that faculty should have control over curriculum. However, the Commonwealth gives the BOV, not the faculty, the authority to make decisions. The BOV does not want to alienate the faculty and is willing to engage a task force as this issue proceeds. A Senator asked how this would financially work with the new budget model keeping in mind the inequity in salaries across campus. Should this proceed and the business angle is worked out, all revenue would go to the university overall.

Robinson Hall design: Question about size and configuration of offices – generosity of Peterson family will alleviate overcrowding we would have had otherwise.

Vice Rector Peterson: Your concerns were heard, some changes made which took into consideration your concerns, may not have made all decisions; we're listening.

A Senator noted that when they tear down Robinson B, the present Faculty Senate meeting room; there is no other place on campus with this type of room. Is one of them tiered space? Sr. VP JJ Davis replied that there will be 13 additional classrooms in Mason Global Center. Another question about the Robinson redesign asked the Rector to weigh in on the fact that faculty are objecting to what they have been told regarding having no accommodations regarding bookcases. Sr. VP JJ Davis noted that the design of the old building was in line budgetarily. The current furniture is not uniformly in good conditions, especially the bookcases. Faculty will be given new furniture and other furniture needed to complete the job.

Both the Rector and Rector provided their email addresses for senators and the faculty more broadly who want to discuss any of these issues in more detail.

Rector Davis provided his email: [todayavis@deloitte.com](mailto:todayavis@deloitte.com)

Vice Rector Peterson provided his email: [jpeterson@petersoncos.com](mailto:jpeterson@petersoncos.com) .

Senator Bethany Letiecq represented GMU at last weekend's Faculty Senate of Virginia meeting. (Among the issues discussed there) was a bill about public comment at BOV meetings. What is your thought on it?

Rector Davis: We are products of our experiences. We want to be accessible in a lot of ways. There may be more harm than good, as the free open mike (microphone) could be a double-edged sword for all.

Follow up: Question about DACA students: will instate tuition go away?

Rector Davis: We invited DACA students to the recent Board of Visitors meeting – two DACA students gave their stories to the Board. Two BOV members also sponsored a fundraising event to support the students. We want to do everything we can to help them.

Rector Davis: Election Day is next Tuesday. The Republican election party will be held in Richmond, the Democratic election party will be held in the HUB here at Mason. .... In ways it will enhance us; a lot of mandates (come from Richmond), a lot depends on election outcome and praised to good legislative delegation we are working with.

Senator: What will happen with the BOV after the election?

Rector Davis: We're never safe, feels we're covered either way. Some players will change in the legislature. The Republicans will take some losses, still will have split government. The funding formula disadvantages us for historical reasons. Not like four years ago, more clear outcome.

Chair Renshaw thanked Rector Davis and Vice Rector Peterson for coming.

**Provost Wu** met with department chairs recently, expressed intention to visit departments (which invite him). If you have specific topics you wish to discuss, let him know. There are

65 departments/programs, so contact him soon. In follow up to Rector Davis' remarks on online education, we are at a very early stage of scanning the field. Not to the level where specifics are available. When we reach that stage, will have a faculty task force to work on this.

Senator: Please explain the articulation between GMU and new online GMU, students will want to apply courses towards GMU degree.

Provost Wu: This has nothing to do with Wylie or our own online instructional design; they are ongoing, no changes there. What Rector Davis said was that we are looking at opportunities to form partnership with another entity. There are many to resolve, including not to directly compete with our programs. This is not imminent, there are many steps before we can get to this. Referencing Purdue University's bumps in the road, we are not even close to that point. Is it worth another look? We are talking to BOV as we are thinking about it, not to keep them in the dark. President Cabrera mentioned this in some of his public remarks as well.

Chair Renshaw clarified that if he hears about this at BOV meeting, he speaks up about it, he is one voice for the faculty.

#### **IV. Committee Reports**

##### **A. Senate Standing Committees**

*Executive Committee: Keith Renshaw, Chair*

Our next meeting will take place November 20<sup>th</sup>. Please get business to us before then. We have met with ongoing committees and have visited various departments/units to explain what the Faculty Senate does.

*Academic Policies – Suzanne Slayden, Chair*

The proposed Academic Calendar AY 2020-21 is posted on the Faculty Senate website at <http://www.gmu.edu/resources/facstaff/senate/Academic%20Calendar%202020-21.pdf>. The formal text version will be distributed with the next Faculty Senate meeting agenda for approval by the Faculty Senate. Senator Slayden thanked Janette Muir (Associate Provost for Academic Initiatives and Services) and Renate Guilford (Associate Provost for Academic Administration) for their hard work in providing the background for the slides you see today. Comments/questions included usefulness for those with year round (12 month) programs such as the Business School's MBA program. This impacts the Faculty Handbook (summer teaching not mandated). Other questions included how late on can drop/add courses, need to have deadlines. Faculty are encouraged to send questions to [sslayden@gmu.edu](mailto:sslayden@gmu.edu).

