

MASON STAFF SENATE
General Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, November 2, 2016
12:00pm-2:00pm
Fairfax, Merten Hall 1201; SciTech, Bull Run Hall 254; Arlington, Founders Hall 119B;
703-249-8067

Members: Wajaht Ahmed, Stephanie Atkins, Lisa Bair, Susan Brionez, Andrew Bunting, Rubi Chavez, Eric Fowler, Barbara Hill, Erin Iacangelo, Amanda Kennedy, Megan Kirk, Ann Moran, Jenna McGwin, Christopher Maier, Lindsey Olson, Lauren Reuscher, Nicole Roth, Christina Sanders, Tiffany Sandstrum, Rebecca Stone, Al Underwood, Katara Wright

Absent with Notice: Amanda Corrigan, Dan Silver

Guest Speaker

- **POSTPONED: President Cabrera; December 7, 1:00pm-2:00pm**

Business Meeting:

1) **Call to order at 12:00pm**

2) **Constituents' Time**

3) **Announcements**

a) From the Staff Senate

- i) Waj: Are we expecting any events on campus following the election? Barbara: Event on November 15 in Dewberry. Co-sponsored by the Schar School of Policy and Government. Will analyze the election results. Both parties welcome. Free event. First time holding the event in Fairfax. It has previously been held in Arlington.

b) Committee Meetings

i) Events Committee Meeting

(1) Staff Appreciation Events

(a) Fairfax: Dewberry Hall- January 11

(b) SciTech: Bull Run Hall Atrium-January 17

(c) Arlington: Founders Hall-January 18

(2) Toys for Tots:

(a) Reserved Cinema day of and the day after the Fairfax Holiday Party

(i) Chris: Can get boxes from Recycling and Waste Management

(3) Meet Again Late November

(4) New Event for Alumni Weekend-see if there is a possibility for an event during alumni weekend for staff who are alumni

c) From the floor

4) **New Business**

a) Approve October 2016 Meeting Minutes

i) Motioned, Seconded, Approved

b) Food Drive & Toys for Tots—Date: December 14, 2016, Time: TBD

i) Science and Technology Holiday Party: December 12

ii) Arlington Holiday Party: December 13

iii) Fairfax Holiday Party: December 14

c) Update from the Chair

i) VCU State School Gathering

(1) Megan and Nicole attended the VCU gathering of Universities and College from

Washington, Va Tech, William and Mary, Mason, and ODU were all present. VCU Senate is very large they are just now planning Staff Appreciation Events. UVA is young and they are just planning to do policy for now. Mary Washington gives awards to an Outstanding Supervisor, an Outstanding Classified Staff, and an Outstanding Wage employee each year. The senate at ODU is not supported by the University. They fundraise for their event budgets and they are an all-volunteer organization. A lot of universities were looking to us as an examples for appreciation events. They were interested in our anonymous submission form on our website. We have similar issues in getting the University to hear our issues. VCU Staff Senate presents to the Board of Visitors. Plan to meet again next year. Anyone can host the event, but Richmond is at the center of the state and may be the best place to continue the meeting. Salary issues did come up. Clarified Tier 3 schools Va Tech/UVA/William and Mary as special schools and then VCU/Mason as threshold schools. UVA has a two tiered system. Classified staff chooses whether to stay as a state employee or University employee where they are paid by the University. They indicated that they chose and were given an option. The endowment pays for research which leaves them money to pay the University employees. VCU transitioning to a new HR system in 2018. Too complicated for Mason at this time. Megan: There has been some discussion to allow more employees more autonomy, but nothing would change in the near future.

Focused the conversations around salary and what the senates are doing. UVA has a different chair for a different policy but they are only two years old. Mary Washington and Mason have similarities in appreciation but not on the scale that we do. Good exchange of information. Representative from DHRM and VCCS attended. We broke out in scenarios and did team building exercises. DHRM talked about the changes in the state and how the conditions have become more difficult for classified staff. Nine percent of staff are veterans. Megan: More of a budget issue versus a DHRM issue.

ii) Advocacy Committee: Tuition—ODU Staff Senate Information

5) Old Business

- a) Parking Issue: Christina: Limited faculty/staff parking on days when the Eagle Bank Arena has events. Is there a way to open up carpool spots to allow for closer parking options? Ann: The Eagle Bank Arena fees go into the general fund and athletics to keep student fees lower. Parking does not make any money from the Eagle Bank Arena. For example, when Disney on Ice was here, they brought in 17 busses. They are primarily supposed to be in the bus lot and the loading dock. There are only about 16 carpool spaces available. Parking is also trying to grow that industry. The load in of concerts and events is supposed to take place early in the morning. If they are still there they have been notified by Ann that they have to move because faculty and staff need the parking. Will continue to work on this to try to get buses to not occupy faculty/staff spaces during the workday.
- b) Budget Forum
 - i) Lauren has collected some questions to be asked at the Budget Town Hall. Ann: Has more questions for the President's staff versus the President.
 - (1) Where is Mason in providing more online options?
 - (2) Is mason amenable to offering more credit hours to staff?
 - (3) How is the University paying for the November increases?
 - (4) Cut scenarios

Chris: Send a thank you to the administration for the 2% raise to encourage the administration.

- c) Chair of the Awards Committee
 - i) Cloud is no longer with the University.
 - ii) Lisa has volunteered. No objections.

Adjourn

*Meeting documents

October Meeting Minutes

Next Meeting: Wednesday, December 7; 12:00pm-2:00pm (Research Hall 163; SciTech, Bull Run Hall 254; Arlington, Founders Hall 119B; 703-249-8067)