

**GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY**  
**AGENDA FOR THE COLLEGE OF SCIENCE FACULTY MEETING**  
**APRIL 12, 2016 - 3301 Exploratory Hall**

**I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by COS Faculty Chair Sklarew at 12:00 pm

**II. Approval of Minutes of Oct. 20, 2015: The minutes were approved.**

**III. Announcements**

**COS Dean Peggy Agouris**

Dean Agouris stated that freshman enrollment had increased by 7.7 % and that the College's external funding for 2015 had increased by 32%. She believes we need to increased digital presence, expand our philanthropic activities and to embark on a marketing campaign to elevate our profile.

Dean Agouris stated that the college is dealing with a debt of 2 million dollars on a permanent basis and is working to continuously lower this number. The Sr. Vice President for Administration and Finance is very positive with the progress of COS with respect to the new budget model.

In order to control the deficit, COS Administration is working to make the COS budget more efficient. The Deans office is reorganizing its units and positions are being re-examining across the board. Of note, with the retirement of Senior Associate Dean Evan Mandes and the position will not be filled. In addition a number of administrative positions are being eliminated.

In addition, COS is increasing the shared governance and transparency of the College by establishing two new Dean level committees:

**1. Budget Advisory Committee:** This committee will be composed of chairs, research directors and other faculty. This committee will formally decide on:

A) Equipment needs: Equipment proposals based on the needs of the departments or centers. Currently two million dollars have been dedicated to this fund. Proposal submission will be biannually and competitive. To date, most proposals have been funded.

B) Positions: Requests for new faculty by units will be reviewed on an annual basis. These proposals will be due April 15<sup>th</sup>. New positions will be assigned based on realistic departmental needs and vision, and will be democratically distributed in a reasonable way focusing on COS priorities. Positions will no longer be assigned on a personal or ad hoc basis.

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**2. Space Advisory Committee:** The space advisory committee will evaluate external/internal needs for space presented by units. This committee will be aligned with the Space Coordinator to ensure a more complete decision process.

**Appointments:** New chair positions have or will be announced are for Physics & Astronomy and for Chemistry& Biochemistry. There was no announcement yet for Environmental Science and Policy (ESP) or Computational and Data Sciences (CDS).

**Other Notes:** The Dean reported that the new **VP for Research Deborah Crawford** will begin her role at Mason on April 25<sup>th</sup> 2016.

In addition, the Dean announced that the Science and Technology campus was doing extremely well and that two COS faculty at the S&T campus had been awarded RO1 grants.

**Inova Partnership:** The Dean announced that a subcommittees had been established to enhance the GMU Inova partnership especially with regard to the Exxon/Mobile campus and sharing space there for projects related to personalized medicine.

A partnership with **John Wiley publishing** company for online courses was also discussed; a similar partnership is currently in place at Johns Hopkins University (JHU).

**Other Announcements:**

COS Faculty Chair Dann Sklarew announced that COS will be going paperless for all meetings, notes and minutes. These items will now be only online, in accordance with the green accessibility & collegiality initiative.

**IV. Old Business**

None

**V. New Business**

**A. COS Standing Committees (by committee chair/designee)**

- 1. Executive Council (David Luther) – No Report**
- 2. Nomination & Membership (Ancha Baranova)**
- 3. Promotion & Tenure (R. Chris Jones, *in absentia*)**
- 4. Grievance (Aarthi Narayanan) – No Report**
- 5. Curriculum (Chris Parsons)**

- Dr Chris Jones, Chair of the COS Promotion and Tenure committee, delivered the following report on the progress of the P&T committee 2014/15 (*in absentia*):

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- The COS P&T Committee considered a total of 8 cases in 2014/15.
  - Two of these were new hires that desired tenure. One was for full professor and one was for associate professor.
    - Both were recommended for approval.
  - One was a current GMU Associate Professor requesting promotion to full.
    - This was recommended for approval.
  - The remaining five were Assistant Professors who were up for tenure consideration.
    - Of these four received a positive recommendation for tenure from the committee. One received an evenly split vote and a recommendation could not be made.
  
- The Committee considered 7 cases in 2015/16.
  - Two were promotions from Associate to Full for existing regular faculty members.
    - Both were recommended for promotion by the full committee.
  - Another case was for a professor who had been hired at the full professor level, but without tenure.
    - The committee was unable to make a recommendation on this candidate; there were many abstentions and those voting split evenly.
  - One was conferral of tenure on a professor who had been hired as an Associate, but without tenure.
    - This candidate was recommended for promotion.
  - Finally, there were three Assistant Professors who applied for promotion to Associate and tenure.
    - Two of these were recommended for approval. One received an evenly split vote and so no recommendation was made; early consideration was an issue here.
  
- COS Curriculum Committee: The COS curriculum committee reported that their monthly meetings were well attended and that their agenda was very active.
  
- COS-Faculty resources all voted to acknowledge the contributions of Jen Bazaz-Gettys.

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**B. Other Committees/Faculty Representative Reports:**

None

**C. Nominations from the floor for AY2016-17 COS Officers**

Nominations were opened to the floor for request for a staff member to fulfill the role of COS Faculty Committee Secretary. There were no nominations. Elections were deferred.

**D. Nominations from the floor for at-large committee vacancies s**

Kevin Curtin nominated Qing Tian (CDS) for the Grievance Committee.

A schedule for at large nominations with a closing date of April 29<sup>th</sup> 2016 was proposed, with elections being held around May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**VI. Remarks for the Good of the COS Faculty**

None

**VII. Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned at 1PM.

Minutes recorded by Alonso Aquirre and submitted by Geraldine Grant.