*Budget and Resources – Tim Leslie, Chair*

We've had hours of meetings with Sr. Vice President J.J. Davis and her team. Current model integrates about 55% of university revenue. Of those revenues and the expenses booked against them, every college in AY 16-17 net positive except the Law School, which has its own planning team in place. This year the focus is on calculations for cross-college degrees and course cross-listings, as well as how indirect monies are counted and integrated. Senator Tangney is serving as a faculty representative on the indirect research money initiative. Before we come to Senate we're assembling comparative data of old

model versus new model, as well as including a greater understanding of instructional costs.

*Faculty Matters – Alan Abramson, Chair*

We continue to work on three issues and appreciated your thoughts at our last meeting: Faculty Evaluation of Administrators; Department Chairs; Study Leave. We are gathering information from deans about current practices for summer teaching assignments.

*Nominations – Mark Addleson, Chair*

Faculty representative to University's Advisory Board for Export Compliance:

Kathryn Laskey (VSE – SEOR).

No further nominations were made from the floor. The nomination was approved.

Faculty representatives to University's IP Committee:

**Faculty Senate Agenda Appendix A**

The Nominations Committee proposes the following faculty members to fill the three vacancies on the newly-reconstituted Intellectual Property Committee who appointments must be approved by the Faculty Senate.

Michael Daro Buschmann\*

David Lattanzi \*

Aarthi Narayanan\*

Their statements of interest follow.

Three more members will be appointed by the Vice-President for Research and one additional member will be appointed in consultation with the faculty.

Mark Addleson

Chair, Faculty Senate Nominations Committee

**Michael Buschmann**

Chair, Dept. of Bioengineering,  
Volgenau School of Engineering.

An extensive CV covers a very large number of grants, including, currently, a large grant for *Biomaterials for regenerative medicine and nucleic acid delivery*, many of which involve and/or have a bearing on IP-related issues. I've patented several inventions, successfully translated to commercial products, started several companies and have revised several IP license and cession agreements.

**David Lattanzi**

Assistant Professor

Civil, Environmental, and Infrastructure Engineering Department,  
Volgenau School of Engineering

During my time at Mason, I have been involved with IP development and commercialization in several ways. I have a patent currently under review based on IP developed at Mason. That IP has served as the foundation for an ongoing commercialization/start-up effort that I am a part of. I have gone through the National Science Foundation's I-Corps training program for supporting entrepreneurship at universities, and have been successful in gaining state funding support for research commercialization. I would like to use these experiences to help improve and grow the IP development process for all faculty at Mason, and this seems like a good opportunity to do so.

**Aarthi Narayanan**

National Center for Biodefense and Infectious Diseases,  
School of Systems Biology

I have been through the IP process (it is still ongoing) in Mason and have some experience with what it takes to get something put through IP. I have also had interactions with collaborators, colleagues etc. who have put things through the IP process that Mason might benefit from adopting in the long run. I am interested in this also because (at least from my experience thus far), Mason may not be exploring "for use" patents as much as Mason might want to. Sometimes, the lack of a use patent and rights to use for a compound has worked against us.

(End of Appendix A)

Nominations were solicited from the floor. Sean Luke (VSE – Computer Science) was nominated from the floor. Ballots were distributed, and the following nominees were elected: Michael Buschmann, David Lattanzi, and Aarthi Narayanan.

*Organization and Operations - Lisa Billingham, Chair*

We will have a report next month on the ombudsman position. We are in negotiations pending meeting with Sr. Vice President J.J. Davis. We also anticipate By-Laws information for our next meeting.

**B. Other Committees/Faculty Representatives**

*Committee on External Academic Relations- David Kravitz and Bethany Letiecq, co-chairs* presented the following report, also distributed to the faculty via email before the meeting:

**Committee on External Academic Relations**

(Charge as revised and approved by the Faculty Senate - November 18, 2009)

***Composition:***

Six members who are elected for two-year terms. Three members of the Committee should be senators, two others are elected from the faculty at - large, and one ex - officio member is the Provost's designee.

At the beginning of each academic year the Committee must meet to select the representatives to the Virginia Faculty Senate from among its members, excluding the ex - officio member. At least one of these representatives must be a senator. In case of

vacancies, the Nominations Committee nominates the new members, and the Committee internally evaluates and possibly reallocates the assigned responsibilities.

