

*Complete attendance was not captured at meeting*

**MASON STAFF SENATE**  
General Meeting Agenda  
Wednesday, November 5, 2014  
12:00 – 2:00 pm

Fairfax, Research 163

Videoconferenced to Arlington, Founders Hall B119, Prince William, Bull Run 254  
Teleconference: 703-249-8067

Present: Andrew Addison, Wajaht Ahmed, Lisa Bair, Susan Brionez, Lauren Clark, Amanda Corrigan, Jocelyn Hanly, Laura Harrison, Joe Hinrichs, Amanda Kennedy, Megan Kirk, Marit Majeske, Francina Osoria, Emily Robinson, Nicole Roth, Brett Say, Cloud Spurlock, Al Underwood, Alex Walsh, Stephanie Zeher, Rubi Chavez, Andrew Bunting, Amanda Shoemaker, Lindsey Lowenberg, Stephanie Payton, Doug Hernandez, Dean Naldrett.

Absent: Jennifer Hamilton (with notice), Megan Kirk

Guest Speakers:

J Mark Smith, Director, State Government Relations, Government and Community Relations (12:05 - 12:35)

Kevin Jackson, Jr., Student Government - Secretary of Government and Community Relations, Mason Lobbies (12:35 - 1:45)

Business Meeting:

- 1) Call to order @12:05 for guest speaker, business meeting resumed @ 12:50
- 2) Constituents' Time
  - a) Patrick Greenwald is the student government liaison. Will work with Executive Committee to talk about student-led issues and wants to work together for shared items. Student Government programs "What do You Want Wednesdays" to hear the student body concerns. New topics include Alcohol Amnesty policy clarifications (when coming in contact with somebody who is intoxicated).
  - b) Please try to invite one person to the meetings
- 3) Announcements
  - a) From the Staff Senate
    - i) Congratulations
      - (1) Employee of the Month: Lindsey Lowenberg
      - (2) Outstanding Achievement Award: Susan Brionez, Doug Hernandez, Megan Kirk
    - b) Committee Meetings
      - i) Events, November 12, 12:00 – 1:00 pm, Fairfax, Merten Hall 3001; ARL Founder's Hall 720; Prince William, Occoquan 221
      - ii) Education and Outreach, November 19, 12:00 – 1:00 pm, Merten Hall 3500 and teleconference
    - c) From the floor

- i) Toys for Tots Food Drive on December 17<sup>th</sup> (same as holiday party)
    - (1) Sign ups will go out for volunteers
    - (2) Focus on toys instead of food
  
- 4) Old Business
  - a) Approve October 2014 meeting minutes
    - i) No changes offered.
    - ii) Approved
  - b) Status of Staff Senate Finances
    - i) Restructured the function of the treasurer with Brett's help. It will not be hands on with the actual financial statement but will be more big picture by providing quarterly reports. Concerns expressed about time it would take Kathrin. EWP has been changed and very few new duties will be assumed by Kathrin from current tasks. Kathrin was communicating a lot of the budget info to Ruby for reporting.
  - c) SS Constitution and Bylaws
    - i) 2015-2
      - (1) No minimum or max. Would allow the Senate to grow. Doesn't say that we have to have a certain amount of seats. Susan Brionez concerned about a minimum. Andrew Addison, questions about quorum. Susan Brionez, worried about dwindling down. What are we striving for if we don't have a goal? Stephanie Payton, Where do we want to go? Stephanie Zeher, could you clarify how elections would work? Stephanie Payton, doesn't say that we have to have a certain number but 28 doesn't have to be it. Need to decide what a representative body is. Brett Say, article 2 items D and E address some issues. Item E says the total number of seats and be increased. Wajahat Ahmed, seems we need an actual number and cannot leave blank. Joe Hinrichs, could reference past year numbers. SP would have to strike 2015-3 to have the number. Stephanie Zeher, a lot of people like the number. What if we did a census every two years and had seats fluctuate with staffing. Laura Harrison, if you increase the number you will have lots of people who don't show up. Had more people previously who did not participate. Andrew Addison, the other items have a hard number. If we remove the number from Constitution, the division will stay as long as Bylaws keeps the numbers. Stephanie Payton wants the clarification for item Constitution to give us the flexibility to increase if we want. Stephanie Zeher, won't that impact elections? Stephanie Payton, encourages folks to go back and look at the constitution. Susan Brionez thinks the new article needs to be proposed so we can see everything and not just one line item.
        - (2) Tabling until December 3, 2014 general meeting
    - ii) 2015-3
      - (1) Tabling until December 3, 2014 general meeting
    - iii) 2015-4
      - (1) This spells out the Executive Committee is made up of elected officers and appointed chair.
        - (a) Motion. Seconded. Approved.
    - iv) 2015-5

