

**MASON STAFF SENATE**  
General Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, October 7, 2015  
12:00pm-2:00pm

Fairfax Campus, 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, Cameron Carter, Rubi Chavez, Jocelyn Hanly, Tim Harps, Barbara Hill, Amanda Kennedy, Megan Kirk, Christopher Maier, Marit Majeske, Lindsey Olson, Francina Osoria, Lauren Reuscher, Emily Robinson, Nicole Roth, Dan Silver, Amanda Shoemaker, Cloud Spurlock, Al Underwood, Alex Walsh, Katara Wright

Absent: Andrew Bunting (with notice)

Seven Constituents Present

**Guest Speakers**

Mark Smith from State Government Relations will share updates with Mason staff regarding key legislative issues and activities in Richmond.

- Fall: Legislative priorities are financial aid and compensation which will be number one and two every year in that order.
- Active member with VGEA and will work with their team on their behalf regarding compensation and health benefits, retirement, etc.
- Save the Date: Jan 28, 2016, Mason Lobbies in Richmond. Past years have had 120 students, faculty, and staff that gather in Richmond. State decision makers in the room will talk to us about what is happening in Richmond. Break into smaller groups and meet with legislators. Match up constituents with their legislator if you are a registered voter in Virginia.

**Business Meeting:**

1) **Call to order at 12:50pm**

2) **Constituents' Time**

- a) Dan: Reserved Table Tent for Constituents

3) **Announcements**

a) From the Staff Senate

- i) Resignation of Hansel Aguilar  
(1) No longer a Senator  
(2) Committees will stand as they are. E and O will be operating at 6 Senators.

b) From the floor

- i) Dan: Oct 27 in Merten meeting to help plan bring your child to mason. Organized by Work/Life, Working Moms, Working Dads. Looking for things k-12 could do, give tours, etc. Please contact Dan. Bring your child to work day will be on a teacher work day. Telepresented to other campuses.
- ii) Cloud: INTO Mason presenting in November. Send questions you may have to Cloud as they are covered in the presentation. INTO is a partnership that brings

has been received, expectations, and if they have been met. Patriotweb issues. How are the students doing, retaining, fitting in on campus? Lauren asks, how is their mason experience different?

iii) Town Hall with the President next week for staff. Wear your buttons.

#### 4) **New Business**

- a) Approve September 2015 Meeting Minutes (attached)
  - i) Suggestion by Susan to add no comments to Constituents Time.
  - ii) Motion, seconded, approved.
- b) Chair's report
  - i) President's Contract Renewal Committee
    - (1) Expectations
      - (a) Charged to collect feedback from our respective constituency about the President's performance (ie: wellbeing initiative as it relates to staff)
      - (b) "If you see a senator tell a senator".
      - (c) Staff Town Hall, President' Renewal Committee Meeting, and Faculty Town Hall (Admin Faculty and Students not being represented at Town Hall)
    - (2) Survey
      - (a) Faculty Senate: 4 questions (3 questions; 5point scale) 1 open ended question.
      - (b) Admin Faculty: 3 questions (3 point scale)
      - (c) Cloud suggests checking irr.gmu.edu to compare institutional data (ie: fundraising success)
      - (d) Susan suggests linking his "EWP"/"Vision Statement" etc. as a basis for review
      - (e) Questions from the Senate:
        - (i) Cameron: What are the positive things that you have seen come from his administration and what are the challenges?
        - (ii) Cloud: What do you think the president's responsibility is to Staff?
        - (iii) Lauren: Targeted to Staff (ie: What has he done for staff, how have the things he has implemented affected staff, and one broader question, what is his impact as a whole to the University)
        - (iv) Dan: Three words to describe the president or three words to describe areas where you would like the president to grow. One concern he has heard is the Work/Life department is shrinking due to people leaving and not being replaced.
        - (v) Cloud: Rating scale: Choose the top 5 things that are important to you that you would like the president to prioritize the next five years?
        - (vi) Address Wellbeing? Amanda S.: Likes the idea of ranking but also include "other" box. Also include Cameron's question to gather "sound bytes" to balance the data. Tim: fair to gather feedback about Wellbeing. Amanda S. Can seem negative when you cannot take part in wellbeing initiatives based on your work responsibilities.
        - (vii) Cloud: Competitive wages: consistently paid 20% lower than competitive wages in this area
      - (f) Turnaround for Nov 14
    - ii) Faculty/Staff Resource Page Group
      - (1) Does not include main page. Adapting Faculty/Staff Resource Page to make it more user friendly. Send input to Cameron, Lauren, and Nicole.
  - c) Pop-Up Pantry- Susan Brionez
    - i) Nicole and Susan met with two people from pop-up pantry and Associate Dean of University Life. Initiated last December when there was a need recognized for students, faculty and staff being homeless. Housed in a technology closet in Sub 1 that was converted into pantry. Started with \$8000 food and toiletries from Patriot

