

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY STAFF SENATE

General Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 3, 11:00 am – 12:30 pm

Johnson Center 311D*

Present: Susan Brionez, Joey Carls, Kevin Diffily, Tya El, Laura Harrison, Ginnie Mahoney, James Martin, Amanda Meiklejohn, Sara Montiel, Christina Nienaber, Della Patrick, Stacey Remick-Simkins, Cathy Ryan, Toshiko Uchiyama, Karen Underwood, Renee Younes

Notified Absent: Gail Hodges

Absent: Angela Albanese, Darlene Montgomery

1) **Call to Order** by Joey Carls at 11:05 am

a) Merten and Hennessey Reception

i) Wednesday, April 25, 3:00 – 4:30 pm, Mason Hall, Rooms D3 A & B

ii) Please RSVP by Friday, April 18, to Kathrin

iii) Donations to Merten Scholarship Fund

(1) Make ASAP

(2) It takes some time to transfer funds from Development to Foundation

(3) As of March 22, total contributions from Staff Senate to Merten Scholarship fund amounts to \$285

(4) Two ways to donate, Laura Harrison, Treasurer, will look into alternative method to be certain Staff Senate is credited

2) **Guest Speaker:** Tracy Holt, Manager, Enterprise Messaging

3) **Constituents' Time**

a) Student Senators

i) Jason Von Kundra and Raquel Sands

ii) They are exploring an idea called “shared governance” and have created a task force to see if idea is plausible at GMU.

iii) Mason is behind vis a vie student, faculty and staff participating in decision-making.

None of these groups have binding power with Administration

iv) Student want to be engaged in more meaningful ways

v) Other university’s senates have decision-making power

vi) Student Senate is having weekly meetings in order ideas in place prior to new president starting on July1.

(1) All are invited

(2) Fridays at 1:00 in Student Senate officein Sub 1.

(3) It was noted that not many faculty or staff are on campus on Fridays

(4) It was asked if any faculty or staff are currently designated as participants to task force

(a) Not at this time; interested individuals only

vii) Contact info: Jason Von Kundra, Chair of Task Force, jvonkund@gmu.edu

- viii) Asked for example of issue not acted on:
 - (1) Smoking policy
 - (a) Student Senate did a lot of work, but issue not addressed by administration
- ix) It was agreed that was a good idea. We will work together and we will get some involvement

4) Old Business

- a) Approval of Previous Month's Minutes—Tabled until next month
- b) Merten/Hennessey Reception
 - i) The event has been announced in eFiles and MasonNews as open to campus community by the President's office
 - (1) First suggestion was to retract the open invitation
 - (2) On second thought, in order to present the Staff Senate in the best light, it may be best to fulfill intention
 - ii) Question on table: Is it best to
 - (1) Open to campus community because it's been announced that way
 - (2) Retract and risk Staff Senate reputation
 - iii) It was suggested asking for more funds to offset additional cost of catering
 - iv) It was asked if this is just a question of funding. Given the Staff Senate budget, a limited increase in catering order could be done.
 - (1) It was suggested that we order whatever is within our budget, and if refreshments run out, then they run out
 - (2) Thoughts shared:
 - (a) Merten will be a big draw and so the likelihood of running out of food is possible
 - (b) History suggests that if we run out of food, staff unhappy
 - (c) Reception v. lunch and associated expectations
 - v) Suggested to look at room capacity and limit number of attendees to that number
 - (1) It was also suggested another announcement stating RSVPs were needed could be issued
 - (a) Would allow limits and conserve our budget
 - vi) If not announced again, staff may forget by the time the event occurs
 - vii) It was asked what the original intention had been:
 - (1) For founding and current Staff Senate members
 - viii) Will entertain motion from floor
 - (1) Motion: Open Merten/Hennessey Reception to campus community, about another 100 people,
 - (2) Motioned, seconded, approved but not unanimously
 - ix) It will be requested that President's office not further publicize event
- c) Spring Elections Results
 - i) Ask Kathrin if you want specific results
 - ii) University Issues needs to look at narrative results

