

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

Fairfax Campus, Merten Hall 1201; SciTech, Bull Run Hall 254; Arlington, Founders Hall 119B

Members: Hansal Aguilar, 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: Al Underwood (without notice), Cloud Spurlock (without notice)

Guest Speakers

Sarah Moran and Heidi Bloom, Program Officers with the Center for Global Education (CGE), will discuss international travel opportunities for Mason staff.

Mark Kraner, Executive Director, Auxiliary Enterprises, will discuss Mason Dining updates for the new academic year.

Business Meeting:

1) Call to order from Nicole at 1:06

2) Constituents' Time

3) Announcements

- a) Rita Rowand: Global Professional Staff Exchange Winners
 - i) Wayne Adams, School of Art: Korea
 - ii) Jonathan Aponte, Cultural Studies Program: Spain
- b) Committee Meetings this Month:
 - i) Awards-Tentatively September 21. Cloud is sending out a Doodle.
 - ii) Education and Outreach: Currently Doodling
- c) From the floor

4) New Business

- a) Approve August 2015 Meeting Minutes (attached)
 - i) Motion, Seconded, and Approved
- b) Chair's report—Meeting with State Governance Office
 - i) Nicole met with Mark Smith and Sabena Moretz in early August. Discussed our goals for this year and what is happening in Richmond. When it comes to staff he understands that compensation, healthcare, and retirement are biggest issues. He agrees the 2% raise is not enough and will continue to advocate on our behalf. Mark will speak at next month's meeting. Encourage your office mates to attend. Goal of 20 people! Come with questions and needs. We need to make our voices heard. Mark mentioned a walk through of buildings that are in poor condition that will take place in November with the Board of Visitors and state representatives. Mark will also return in April with an update. Hansel Aguilar brought up tuition benefit for children. Megan Kirk replies that the tuition waiver is paid for by the University from fringe, which is based on an average of how many people utilize the tuition waiver. It is a unique benefit to universities and when investigating this in the past it is suggested to not rock the boat.

- c) Meeting report—Foundation Scholarship for Dependents of Staff
 - i) #ForMasonForUs event in Johnson Center on September 16 (capital campaign). September 12 is official launch. September 16 is the event to ask faculty, staff, and students to contribute. Megan and Nicole met with organizers from the Mason Foundation. Discussed making a positive spin on this and asking staff to give toward a scholarship for staff dependents. Dan Silver brings up that the expectation for staff to give is not high. Focus will be on Mason alumni. Is concerned that the scholarship would not receive enough funding to make an impact. Megan Kirk clarifies that this is an opportunity to be a part of the community. This initiative is mirrored after the Faculty/Staff Book Scholarship. HR received a donation from TIAA CREF after winning the “Raise the Rate” contest. It is set up in an endowment and is sustainable because the scholarships are given with money that is earned by interest over time. Each year we give out a \$200 Book Scholarship to Mason employees. Nicole Roth interjects that this is a long-term plan to build something for staff. Something that can build year after year. Lisa Bair encourages a strictly online campaign for sustainability and to reduce marketing costs to the Senate. Tim Harps encourages a partnership (ie CREF) to do a matching donation. Susan Brionez is concerned that this is asking staff for money that the state will not give us. Encourages Senate to advocate to allow dependents to use tuition waiver versus initiate a scholarship program. We have the benefits we have now because we pushed and advocated for them. Megan sees this as an opportunity to be a part of change but also be realistic. She does not foresee the University or state funding a program for dependent’s tuition or any additional funding for higher education coming down the pipeline. Barbara Hill inquires about how funds can be designated. Nicole: Funds will be designate by the donor (anyone can contribute). Dan: Foundation takes 6%. Christopher Maier: How much do we need to make an annuity? Nicole thinks about \$25,000, maybe less. Ideally, in the future, staff would receive mailer for staff scholarship initiative. Staff can donate to any project, but this conversation looks at what the Staff Senate will “endorse”. Send forward any ideas to staffsenate@gmu.edu or north@gmu.edu .
 - ii) Susan Brionez brings up Pop-Up Pantry. Has little to no support. Sees this as an opportunity to make an impact tomorrow. Susan Brionez will investigate how Staff Senate can contribute to the Pop-up Pantry.
- d) Committee Assignments
 - i) Email Nicole if you have concerns.
- e) Employee of the Month Committee
 - i) Brett Say served as Staff Senate representative. Amanda Kennedy will volunteer to serve on the Employee of the Month Committee.
- f) Happy Heart Walk (September 30)
 - i) Volunteers needed on all campuses. Nicole will send a call for volunteers through Staff Senate ListServ. Volunteers will sit at registration table, greet constituents, and check them in.
- g) Proposed Attendance Policy
 - i) Kathrin drafted with support from Stephanie.
 - (1) Susan Brionez encourages putting a quantitative reference about the number of meetings attended and not attended (with notice/without notice)
 - (2) Nicole will bring formal resolution forward in October
- h) Bi Annual Town Hall Proposal
 - i) Looking for ways to communicate, speak out, and encourage involvement in Mason Lobbies
 - ii) Idea came about through Staff Appreciation Survey responses. Opportunity for us to report what we want to accomplish and what we have accomplished.
 - iii) Locations: Fairfax: 2 town halls (at least one in a Telepresence room and invite all campuses). SciTech and Arlington will have one town hall at their campus each year and be invited to attend in person or via Telepresence to one Fairfax Town Hall

- iv) Megan encourages creating synergy between Staff Appreciation Events and Town Hall due to time and budget management. Provide food to encourage attendance and provide substantive information. Information fair can also be incorporated.
 - v) Guest speaker could be included and allow a Q and A time
 - vi) Cameron Carter: If there is a component of staff expressing their voice they will come.
 - i) Outreach
 - i) Greet people and make people feel more welcome at general meetings.
 - (1) Check bylaws to see whether meetings are open to all constituents for the entire time or if the meeting is closed after constituent time.
 - ii) Lisa Bair would like to spearhead an outreach initiative where senators go to one building a month and talk to people. Instead of asking people to come to us she believes we should go to them. Education and Outreach Committee will create sign up sheet and work with Lisa on the program. Susan Brionez encourages Senators to wear their buttons (forthcoming) and mingle in current work situations and meetings.
 - iii) Amanda will work on making sure senators have buttons by the next meeting!
 - iv) Add Staff Senator to email signature
 - j) Survey Material Handout
 - Committees, look at this critically and move forward with these notes
- 1) **Old Business**
- a) Staff Senate Bylaws
 - i) Resolution 2015-12: Ex Officio Admin Faculty (tabled until October meeting)

2) **Roundtable**

3) **Adjourn at 2:00pm**

*Meeting documents

8.5.15 Meeting Minutes Draft
Attendance Proposal

Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 7: Fairfax Campus, Merten Hall 1201; SciTech, Bull Run Hall 254; Arlington, Founders Hall 119b