

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY STAFF SENATE
General Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, December 6, 2011, 11:00 am – 12:30 pm
Johnson Center 311D*

Present: Susan Brionez, Joey Carls, Tya El, Laura Harrison, Gail Hodges, Rick Holt, David Jackson, Ginnie Mahoney, James Martin, Darlene Montgomery, Della Patrick, Cathy Ryan, Toshiko Uchiyama, Karen Underwood, Renee Younes

Guest: Kevin-Diffley, Stacey Remick-Simkins

Notified Absent: Sharon Bloomquist, David Jackson, Christine Nienaber-Shotwell

Absent:

I. **Call to Order** by Joey Carl at 11:18 am

II. **Announcements**

- A. Karen Underwood reassigned to Communication & Outreach Committee
- B. Joey will more strictly enforce Roberts' Rules
 - 1. No sidebar conversations
 - 2. If sidebar conversations do occur, participants will be allowed to speak at that day's meeting
- C. Committee representative should report back with a summary after each meeting, written summary to Kathrin. Will go into shared drive.

III. **Constituents' Time**

- A. No constituents today

IV. **Old Business**

- A. Approval of October and November Meeting Minutes (Attached)
 - 1. No substantial changes
 - 2. Minutes approved
- B. Leave changes presented by Linda Harber at last month's Staff Senate meeting
 - 1. Follow-up from last month's meeting: Richmond was surprised Mason had proposed leaved information. No real push by legislature to act on this in the near term. Leave changes currently of no concern for next two fiscal years. Harber suggested we drop topic for now. Staff should be more focused on Virginia Retirement System (VRS), especially for new employees.

V. **New Business**

- A. Executive Committee
 - 1. Attendance issues—Gordon McGinness has not been attending meetings. Both Joey and Kathrin have tried reaching out to him, with no response. Needs to be brought before Senators for discussion of removal from Senate. He is in clear violation of by-laws.

Cathy moved that we remove Gordon, seconded. All in favor. He will be sent a letter to such effect.

2. Resolution 2011-11: Presidential Search Process (See attachment)
 - a. Faculty senate has forward proposal to members of search committee in support of a transparent search process based on their shared governance. They want to be involved in voting, currently only Board of Visitors (BOV) members vote, excluding nonvoting members, of which one is Peter Pober. As it currently stands, only BOV members would interview candidates. If approved for Faculty Senate, then staff, students, alumni should also be given access.
 - b. Rick asked if any downside to have a more transparent process. Main concern, per Joey, is that University has promised candidates confidentiality. In many cases, candidates' current position could be at risk. At recent a search committee meeting, members discussed giving candidates the choice. Senate resolution is more of a formality. Moved and seconded, all in favor. Passed unanimously.
3. Resolution 2011-12: Nominations for Staff Senate
 - a. Discussed in executive committee, this resolution takes away requirement of one-year employment for nominees to Staff Senate. Historically, it kept from too much turnover in Senate. Currently, university and staff senate more stable. Joey will entertain discussion at January meeting, when it will be voted on.
4. Presidential Search
 - a. Final stages, several candidate for BOV to review, none on search committee except BOV have final vote, within few weeks, process will come to a close, optimistic that we'll be satisfied with outcome. Various collective voices have been heard including faculty, staff, students, alumni, and the business community. Committee has been thanked with thoughts toward future.
5. Treasurer—Laura, see handout
 - a. Budget, emailed to Prince William and Arlington earlier today. A couple more major expenses, Outstanding Supervisor Award plaques and Employee of the Month pin boxes. Camera less than expected. Current surplus of about \$1,600.
6. Communication & Outreach—Laura
 - a. Toys for Tots and Food Drive
 - i. Need volunteers on day of Holiday party
 - ii. Various members volunteered
7. University Issues—Toshiko
 - a. Current topics: smoking policy, more emphasis on quitting smoking; Center for Arts discounts; babysitting through SitterCity (University looking whether to renew contract or seek another service); vehicles on walkways; and children in the workplace. David Jackson attending parking advisory committee on Thursday, please email him directly with concerns.
8. Awards & Events—James
 - a. Merten/Hennessy Tea
 - i. Senate needs to approve budget of \$600 for Merten/Hennessy Tea. Motioned, seconded, approved.
 - b. Staff Senate Retreat—Stacey
 - i. Training for Retreat—Topic: How can Senate envision itself during transition period to new presidency? Training would be a two-part process: An

introduction that would be built on by using Appreciative Inquiry (presented by Stacey Remick-Simkins), followed by Action Learning (with Lori Ann Roth of Human Resources). The result would be tools for the Staff Senate as it evolves toward the transition period. Motion for Senate is to change training emphasis. Seconded . No response to call for votes. Joey asked if there was any opposition to letting Award and Events committee take full responsibility; agreed so long as Senate has a schedule prior to meeting.

VI. Roundtable

1. From Arlington: no issues—quiet, everyone is studying
2. From Prince William: asked about carpooling to retreat, Kathrin will arrange carpools
3. From Fairfax: nothing pressing
4. Administrative Issues—Joey
 - a. Senate engagement—there has been poor participation on committees. Chair are facilitators, should not be doing all the work.
 - b. “Kids” is not an appropriate word for students. “Students” is the correct name.
 - c. James has accepted a position at Krasnow. Joey and James will not be able to leave office at same time. They will share presiding at general meetings. James will work toward finding a new person in housing to run for next Senate elections
 - d. Suggested doing outreach to particular units that are underrepresented. Important to be certain those Senates reach out to are able to run for office.

VII. Adjournment to Speakers by Joey Carls at 11:56 am.

1. Speakers: Mark Kraner, Auxiliary Enterprises and Ram Nabar, Dining Services
2. Topic: Dining and other services on campus

VIII. Meeting Concluded at 12:30 pm

Attachments

October 2011 Meeting Minutes
November 2011 Meeting Minutes
Election results from Fall 2011 (for information only)
Staff Senate Resolution 2011-11
Staff Senate Resolution 2011-12

*Video-conferenced to Arlington Campus, Founders Hall, B119, and Prince William campus, Bull Run Hall 254.

Meeting minutes by Kathrin Breitt Brown