MASON STAFF SENATE
General Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, June 6, 2018
10:30am-12:00pm
Fairfax: Research 163 Arlington: Founders Hall 720, SciTech Colgan Hall 221

Members: Preston Williams, Kathy Dodd, Lisa Bair, Stephanie Atkins, Lauren Reuscher,
Lindsey Olson, Sean Cox, Brett Spencer, Susan Brionez, Andrew Burroughs, Christopher Maier,
Joanne Zimmerman, Jennifer Gantt

Absent: Christina Frasson, Erin Iacangelo, Amanda Kennedy, Megan Kirk, Ann Moran, Carl
Redmon, Akitta Robertson, Tiffany Sandstrum, Rebecca Stone, Michael Wharton

Absent With Notice: Amanda Corrigan, Jenna McGwin, Jared Hagenow

No Guest Speaker Scheduled
1) Call to Order at 10:30
2) Constituents Time
   a. Linda Sheridan - Fairfax
   b. Lauren Reyna – Fairfax
   c. Thomas Carter - Fairfax
   d. Stacey Wilson - Fairfax
   e. Liam Dillon - Fairfax
   f. Josh Percet – Arlington
3) Staff Senate Information Session – Chris Maier Presentation
   a. PowerPoint Presentation on GMU Staff Senate Duties and Goals
   b. Lisa Bair spoke on Awards Committee duties and activities
   c. Preston Williams spoke on Events Committee duties and event planning
   d. Stephanie Atkins spoke on the role and efforts of the Education and Outreach Committee
   e. Chris Maier discussed the efforts and accomplishments of the Staff Senate over the years.
   f. Lisa Bair spoke about Staff Senate’s involvement and efforts to promote the GMU PopUp Pantry.
   g. Constituent Questions after Presentation:
      i. How many Senators are there?
         1. ~28
      ii. How many positions available?
          1. Varies by campus
      iii. How long are Staff Senate terms?
          1. Two Years
   h. Two info session attendees were on the NOVA Staff Senate.
      i. Chris Maier inquired as to how the GMU Staff Senate compares
         1. Attendees responded – they were happy to see the GMU Staff Senate appears to be more focused on community building than explicitly staff.

Staff Senate Information Session Closed and Constituents/Attendees Dismissed

4) Staff Senate Chair Feedback
a. Chairman (Chris Maier) asked Senators present at meeting for feedback on the Chairman’s performance over the past year.
   i. Feedback - Susan Brionez – Current Chairman is exceeding the performance of previous Senate Chairmen.
      1. Chairman took a moment to thank Kathy for compiling the President’s weekly brief emails.
   ii. Feedback – Lauren Reuscher – current chairman is helpful and seeks to answer questions from Senators.
   iii. Feedback – Sean Cox – Web Ex could be improved with how it is being incorporated in meetings.
      1. Web Ex discussions could be added to the Official Minutes, or at least summarized to explain decisions made/accomplishments in the Web Ex discussions.
      2. A scheduled Web Ex info session would be beneficial for Senators to learn how to properly use and navigate the tool.
   iv. Feedback – Lauren Reuscher – Equal resources for each campus.
      1. Discussion of Sci-Tech and Arlington’s partnerships with University Life. What should be expected of University Life, and is it possible to set a meeting between Senators on each campus and University Life to discuss in detail.
   v. Feedback – Preston Williams – What is the next step for the Senate after gaining our role on the President’s Council?
      1. Chairman Answer: Seek to work more closely with the Board of Visitors.
   vi. Feedback – Susan Brionez – Our Web Page is out of date and could use an update.
      1. Lindsey and the Education and Outreach Committee are actively working on updating the website.
      2. Chairman wants to work on changing the paradigm of where constituents ask questions and pursue answers on the website.
   vii. Feedback – Lindsey Olson – Would like to see the Staff Senate have a larger voice on contracts moving forward (i.e Canon).

5) Discussion of Transparent Lawsuit
   a. Chairman addressed the Senate Body that he held concern over possible outcomes of the lawsuit and the effect it may hold on Constituents/GMU Staff.
      i. If the judge were to rule in favor of TransparentGMU the possibility existed the GMU Foundation would return anonymous donations, which would inhibit the ability of the University to pay/retain staff members.
      ii. Chairman proposed writing a draft letter to send to the Presiding Judge Tran outlining the concerns the Senate holds on behalf of constituents.
         1. All Senators attending voted in favor, none against.

6) Adjourn Meeting at 12:00pm