

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

Innovation Hall 334; 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: Wajaht Ahmed (without notice), Rubi Chavez (with notice), Jocelyn Hanly (with notice), Barbara Hill (with notice)

### **Guest Speakers**

Lori Ann Roth, Director, Training and Organizational Development, Human Resources/Payroll

### **Business Meeting:**

#### **1) Call to order by Nicole at 1:12**

#### **2) Constituents Time**

Christopher: Disappointed that supervisors were not there for Strength Finder. Even though it is included in Supervisor training. Dan: Wonderful tool, but it's at the supervisor's discretion to use Strength Finder. Nicole: Who will be the motivator? Megan: Get your team together and get Lori to come to your department. Susan: Start with your own network. Lauren: Can promote Strength Finder in our Newsletter. Al: Bring up Strength Finder in performance evaluations with your supervisor. Skills developed through courses help the office and our own internal development. Lisa: Share information with visiting senators. Include in Town Hall (professional development, training, strengths finder).

#### **3) Announcements**

##### **a) From the Staff Senate**

- i) Toys for Tots: Collection now through December 16 (flyer attached) Sign up to volunteer, here: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f054aafaf23a5fe3-holiday>  
 (1) Two Marines coming. Please volunteer. Monitor boxes.

##### **b) Committee Meetings**

- i) Events Committee: Wednesday, December 9; 12:00pm-1:00pm. Arlington: Founders Hall 720, Fairfax: Merten Hall 3001, Science and Technology: Occoquan 221

##### **b) From the floor**

- i) Concern, Smoking on Campus-Susan

(1) Smoking Policy on Campus working group exists. People have put up signage (no smoking within 25ft from building) but there is no enforcement. Received an email from someone who works in the Engineering Building. She inquired about putting canopies up at a safe distance from the building to protect smokers from the elements. She has been verbally abused for smoking close to the building, but her argument is that she has nowhere else to smoke that is protected from the elements. Lisa: Not a smoke free campus. Andrew: Serves on Smoking Policy Committee. Mason is held to the state policies because we are a state institution. Our peer institution, George Washington, went to a smoke free campus, but they can do that because they are a private institution. Something that is continually brought up is the creation of "Designated Smoking Areas" that are covered, but they have not come to fruition. Additional signage has been put near the

Johnson Center to indicate where it is appropriate for smokers to smoke at a safe distance from the building. The Smoking Policy Group meets two to three times a year. Conducted a campus wide survey about attitudes towards smoking. Most recent advancement was on the use of e-cigarettes. E-cigarettes are now formally part of the smoking policy that exists at the University. Lisa: Coastal Carolina installed gazebos for designated smoking areas. Not near the buildings. It is a cost but a nice covered area with seating. Susan: Timeline on Designated Smoking Areas? Andrew: Ideally, sooner than later. There are voices from all sides of the discussion. Red tape to cut through and Fairfax and state laws to take into account. Susan: Constituent inquired about putting covered picnic tables (like the ones by Merten) around campus. Christopher: We could submit a work order for the tables and go through Campus Planning. Susan: May need to go through committee. Are smoking urns required outside of the building? By not having it by the building, it may encourage smokers to move further from the building. Andrew: Suggests moving urn 25 feet out as a prompt to smokers. Amanda S.: Janet Walker-“Great American Smokeout”-volunteer group picked up 8,500 cigarette butts in 2 hours. Took pictures and publicized the fact and brought awareness to smoking on campus. Lauren: Enforced by Cadets? Christopher: In the new training packets for orientation, they have a sheet for smokers and non-smokers and how to mesh the two worlds. Ways to communicate to each other and respect each other’s boundaries. Very well put together. Do not hesitate to put in a work order with Facilities for cleaning up cigarette butts. If we have a lot of people cleaning up after smokers, that is going to catch attention because it will be expensive. They may be more likely to want to do something about this. Nicole: Response in the Newsletter for this inquiry. “You Ask, We Answer”. Andrew will bring up in Smoking Policy on Campus working group.