**Charge:**

A. Represent GMU faculty at Virginia higher education faculty governance organizations, including the Faculty Senate of Virginia. The seats allocated to GMU at the Faculty Senate of Virginia are to be filled by members of CEAR.

B. Report to the GMU faculty senate on the proceedings of the Virginia Faculty Senate and voice back to this organization issues of relevance to GMU.

C. Gather information on key matters about higher education in state legislation, state committees, and local venues, and report back to the GMU Senate.

D. Provide forums and avenues for the exchange of ideas with representatives of SCHEV, state legislators representing Northern Virginia, and community groups related to higher education in Northern Virginia.

**2017-2018 Membership**

| Name               | Unit   | Role              | Term Ends | email  |
|--------------------|--|-------------------|-----------|--|
| Bethany Letiecq    | CEHD – Human Development and Family Science    | Faculty Senate    | 2019      | <a href="mailto:bletiecq@gmu.edu">bletiecq@gmu.edu</a> |
| Christy Pichichero | CHSS – Modern and Classical Languages          | Faculty           | 2018      | <a href="mailto:cpichich@gmu.edu">cpichich@gmu.edu</a> |
| David Kravitz      | SBUS - Management                              | Faculty Senate    | 2018      | <a href="mailto:dkravitz@gmu.edu">dkravitz@gmu.edu</a> |
| Emily Vraga        | CHSS – Communication                           | Faculty Senate    | 2019      | <a href="mailto:evraga@gmu.edu">evraga@gmu.edu</a>     |
| Jessica Rosenberg  | COS – STEM Accelerator and Physics & Astronomy | Faculty           | 2019      | <a href="mailto:jrosenb4@gmu.edu">jrosenb4@gmu.edu</a> |
| Peter Pober        | CHSS – Communication                           | Provost appointee | 2018      | <a href="mailto:ppober@gmu.edu">ppober@gmu.edu</a>     |

Co-chairs: David Kravitz & Bethany Letiecq

**I. GMU Meeting with Representatives from the Administration**

- Paul Liberty – Government and community relations, business outreach
- Mark Smith – state government relations in Richmond

**GMU Priorities**

- **Compensation and Student Financial Aid**
- **Increasing funding per student** to be equitable with other VA universities. Mason receives \$2-3,000 less per year per student, compared to other doctoral programs in Virginia.

- **Research and research funding.** Increase translational research; Maintain R1 status
- **Capital Construction:** Seeking to secure \$10 million for wireless infrastructure – redundancy system, bandwidth
- **Building partnerships** (e.g., Mason-NVCC ADVANCE)...pathways to 4 yr institutions
- **Build counseling programs** specifically to better match veterans’ needs. (Focused on Masters in Social Work; from Administration)
- Online Virginia Network

## II. Faculty Senate Executive Team

## III. Faculty Senate of Virginia (FSVA)

10/28 Meeting in Richmond--Bethany Letiecq and Jessica Rosenberg attended

### FSVA Priorities

- Two position Papers
  - 1) Budget: While incoming governor might make changes the budget is created by the outgoing governor so it is not expected that there will be a lot of surprises regardless of what happens with the election.
    - a. Faculty and staff salaries
    - b. Student financial aid
  - 2) FSVA-AAUP shared issues:
    - a. Support “enabling legislation” for granting tuition benefits for dependents
    - b. Commission a Term faculty JLARC study (Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission: <http://jlarc.virginia.gov/> )
- Other concerns
  - a. DACA-related (in-state tuition)
  - b. Public comment at state BOV meetings (bill launched/AAUP supports)

## IV. Virginia Higher Education Advocacy Day (VHEAD)

- January 11, 2018

## V. VA Conference of the AAUP + FSVA

- Joint Conference at GMU
- April 7, 2018

### *Mason Lobbies Day – January 31, 2018*

Holden Spence, Secretary of Diversity and Multicultural Affairs for Student Government, and Rujshon Shali, Chairwoman of the Diversity Committee of the Student Senate, will attend Mason Lobbies Day in Richmond – January 31, 2018. We are waiting to see what the election results will be. They encouraged faculty to let students know, and asks them



to excuse absences for those students who attend. A Senator announced that there would be \$1500 in grants available for students to cover expenses incurred on this trip.

*Mason Core Committee- Melissa Broeckelman-Post and Cheryl Druehl, co-chairs*

The committee wants to communicate better and welcomes your input. We are reviewing proposals and would like feedback from you.

**V. New Business** – none.

**VI. Remarks for the Good of the General Faculty:** none.

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

**Respectfully submitted,**

Shannon N. Davis

Secretary