- (1) This is in regard to the chair's responsibilities. If this gets approved, the liaison for faculty senate will be left open for an agreement between the chair or vice chair.
- (2) Motion. Seconded. Approved.
- v) 2015-6
- vi) Same thing but the other half.
  - (1) Motion. Seconded. Approved.
- vii) 2015-7
  - (1) Looking for flexibility with voting to accommodate events and university schedules. Allows us to hold more timely and effective elections. Motion. Seconded. 2 abstaining. Approved. Are there concerns for the folks who are abstaining? Wajahat Ahmed feels 2-33 weeks seems sloppy and the schedule is more structured and preferred. Andrew Addison doesn't like the hard end time and wants flexibility but thinks need a firm number of work days. Stephanie Payton asked for a motion to revote. Will talk to KBB about the timeframe.
  - (2) Motion. Seconded. Approved.
- viii) 2015-8
  - (1) New language helps increase the numbers of the committees that do more and lessen the burden of the committee members.
  - (2) Motion. Seconded. Approved.
- ix) 2015-9
  - (1) Susan Brionez question about having to wait until the July Executive Committee meeting for a committee change. Stephanie Payton after somebody sat on the committee for a year, they ask if they want to change. Try to listen to what senators want. Brett Say another reason is to keep people from flip-flopping between committee immediately. Stephanie Payton, if someone had a huge issue, we would make it work. Susan Brionez, recommended change of word "request to change"
  - (2) Motion with new language. Seconded. Approved.
- x) 2015-10
  - (1) Original language talked about rotating the retreat but sometimes it does not work out logistically. This is not trying to deter us from rotating different campuses but sometimes the speakers are not able to come to a certain campus. Gives flexibility to continue to engage with VIP members of the Mason community. Susan Brionez feels the term "usually in August" is wishy washy. Why not just say with the start of the academic year. Sentence about networking and goal setting components, is this needed? Are people required to be there in person? SP difficult to eliminate the rotation and require people to attend. SZ would like to keep attendance mandatory. Andrew Addison, would Fairfax folks attend if its on Prince William or Arlington? Would like to encourage people to attend but not make it mandatory. Stephanie Payton, this is also associated with the new senator orientation. Susan Brionez, a big part of this is team building. This is much stronger than networking. Stephanie Payton, tabling this and will email a new proposal with feedback.
  - (2) Tabling until December 3, 2014 general meeting
- xi) 2015-11

- (1) Mart Majeske one thing left out is the constituents time. Andrew Addison, are we required to include a call to order and adjournment to pass things?
- (2) Motioned with new language. Seconded. Approved.
- d) SS Recruitment and Advisory Ad Hoc Committee
- i) Proposed by Brett Say, Looking at how we have grown. This will not change any way that we currently recruit senators but will pinpoint strategic people around the university that share the goals of the senate. Lauren Clark, do you have examples of people you want to recruit? Susan Brionez, specific, not yet. We want to know whom we want to recruit. We will discuss how to go about this. Stephanie Zeher requests that language includes "diversity". Brett Say this will not change anything without approval of the senate. Susan Brionez, will the people be relieved from their other committees. Brett Say, no. Wants to keep the workload light.
- (1) Stephanie Payton, offered to vote on the creation of this committee to gauge interest.
- (2) 1 opposed. 4 abstaining. All others approve.
- e) Tuition Policy Ad Hoc Committee
- i) Stephanie Payton will look at what Human Resources and Payroll is doing and help get information out there. Susan Brionez, looks like a payroll issue. Nicole Roth looking into the loopholes that come with it and look for exemptions and advocating for that. Joe Hinrichs concerned with kicking the hornets nest and creating a hassle. Worried about making noise. Stephanie Payton, this is happening and Mason needs to be in compliance. This committee will look at the communication that gets out to people. Instead of this being a huge Staff Senate issue, would tackle it as a small group to research things and bring it back to the Staff Senate. Megan does not want to cause a disturbance. Wajahat Ahmed, cost of education is going up and the amount was set in the 80s. As costs go up, if we don't find a loophole we won't be able to use the full waiver. The tuition waiver is a huge benefit and we need to figure out how to make this work. Susan Brionez, where is GAPSA in this process? Stephanie Payton works with president of GAPSA. Tabling until next meeting and when Megan Kirk can be here.
- 5) New Business
- a) Foot traffic around Patriot Circle in conjunction with the automobile traffic and pedestrians. Pedestrians walk around with little regard to vehicles.
- 6) Adjourned @ 2:13 pm.

\*Meeting documents

10.1.14 Meeting Minutes Draft  
 Resolutions 2015-2 through 2015-11 (revised on 10.2.14)  
 Ad hoc Committee Proposals  
 Graduate Student Tuition Waivers  
 Staff Senate Recruitment and Advisory  
 University Advisory Committee Protocol

**Next Meeting:**

Wednesday, December 3  
 12:00 - 2:00 pm

Fairfax, Research 163; Arlington, Founders B119; and Prince William, Bull Run 254.  
Teleconference: 703-249-8067