5) New Business

- a) Executive Committee
 - i) Write-in candidates for Senate seats

- (1) Joey made the decision that we would not take into consideration write-in candidates for Arlington due to time constraints
- (2) In Executive Committee, need for write in candidates in future elections was discussed
 - (a) Della will draft new language
 - (b) To be discussed in future meeting
- ii) Event attendance for Staff Senators
 - (1) Joey reiterated the importance of attendance at Staff Senate events
 - (2) Outreach events are fundamental to core mission and are especially important if we want president elect to attend
 - (3) Laura will send dates of scheduled outreach events to listserv
- b) Treasurer
 - i) Current surplus is about \$300
- c) Communication & Outreach
 - i) Nothing to report
- d) University Issues
 - i) Staff Senate engagement
 - (1) With more senators, committee can delegate/assign more responsibilities
 - ii) Board of Visitors, the process of writing a value statement supporting the Staff having a nonvoting seat is being worked on
 - iii) Children in Workplace
 - (1) On hold until finalized
 - iv) Recently discussed possibility of banking hours for wage employees
 - v) Tornado Drills will soon be discussed
- e) Awards & Events
 - i) Invitations were free
 - ii) See above discussion on Merten/Hennessey tea
 - iii) Staff Appreciation Day
 - (1) Christina and Joey met with Ram Nabar of Dining Services
 - (a) Dining Services will contribute \$2500
 - (b) The vouchers distributed to staff will be valid until 12/2012
 - (c) Unused vouchers will be returned to Dining Services and Staff Senate will be reimbursed
 - (2) Space
 - (a) Prince William—will clarify charge before committing to venue
 - (b) Fairfax—charge is \$275, plus events manager charge (\$16x3 hours)
 - (i) Karen looked into this, came back with above number.
 - (ii) Can go back and learn more
 - (c) Motion to approve \$600 for venue
 - (i) Motioned, seconded, approved, with objection
 - (d) Where is the amount coming from?
 - (e) Arlington—more information is needed
 - iv) Budget to be recalculated at a later date
 - v) S.A.D. vouchers
 - (1) \$6 vouchers would cover an entire lunch, current amount, \$5.25, does not do so
 - (2) Motion to approve \$6 voucher, seconded

- (a) Oral vote too close to call
 - (b) Hand vote
 - (i) Favor: 3
 - (ii) Opposed: 7
 - (c) Not passed
 - (d) Tina will go back to Ram with original amount, \$5.25
 - f) Nominations for Vice Chair
 - i) James nominated self
 - ii) Email nominations until April 18 COB
 - iii) On April 24, email from Kathrin with ballot for vice chair
 - (1) Need 10 votes to be binding
 - iv) Votes due by April 30 COB
 - v) At May 1 meeting, ballots tallied within meeting by Della
 - g) At committee meetings in May, nominations for chair within meeting
 - i) Voting within committee meeting in June
 - ii) Terms begin at close of June meeting
 - iii) Special meeting for new chairs in June
- 6) Roundtable
- a) “Did you know?” item for month to be published in eFiles—tabled
 - b) Reminder that this portion of the meeting is the opportunity for one committee to suggest another committee take on a task for consideration
 - c) Procedures for questioning Josh
 - i) 10 minutes of updates
 - ii) Then Q & A,
 - (1) One question each, no follow-up
- 7) Guest Speaker: Josh Cantor, Parking and Transportation, Q and A
- 8) Adjourned at 12:51 pm by Joey Carls

Attachments

March Meeting Minutes
 Officer Election Timeline and Procedure

*Teleconference Meeting Rooms:

Prince William: Bull Run Hall 254
 Arlington: Founders Hall 119B
 Call in number: (703) 249-8067

Minutes by Kathrin Breitt Brown