

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY STAFF SENATE
General Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, June 5, 11:00 am – 12:30 pm
Johnson Center 311D*

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

Notified Absent: Gail Hodges, Renee Younes

Absent: None

- 1) **Call to Order** by James Martin at 11:07 am
 - a) Resignations
 - i) Staff Senators
 - (1) Darlene Montgomery
 - (2) Cathy Ryan (in July)
 - ii) Administration: Maurice Scherrens (in August) and Sandy Scherrens (In December)
- 2) **Constituents' Time**—No constituents today
- 3) **Executive Report**
 - a) Orientation for new senators held last week; looks to be an engaged group
 - b) Treasurer's Report for Fiscal Year 2012—Laura Harrison, Treasurer
 - i) Figures are in line with budget expectations
 - ii) Merten/Hennessey reception and Staff Appreciation Day charges events have not yet been posted
- 4) **Old Business**
 - a) Approval of May Minutes
 - i) Moved, seconded, approved
 - b) Presidential Transition Updates
 - i) List of events for Dr. Cabrera to attend has been submitted to president's office
 - ii) Joey recommended Hail & Farewell and Staff Appreciation Day are "must attends"
 - iii) S.A.D. can be a "drive by" for at least 10 minutes for any or all campuses
 - iv) It has been suggested that Employee of the Month become more of a one-on-one talk rather than presentation as Dr. Merten has done. Still a tentative idea.
 - c) Staff Appreciation Day debriefing: tabled, will have a working group on August 14. All senators are invited
- 5) **New Business**
 - a) Awards and Events— Hail and Farewell
 - i) Motion: Staff Senators who resigned before end of their term for extenuating circumstances will be invited. Joey amended: blanket inclusion for reasons such as

- health, measures beyond their control, and those who left in good standing. It was asked what the driving the motion was. The impetus is that some very dedicated senators have left and they should be acknowledged. At previous H & Fs senators who did not complete their term were not invited.
- (1) Motion: All who have resigned should be invited, regardless of their reason for leaving. Seconded.
 - (2) Vote by roll call: 7 Opposed, 7 Agree, 1 Abstain
- ii) Suggestion to vote without amendment.
- (1) Original motion on floor. Discussion ensued addressing concerns that reason for leaving is subjective, using other's behavior as a means for our behavior problematic and suggested that Senate should take higher road.
 - (2) Motion to vote as presented by committee
 - (3) Vote: All in favor, none opposed.
 - (4) Committee will have to deal with what qualifies as an extenuating circumstances
- iii) Catering for event; committee is pursuing other vendors. Budget is about \$11 per person. Possible vendors, Red Hot and Blue, Kitchen Gourmet, Rocklands..
- (1) Motion to go to outside vendors and have finger foods. It was asked if this can this be left as committee business? Agreed, so long as within budget, approved.
- b) University Issues: Board of Visitors (BOV) seat (see attachment)
- i) Committee suggests not seeking a seat on the BOV at this time. Staff Senate is currently an advisory group only. Student and Faculty Senates have governance powers; Staff Senate does not. Suggested we attend meetings but not pursue a seat. The time it would take would be greater than prudent given other commitments of senate and senators.
 - ii) Motion: Not to pursue BOV seat at this time, seconded, topic opened for discussion
 - iii) Discussion: A variety of Commonwealth colleges/universities have representatives, none of whom have a voting seat. Need a classified representative, not faculty administrator or administrator. Concerned that seeking BOV representative suggests working directly with BOV is more effective than working through president and/or administration. Time should be spent cultivating the relationship with new administration. It was asked how successful Senate has been without having a BOV seat. Feedback from SAD shared: where it was why asked Senate doesn't have a BOV seat. Is there a middle ground, perhaps on relevant committees or are there intermediate steps that can be taken? It was asked if faculty administrators have a representative; believed not. In the University Issue committee's reviewing past minutes, there doesn't seem to be any issues relevant to staff. It was suggested that there are relevant issues, such as staff raises. Stated that Senate does not need a seat in order to observe BOV meetings. If something needs to be brought to BOV, Senate should work through president. It was stated that even if Senate has a nonvoting seat, it would set a strong example. Middle ground might be having a senator attend BOV meetings to determine if this is the right avenue. The time commitment to do so is a concern. Senators tend to be overcommitted. Whoever is BOV representative should have that as his or her sole responsibility. Stated, BOV bylaws are clear that there are other avenues to pursue our interests. Change of administration and shortage of staff senate members are practical reasons for not doing so. Joey has discussed idea with Peter Prober, former Faculty Senate Chair. It was agreed that there is very little that

is of staff concern. A lot of academic and student issues, but not staff. However, certain committees within BOV do pertain to staff. Joey noted: Charge to committee was to make inroads into how Staff Senate might become more engaged with BOV. Whatever plan was developed would not be presented to Cabrera within his first six months. It was asked if issue should be tabled:

- (1) Motion: To not pursue seat on BOV and to end discussion of possibility. Not passed. Motion does not carry
- (2) Committee will continue discussion in committee meetings.

6) **FY 2013 Budget Proposal**

- i) FY 2013 Staff Senate budget needs to be approved. Budget was created in Executive Meetings. As agreed last year, if approved, funds can be spent without additional approval. Only needs to come to floor if funds are overspent or used in ways other than approved.
 - (a) Motioned, seconded, and approved unanimously.
- ii) University Committee Appointments
 - (a) Request for Proposal for Dining Services committee member.
 - (i) Seeking 10 year, \$4 Million contract, with a wide variety of proposers. A consultant will do the “heavy lifting.” Meetings are during business day. Can that person be excused from committee responsibilities until December? Joey opened to that idea. Noted: if committee member can’t make a meeting, so be it. Can it be a shared position? Probably not. Anyone opposed to finding a member from outside the SS? No objection.
 - (b) Parking appeals. Janet Walker reaching out for a new member. Commitment is three meetings a year, on the first Monday of every other month, starting August. James volunteered. No opposition.

7) **Roundtable**—tabled due to time restraints

8) **Guest Speaker:** Rick Virgin, Senior Associate Vice President, University Development,
Topic: Three development initiatives: the Merten Campaign, the Faculty/Staff Campaign, and the Student Giving Campaign (Patriots for Patriots)

9) **Meeting adjourned** at 12:34 by Joey Carls

On shared drive

May Meeting Minutes
2013 Budget Proposal
University Issues Position on BOV Seat

Meeting minutes by Kathrin Breitt Brown