
MASON STAFF SENATE
General Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 5, 2013, 11:00 am – 12:30 pm
Research Hall 163

Present: Susan Brionez, Joey Carls, Amanda Corrigan, Kevin Diffily, Tya El, Laura Harrison, Megan Kirk, Patrick Ledesma, Lindsey Lowenberg, Marit Majeske, Amanda Meiklejohn, Stephanie Payton, Stacey Remick-Simkins, Christine Sanders, Lindsay Schreiber, Toshiko Uchiyama, Karen Underwood, Paul Wieber, Stephanie Zeher

Absent: Rubi Chavez, Ginnie Mahoney, Charles Nicholson, Brett Say

1. Call to order at 11:07 am by Joey Carls and welcome
 - a. Concern from the chair
 - i. Negative feedback on restructure was received only after resolution was unanimously passed. Would like to be sure everyone takes opportunity to speak and vote according to his or her beliefs. Everyone has a say and should feel free to express their opinions.
 - ii. Further concerns need to be expressed to Joey
2. Announcements
 - a. Senate Resignations
 - i. Della Patrick
 - ii. Sylvia Leverette—wage earners are harder to keep on board; need to continue to think of ways to engage them
 - b. Noteworthy campus resignations/starts
 - i. Marc Broderick, Development, Resigned
 - c. From the Staff Senate
 - i. Special Staff Senate Meeting: Cabrera coming with his team discuss vision: www.vision.gmu.edu
 1. Thursday, February 21, 2:00 pm
 2. Telepresence Rooms: Kathrin will distribute details
 - ii. Mason Lobbies 2013, Thursday, February 7, sponsored by State Government Relations
 1. Mid day in Richmond, first time Mason lobbying as a collective

- iii. Week after, Monday 18th, Stacey lobbying on behalf of VGEA
 - d. From the Floor—nothing from the floor
- 3. Old Business
 - a. Approval of January 2013 meeting minutes (on shared drive)
 - i. Paul questioned his change of placement on Outreach and Education committee. Senators encouraged to bring concerns to Joey about final committee placement as reflected on minutes.
 - ii. Minutes otherwise approved without objection.
 - b. Advisory Committee vacancies/updates
 - i. Staff Book Scholarship: Megan Kirk will fill post
 - ii. Global Professional Exchange Program: Need 4 senators
 - 1. Patrick Ledesma
 - 2. Stephanie Zeher
 - 3. Lindsay Schreiber
 - 4. Stephanie Payton
 - iii. Search for VP of Development: Joey Carls
 - c. Resolution 2013-2: Mission Statement and Commitments
 - i. Passed unanimously
 - d. Implementation plan
 - i. Discussed
 - e. Financial Report
 - i. Update on Staff Appreciation costs
 - 1. Catering will be about \$1500
 - 2. Venue charges will be \$503, \$3 over budget
 - 3. Kathrin will likely present a proposal for promotional items
 - ii. No fees associated with retreat
- 4. New Business
 - a. Resolution 2013-3: Removal of terms limits for Senate Officers
 - i. Stephanie author of this proposal
 - ii. Presentation today

1. Would like to make sure we don't get ourselves in a bind without a chair candidate ready to step in.
 2. Not trying to discourage anyone from stepping up
 - iii. Discussion and vote on March 5
 - b. Resolution 2013-4: Outstanding Supervisor Award changes
 - i. Joey the author
 - ii. Presentation today:
 1. Will still give two awards but one time a year
 - a. Aiming to having more robust nominations
 - b. Longer nomination period possible
 - c. Perhaps one winner from each campus
 - iii. Discussion and vote on March 5
 - c. Resolution 2013-5: Senate and Officer Oaths
 - i. Will having everyone sign one document rather than formal swearing in at (now defunct) Hail & Farewell
 - ii. Officers will now be required to step up and take oath
 - iii. Moved, seconded: all in favor; none opposed
5. Roundtable Items
- a. Issues Staff Senate needs to be aware/working toward resolving
 - i. Exhaustive list of issues that Senate needs to be award or/working toward
 1. What should/should not be on list
 2. What items should we take on
 3. Entire list will be distributed by Kathrin via email
 - ii. Housekeeping Liaison—Stacey
 1. Rubi would like to take on this role. She could be ad hoc committee chair. Long-term issues
 - iii. Golf Carts on campus—Stacey
 1. Parking put a training module in place
 2. Believe it has been rolled out; could follow-up
 - iv. Bike and skateboard problem on campus

1. Josh Cantor may be addressing this
 2. Needs immediate follow up
- v. Commuter choice benefits for non-student wage earners—Joey
1. Determined no part-time staff eligible, regardless of classifications
 2. Room for conversation with Human Resources
- vi. Staff Involvement in Staff Senate activities
1. Restructure should at least partially resolve this concern
 2. Events committee should address this concern further
- vii. Volunteer hours to be used for sustainability project
1. Many sustainability projects coming up
 2. Stacey talked with Human Resource, Linda Harber would have to make a strong case to Richmond to make changes
 3. Sustainability staff would like to come to a future SS meeting to discuss their plans
- viii. CFA and Hylton discounts
1. Current discounts for subscriptions
 2. Could talk with Directors to determine what more could be done—Maret can help guide this discussion
- ix. Inviting staff to convocation events
1. Staff tend not to feel invited even though open to public
 2. Staff not mentioned in wording of invitation
 3. Winter convocation run out of Provost's office
 4. Lindsey Lowenberg and Stephanie Zeher can be of help with this.
- x. Smoking Policy
1. Kevin: Suggested we come up with formal recommendation and vote on it by May. Then be done with it.
 2. Toshiko: not sure what more can/could be done. More a matter of working within current committee that is actively working through other avenues to abate smoking on campus through

cessation programs. Staff Senate did submit recommendation in the past. Mason Wellness also involved in measures.

3. Smoking policy committee head: Chair's name to be passed to Kathrin. Possible speaker at upcoming meeting

xi. Visibility and Engagement

1. Christina suggested a pin with name, "Staff Senator," and logo
 - a. Whenever staff senators are on campus, wear in order that others know that can talk with that person.
2. SS could initiate a campaign to bring a colleague to the next meeting!

xii. Wage issues

1. Parking permits for non-student wage earners need action; Senate should take up.
2. Paul will write a recommendation on behalf of Staff Senate

xiii. Joey and Kathrin will look at above items to see what needs follow up and determine how to do so.

xiv. Inefficiency in getting jobs done--Stacey

1. Best practices deficit of administrative practices university wide
2. Result is a moral problem; Stacey suggested we document the stories we hear. Will create a dialogue that might help in resolution.

xv. Vision: Read "Enriching Work Environment" section carefully, be sure the message is clear and not too watered down. Make sure staff is well represented and that there is a commitment to staff, faculty and student equally

6. Constituents' Time

7. Adjourned at 12:11 pm by Joey Carls

8. Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 5, 11:00 am – 12:30 pm, Telepresence Rooms

Meeting minutes by Kathrin Breitt Brown