Senate offered to do a food drive for November Town Hall, but may not begin Town Hall until next semester. HR will allow volunteer leave to volunteer at pop-up pantry to sort food. Will send a list of foods that are most needed and volunteer opportunities.

- ii) Make an immediate impact.
- iii) Give food that is dropped off at holiday party.
- iv) Emily: Need for SciTech/Arlington? Will bring up to them once they have their structure finalized.
- v) Served 63 students, 34 active, regular students
- d) “Visiting Senators”- Lisa Bair & Cameron Carter
  - i) Ad hoc idea of creating “Visiting Senators”
  - ii) Test run of program.
  - iii) Craft a shared statement. Message of who we are and what we do.
  - iv) Potential questions: what do they know about staff senate?, what can staff senate do for you?, have you been to any of our events?, what type of issues do you have?, did you take the survey?. Plan visit after we send out the survey.
  - v) Less imposing environment. One-on-one conversation.
  - vi) Send statements to Lisa and Cameron, and they will send out to everyone before they plan their visit.
  - vii) Choose a building on a Fairfax Campus and walk around the building.
  - viii) Cloud: May be threatening by putting staff on the spot and in earshot of other staff in their department.
  - ix) Consider expanding to other campuses
- e) By-Laws Update- Al Underwood
  - i) Constituents at Meeting
    - (1) Encourage presence during meeting. Nothing in the bylaws to preclude them from attending.

## 1) **Old Business**

- a) Biannual Town Hall Proposal—Francina Osoria & Amanda Shoemaker
  - i) Susan suggests spreading out the events.
  - ii) No where in constitution that says SAE events must take place in February or July
  - iii) Strike Proposed Events Schedule: Semi-annual event in conjunction with SAE which can be moved to accommodate Town Hall schedule.
  - iv) Will do a vote via email.
- b) Staff Senate Bylaw Change
  - i) Proposed Participation Policy Resolution 2015-13: —Nicole Roth
    - (1) Susan: Similar to what the senate used to have. Do we have issues that bring this up? Nicole: With the best of intentions, some senators are not as engaged as they could be.
    - (2) Lindsey, Tim, and Francina: In favor because this clearly sets expectations.
    - (3) Andrew B. expresses concerns about members who are active (such as myself), and yet are required by circumstance to miss multiple meetings. Andrew has served as an effective senator for the past 3 years despite missing multiple meetings due to my recruitment requirements. I think an additional exemption clause is required in this resolution to protect active members from being dismissed due to circumstances beyond their control. (via email)
    - (4) Vote at next meeting, November 4.
    - (5) Executive Committee: discussion if there is a concern
    - (6) Change to “Senators missing three with or without notice....”
    - (7) Three Executive Committee Meetings per year for discussion
- c) Staff Senate Constitution Change (Moved to November Meeting)
  - i) Resolution 2015-12: Ex Officio Admin Faculty—DRAFT
  - ii) Change to non-voting member at the top. Change references from Prince William to

iv) Discuss at November meeting

2) **Roundtable**

3) **Adjourn at 1:58pm**

\*Meeting documents

9.2.15 Meeting Minutes Draft

Attendance Policy Resolution 2015-13

Resolution 2015-12: Ex Officio Admin Faculty Draft

Town Hall Proposal (Handout)

Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 4: Fairfax Campus, Innovation Hall 334; SciTech, Bull Run Hall 254; Arlington, Founders Hall 119b