

**COS Faculty Meeting**  
**Minutes**  
April 14, 2021, 3-4pm

In attendance: Alessandra Luchini, Aman Ullah, Andre Z Clayborne, Andrea Cobb, Andreas Züfle, Anthony Falsetti, Audrey G Kelaher, Ben Dreyfus, Benoit Van Aken, Brenda Tondi, Brett Froelich, Chao Luo, Christine Rosenfeld, Cristiana Stan, Dale Pokorski, Dale Scott Rothman, David Walnut, David Wong, Deborah Polayes, Dieter Pfoser, Erdal Yiğit, Ernest Barreto, Estela Blaisten, Fadi Tahan, Fernando Miralles-Wilhelm, Geraldine Grant, Gwen Cox, Gwendolyn Lewis, Hamdi Kavak, Igor I Mazin, Iosif Vaisman, Jason Kinser, Jessica Rosenberg, Jie Zhang, Joel Schnur, John Qu, Julia Nord, Karen Louise Akerlof, Kathleen Ellen Hunt, Kelly Knight, Kimberly A Rule, Konrad J Wessels, Liping Di, Lorelei Crerar, Maria Emelianenko, Mark D Uhen, Matt Rice, Megan Erb, Mikell Paige, Monique van Hoek, Natalie J Burls, Nirmal Ghimire, Olga Gkountouna, Patrick Gillevet, Paul Houser, Paul So, Pritha Roy, Rebecca M Jones, Rebecca R.G. (she/her), Ron S Mahabir, Ruixin Yang, Saleet Jafri, Suzanne Slayden, Taylor Anderson, Tim Leslie, Tina Bell, Tracy C Mason, Valerie Olmo, William J Hahn, Ziheng Sun (70)

**1. Call to order**

1.1. At 3:03pm

1.2. Agenda posted in chat

**2. Approval of minutes from March 2021**

2.1. Motion: Joel Schnur

2.2. Second: Megan Erb

2.3. Minutes approved by Zoom Reactions and video responses.

**3. Announcements**

3.1. COS URC April 21, 2021, 1-3pm (Rebecca Jones)

<https://science.gmu.edu/research/opportunities/undergraduate-research-colloquium>

3.1.1. Colloquium open for the entire week. Please join! Email with details to follow

3.2. LA Poster Session, April 30, 2021, 1:30-3:00 pm EDT (Ben Dreyfus)

3.2.1. RSVP at [https://gmu.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_eIZcMcKIRwi36Si](https://gmu.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eIZcMcKIRwi36Si)

3.2.2. LAs presenting their projects. Please join.

### 3.3 Elsevier journal access (Tim Leslie)

3.3.1 Read about Changes: <https://timesync.gmu.edu/libnews/?p=10564>  
and <https://library.gmu.edu/sustainable-collections/Elsevier>.

3.3.1.1 Reduction of cost of the Library by cutting parts of Elsevier. Please provide feedback to the library to tell them about the journals that we need. If no feedback received, they might cut journals.

3.3.1.2 Igor Mazin: Is there a list of journals to be dropped?

3.3.1.2.1 Rebecca Jones: No, but there is a list of journals to be retained.

3.3.1.3 Maria Emalienko: Is there a deadline for responding?

3.3.1.3.1 Tim Leslie: We don't know yet. There is no rush, but don't let it fall of your calendar.

3.3.2 Submit

comments: [https://gmulibrary.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_0TXSik7gRCuiQuh](https://gmulibrary.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0TXSik7gRCuiQuh)

## 4. Dean's Update (Fernando)

### 4.1. Inclusive Excellence plan for COS

4.1.1. More information in a meeting on 04/21/2021

### 4.2. Vaccination mandate for Fall 2021

4.2.1. Some other public universities have already imposed a mandate

4.2.2. Discussion with other deans led to asking faculty for their input. What does faculty think about the idea of imposing a vaccine mandate? Fernando is leaning towards a mandate, as having vaccines voluntarily may keep things to lose. This poll is to measure the temperature among faculty: What do we think about imposing a mandate?

4.2.3. Rebecca Jones: We have prepared two pools, one regarding a mandate for students / one for faculty.

### 4.3. University Target: 75% of classes offered in some form of face to face in Fall 2021.

4.3.1. Current numbers: Within 1% of 75%. => We're on a good way

4.3.2. Fall 2021 will look much different from Spring 2021. Fall 2021 will look more normal. Normal as in Fall 2019.

4.3.3. This 75% normality issue is coupled with the vaccination issue. If we want such a high presence on the campus, we need to maintain a feeling of safety.

4.3.4. Q: Ernie Barreto: 75% of classes or 75% of seats? A: Fernando: Not clear yet. Likely seats. But this number is just an orientation. Noone will be penalized if not meeting these numbers.

4.3.5. Q: Some classes may not have rooms? How are these handled. A: Fernando: There will be questions and that will be ok. The 75% is a target not a requirement. It's more of an estimate. This number is not "sacred".

4.3.6. Poll 1: Mason is considering a COVID-19 vaccine mandate for students to return to campus for classes in Fall 2021. What is your opinion on this topic?