## 2) **New Business**

- a) Approve November 2015 Meeting Minutes (attached)
  - i) Motioned, seconded, approved.
- b) Staff Senate Day at Mason Men’s Basketball (Wednesday, February 24)
  - i) Amanda C. worked with Alyssa Williams to set up a Staff Senate Day at a Mason Basketball game. Looking at February 24 as a possible option. Tickets will be offered to all classified staff and non-student wage at a discounted rate (price, TBD). Dan: Mason employee night is on a weekday. Requests a weekend date. More likely to attend and bring family Susan: More likely to attend on a weekday when she is already on campus. Amanda: Will request a weekend and weekday game option.
- c) Update from Chair
  - i) President’s committee: Met for the last time, last month. Nicole brought survey results. BOV is meeting today. They are running all the data of the 178 survey results with 80-90 write-ins. Will release the information to Senate. Not only feedback for President, but also what people want (better salary and workload). Many people leaving the university but also many people staying and feeling pressure to absorb additional duties.
  - ii) Dinner with State Delegates: Traveled on a bus for three days. Wined and dined by all the state universities. Discussed topics that needed change at a state level—salary. They were more interested in facilities/infrastructure. Faculty Senate and Nicole did drive home the issue of salary. Concern about asbestos removal in Robinson. Open and understanding about salaries, but it is a statewide problem. Nicole is putting together a list of staff groups from state universities to have a conversation about salary and how they are getting this issue in front of their administration.
- d) Discussion of the Possibility for a January Meeting to Discuss 2016 Goals

- i) Event Committee is planning Town Hall/SAE in March. Therefore, we will skip our March meeting instead of January. By-laws do not state that we have to recess during January. We will recess in March because of our events and hold a one-hour goal setting business meeting for 2016 in preparation for Town Hall. Amanda will send out a doodle poll to finalize a day and time.
- e) Development of a George Mason University Staff, New Vehicle Purchase Program
  - i) Looking at the bigger picture of what we can do to help our constituents feel like they have more savings in their pockets. Companies like Boeing and Lockheed Martin have fleet programs for their employees. Fleet vehicle programs provide a certain discount package for agencies either through a local dealer or directly from a manufacturer. A fleet program is available in eVA in the state of Virginia. Checking VIN numbers of those vehicles revealed those agencies are getting discounts from 18-47 percent. If programs are available at a state level, they may open it up to employees at Mason. More vehicle sales for manufacturer and more savings for us. Nicole: Being done at other universities for employees? Christopher: Reading information on eVA does not necessarily say whether employees can be included. Cameron: Make sure that we can purchase as individuals. Chris: We would need a different fleet number than the one that is currently used on eVA. We would need to negotiate with dealers, possibly at a state level or through VGEA. Al: Who would object? Chris: Manufacturers are not losing money. Susan: Can you see what organizations are currently doing this in eVA? Christopher: Any state agency in the Commonwealth. Nicole: We wouldn't be purchasing through eVA, we would be purchasing individually? Dan: Yes, trying to get a fleet number so that we can work directly with dealership to get a discount. Person who handles discounts in HR may be the person to contact with this. Nicole: Chris, reach out to HR and see where this goes. Dan: Apple Federal Credit Union also has a similar program.

**1) Old Business**

- a) Staff Senate Constitution Change
  - i) Resolution 2015-12: Ex Officio Admin Faculty—VOTE POSTPONED

**2) Roundtable**

- a) Lisa and Cameron: Did their first "Visiting Senators" visit 2 weeks ago. Mixed reactions. Chose Robinson for their first visit. Would like other senators to continue to take turns. Created flyer with website and email to share concerns. Schedule one around homecoming (February). Next building? Dan: If you are in a building where a senator works, mention that you can visit that senator and where they are located in that building.

**3) Adjourn at 2:01pm**

- 4) \*Meeting documents
  - 11.4.15 Meeting Minutes Draft
  - Toys for Tots Flyer

Next Meeting: TBD (Wednesday, January 6: Location, TBD)