

MASON STAFF SENATE
General Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, June 4, 2013, 11:00 am – 12:30 pm
Research Hall 163*

Senate Members: Joey Carls, Chair, Susan Brionez , Rubi Chavez; Kevin Diffily; Tya El; Laura Harrison; Megan Kirk; Lindsey Lowenberg; Ginnie Mahoney; Stephanie Payton Stacey Remick-Simkins; Christine Sanders; Brett Say Lindsay Schreiber; Toshiko Uchiyama; Paul Wieber; Stephanie Zeher

Absent: Karen Underwood (with notice), Marit Majeske (with notice), Amanda Corrigan (with notice), Patrick Ledesma (with notice), Amanda Meiklejohn (without notice); Charles Nicholson (without notice).

1. Call to order by Stephanie Payton @ 11:03 am
2. Guest Speakers
 - a. Guest Speakers: Office of Sustainability, Danielle Wyman, Sustainability Projects Specialist, Giulia Manno, Sustainability Outreach Coordinator, Tyler Orton, Program Innovation Coordinator, and Lenna Storm, Special Projects Manager
 - i. Topic: Sustainability Efforts at Mason
3. Constituents' Time—none today
4. Announcements
 - a. Noteworthy campus resignations/starts
 - i. Search Committees
 1. VP Research progressing
 2. VP Development progressing delayed a couple weeks
 3. State Government Relations progressing
 4. ITU search not started yet
 - ii. Ram Nabar, Dining Services, has left the university
 1. Request for person on search committee will be coming soon
 - b. From the Staff Senate
 - i. This month's committee meetings:
 1. Events Committee, Tuesday June 11, 12:00 – 1:00 pm, UHall
3500 New Committee Chair: Christina Sanders

- 2. Executive Committee: Tuesday, July 2, 12:00 – 1:00 pm, Krasnow
- i. Later this month, Staff Senate nominations June 17 – June 27
 - 1. Encourage your colleagues to run
- ii. Visit to Front Royal and Loudoun Work Sites
 - 1. Front Royal, Wednesday, June 12, 10:00 am
 - 2. Sign up via Doodle.com coming soon
- iii. Staff Appreciation Summer 2013 Coffee Klatch
 - 1. Arlington, Wednesday, July 17, 9:30 – 11:30 am
 - 2. Prince William, Wednesday, July 24, 9:30 – 11:30 am
 - 3. Fairfax, Wednesday, Wednesday July 31, July 31, 9:30 -11:30 am
- iv. Staff Senate sponsored blood drive
 - 1. Thursday, July 18, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm, The Hub – Ballroom
 - 2. Pick up flyers on way out
- v. Presenting at Human Resources orientation
 - 1. Contact Kathrin if interested
- vi. Staff Senate in first place for fitness resolution challenge
- b. From the floor
 - i. Global Professional Staff Exchange
 - 1. Only one application; due date Friday, June 14
 - 2. Kathrin will do for this Monday
 - ii. Parking and Transportation
 - 1. Permit fees likely to go up \$25, losing some parking due to Shenandoah structure, car pool areas will likely be made out of premium sites, all golf carts will be registered, parking tickets to golf cars, side walk sharing to be discussed next week, patriot bike share to be expanded.
 - iii. Special Staff Senate Town Hall meeting with Josh Cantor, Director, Parking and Transportation, in the process of being scheduled.

- iv. Virginia Governmental Employee Association (VGEA)—Stacey meeting with Board of Directors and Terry McAuliffe. One of the biggest issues is the 29-hour rule, which is creating an economic nightmare. This is problematic for non-student wage employees. Trying to except adjunct and non-student wage fro 29-hour rule. Because our salaries come from state, we don't have the resources to override the decision. Creating problems in lots of areas. Number of adjuncts in state is staggering.
- v. Suggest that Wellness by Mason link Staff Senate from their page to ours and vice versa

2. Old Business

- a. Approve May 7, 2013 meeting minutes (on shared drive)
 - i. Passed with minor corrections
- b. Staff Senate Financial Statement (on shared drive)
 - i. Still tying up loose ends from FY2013
 - ii. Joey will ask Sr. Vice President for carry over
 - 1. Should only be about \$300
 - iii. In July, Executive Committee to approve a new budget
 - iv. Full FY 2013 financial statement and FY 2014 Budget will be available in August
- c. Presenting at other campuses
 - i. Arlington, Wednesday, September 11, 10:30 – 11:00 am
 - ii. Prince William, Monday, September 16, 2:00 – 2:30

3. New Business

- a. SS Resolution 2013-9: Changing meeting day of general meeting
 - i. Discussion: Tuesdays are often difficult meeting days for others
 - ii. Moved, seconded, most in favor, non opposed, one abstaining
 - iii. Starting in September 2013, general meeting will be held the first Wednesday of each month, from 12:0 – 2:00 pm.

4. Roundtable Items

- a. Reports: Advisory Committees/Ad hoc Committees

- i. Strategic planning retreat held last week. Addressing faculty and staff salaries is one of the goals. Second goal, enriching work environment. Group comprised of mostly administrative faculty, only one other classified staff, two students a part of the group.
- b. From the floor
 - i. Future meeting with someone to discuss the tuition waivers policy.
 - 1. History: in 1996, only 6 credit hours per year; Maurice Scherrens doubled it. About 10 years ago, Dr. Scherrens wanted to give dependents benefits. Stacey served on committee that surveyed Mason. Scherrens advocated/tried to find legal precedent. Could not be done. We were warned that we were lucky to have waivers at all. Thereafter, learned that state employees wanted waivers for all employees. Lots of push back from universities. State responded with caution that they could withdraw tuition wavers.
 - 2. We would like to put the issue to rest. New administration can bring up at their discretion.
 - ii. Revisit Parking and Transportation
 - 1. Amount of parking fees increase not finalized. Impression is that it will go up \$25/year. It was asked what the reasoning was behind this decision. Parking historically in debt; trying to recoup some of that. Wage employees still at a deficit. They pay the same as faculty/staff and they pay up front. Need to make sure that issue is still addressed by Staff Senate.
 - iii. Chair asked for senator's impression of successes or concerns about Staff Senate restructure:
 - 1. Successes: Fewer meetings, seconded; more visibility in past 6 months; more notifications of SS activities and issues. Monthly newsletters good in terms of visibility. Senators taking more time to get involved in other activities. More

senators getting out and have more time to communicate with constituents.

2. Concerns: University issues, where are those going? Are we keeping those at the forefront of our mind; how do we manage those better? Senator suggestion: way to resolve that may be if you have a group of ad hoc committees over time, have a periodic meeting of those to discuss results. Problem is the reporting piece. Need more transparency.

- iv. Chair solicited ideas for Dr. Cabrera's talk with us in August. Submit ideas to Joey before July 2 Executive Committee meeting.

5. Adjournment

Next Meeting: No July meeting. Senators expected to attend staff appreciation events. Tuesday, August 6, Morning (exact time TBA), Mason Hall D003 A/B

Meeting Documents:

May 7, 2013 Meeting Minutes
Current Financial Statement
SS Resolution 2013-9—Changing General Meeting Day

Minutes by Kathrin Breitt Brown