4.3.6.1. Agree: Vaccinations should be required for all students:85%

4.3.6.2. Neutral: I'm indifferent or have no opinion: 10%

4.3.6.3. Disagree: Vaccinations should NOT be required for students 6%

4.3.6.4. n=52

4.3.7. Poll 2: What is your opinion about a faculty/staff vaccine mandate in Fall 2021?

4.3.7.1. Agree: All faculty and staff should be vaccinated. 81%

4.3.7.2. Neutral: Im indifferent or have no opinion: 11%

4.3.7.3. Disagree: Faculty and Staff should not be required to be vaccinated: 8%

4.3.7.4. n=55

5. Nominations for COS spring elections, Rebecca Rebhuhn-glanz ([rrebhuhn@gmu.edu](mailto:rrebhuhn@gmu.edu))

5.1. Committee Charges and Membership can be viewed here:

<https://science.gmu.edu/faculty-and-staff-resources/faculty-governance/officers-and-committees>

5.1.1. Rebecca R. G. calling for nominations.

5.2. Most positions had already received numerous nominations via email. Additional nominations from the floor were requested.

5.3. Elected Positions for Spring 2021 Ballot

- Chair (1 year)
  - Rebecca Jones nominated by Geraldine Grant
- Chair pro tem (1 year)
  - No nominations from the floor
- Secretary (1 year)
  - Andreas Zuefle nominated by Suzanne Slayden
- Executive Council (3 years), 1 at-large position
  - No nominations from the floor
- P&T Committee (3 years), 2 at-large positions, not from GGS or SSB (must be full professor); current members may not succeed themselves
  - No nominations from the floor
- Grievance Committee (3 years), 2 at-large positions, not from CHEM, GGS, or Math; current members may not succeed themselves
  - No nominations from the floor
- Nominations Committee (2 years), 2 at-large positions, must be nominated from the floor
  - Natalie Burls AOES (nominated by Andreas Zuefle)
  - Chao Luo, CHEM (nominated by Rebecca Jones)

- Faculty Senate (3 years), 2 positions  
No nomination from the floor
- Undergraduate Council (2 years), 1 position  
No nominations from the floor

6. Update on Faculty Handbook revisions, Suzanne Slayden

- 6.1. Main intent of revisions: Incorporate term faculty entirely, instead of having a separate section on term faculty.
- 6.2. Existing language that was purely for term faculty was redistributed across other sections
- 6.3. Including input from the term faculty task force
- 6.4. In addition: Revision of some language about tenure-line faculty
- 6.5. Summary of revisions:  
<https://www.gmu.edu/resources/facstaff/senate/FacultyHandbook/fac-hndbk-rev-2021.htm>
- 6.5.1. Also has a link to the current faculty handbook
- 6.6. Added: Rules for voting
- 6.7. Added: Rules for evaluation to meet standards of local academic units as defined in bylaws of departments. Departments: Make sure you have updated bylaws. (tenure line and term)
- 6.8. Change in study leave: No longer administered by Provost. Money still comes from the provost, but administration at college level. Handbook adjusted accordingly.
- 6.9. Revision committee had representatives from term and tenure-line, as well as senate representatives.
- 6.10. If approved will go into effect July 1st.
- 6.11. Q: Tim Leslie: Would change in the handbook overrule items in department bylaws? A: Suzanne: Language tends to be written in a way that is flexible for individual units.
- 6.12. Q (Tim Leslie): What is a department disfranchises Term Faculty? A: Ask your department why? Term don't have to vote on everything, for example, not on tenuring tenure line faculty. But topics related to term faculty should be included.
- 6.13. Q (Tim Leslie): GGS currently has that in their bylaws: A: There will be pressure to change that.
- 6.14. Q (Ben Dreyfus): Can we start using the new titles ("Instructional" instead of "Term") now, or do we have to wait until it formally goes into effect? A: Nobody is forcing the use of the term "Term". HR will use the formal title "Instructional Assistant Professor" in all official matters. For your own title, you can use anything you like as long as it does not inflate your position.

7. Update regarding research spaces and Facilities, Pat Gillevet and Carrie McVicker
  - 7.1. Pat and Carrie not present. Will loop back next meeting.
  - 7.2. Andreas Züfle provided a brief overview of the discussions so far:
    - 7.2.1. Background: The presidents office is following up with issues that were raised by COS faculty during President Washington's Virtual Academic Unit Visit to COS (Oct 13, 2020). These issues were:
      - 7.2.1.1. *“Research space is lacking and physical classrooms are crowded. What is being done to strategically grow our physical footprint and advance our research and teaching missions?”*
      - 7.2.1.2. *“Space renovations for research labs are being charged to PIs at exorbitant prices. Our facilities department has no apparent accountability or competition for these services. How can this be addressed going forward?”*
    - 7.2.2. Pat Gillevet and Carrie McVicker are working with the VPR’s office and Facilities about issues like these.
    - 7.2.3. Faculty have reported great experience working with Carrie
    - 7.2.4. Pat and Carrie will provide faculty information on how to address room/renovation issues (such as requiring a specific cable connection) to avoid hickups and delays.
    - 7.2.5. More details to come in the next faculty meeting
8. New Business
  - 8.1. Dale: Spam emails asking “Are you available”. Do not respond. Be wary of emails sent from outside @gmu.edu domains. These spams are sent via gmail emails which IT cannot all block.
9. Adjournment at 4:03pm