**DRAFT COS Faculty Meeting Minutes 9/10/2025**

**12pm-1pm Exploratory Hall 3301 & MS Teams**

1. Call to Order 12:02pm
2. Introduction of Officers
   1. Yuntao Wu – Chair
   2. Ferah Munshi – Chair Pro Tempore
   3. Lori Mandable – Secretary
3. Dean’s Remarks
   1. COS Budget – budget is forthcoming, so will be covered in the October meeting with the Strategic Plan and the Administrative Assessment
   2. Two Interim Positions in Dean’s Office are moving forward with an email forthcoming. It will be an external search, but internal candidates are encouraged to apply
   3. Dean’s Goals
      1. Increase transparency, which is in line with the Provost’s initiative
      2. Make the website a “go-to” spot for information
      3. Engaging in conversations through establishment of
         1. COS student group (Graduate and Undergraduate)
         2. Staff group
         3. COS Faculty
4. Congratulations to Arie Croitoru, the new Chair of Computational and Data Sciences department
5. Update from Andre Clayborne on the Workload Policy
   1. Dean’s office conducted a review of the policy
   2. Will be working with the Faculty Matters Committee and COS Faculty Governance to adjust based on feedback that has been received and recorded
   3. Timeline is under construction
6. Committee Reports
   1. Faculty Matters will meet on September 15th and will elect a Chairperson
   2. Curriculum Committee will meet on September 29th, and Nathan Burtch is the new Chairperson
7. Communications Report from Tracy Mason
   1. Newsletter and Events emails delivered twice a month
      1. Please share your Science Stories of research opportunities with students
         1. Items will be shared with the Board of Visitors, highlighting our accomplishments
         2. Website is <https://science.gmu.edu/faculty-and-staff-resources>, scroll down to Submit Your Science Stories
      2. Please submit your events for publication at least one week in advance for publication
   2. George Mason Bookstore/shopMason initiative to rethink bookstore’s course materials, digital resources and other services – looking for 15 Faculty to participate in a one hour listening session, snacks provided. Contact Aliya Rinaldi at arinaldi@gmu.edu
   3. Upcoming Events
      1. George Mason Space Day 2025 Saturday, September 10 | 1 to 7 p.m. | Register to attend
      2. Visit with Provost James Antony Monday, September 22 | 4:15 to 5 p.m. | Register to attend
      3. Listening Session on George Mason's Bookstore Materials Wednesday, September 24 | time TBD
      4. Coffee with Cody Monday, October 6 | 2 to 3 p.m. | Exploratory 3301
      5. Java with Jim Thursday, October 9 | 2 p.m. | LSEB 2402, SciTech
      6. College of Science Faculty Meeting at SciTech Wednesday, October 15 | 1 to 2 p.m. | SciTech LSEB 3313 and Virtual
      7. College of Science Dean's Town Hall Thursday, October 23, 2025 | 2 to 3:30 p.m. | Exploratory 3301
      8. College of Science Faculty Meeting at Fairfax Wednesday, November 12 | 1 to 2 p.m. | Exploratory 3301 and Virtual
8. Remarks from Yuntao – Goals as Chair
   1. Building Community across COS
   2. Enhanced integration of teaching with faculty research
   3. Ensuring those who have lost/are losing funding getting bridge assistance
9. Audience Questions and Concerns
   1. Concern about limiting the number of students per class section to better provide quality education
      1. Dean agreed it is an issue
      2. Rebecca Jones stated it is part of the Workload Plan to be implemented
      3. Padhu Seshaiyer also suggested the LA program as helpful win-win solution employing current undergraduate students who have taken the class to help with active learning, recitation, and other class activities
      4. Andre Clayborne suggested having a conversation with the department chair to help get more support
   2. Question regarding the interim STEM Accelerator position
      1. Rebecca Jones stated that the interim faculty position was filled for this academic year
      2. The STEM Accelerator Director position search will reopen
      3. Dean and others thanked Rebecca for all her work as the Interim Director in the past year
   3. Question regarding ways to administer examinations in class
      1. Suggestion to use the Learning Center – requires a reservation, CHEM & MATH have used it in the past
      2. Suggestion to use Honor Lock through Canvas for online exams
      3. Suggestion to use the COS Testing Center <https://science.gmu.edu/ttc>
   4. Concerns about use of AI – University Policies and how to dovetail them with sub-communities in COS
      1. How do we employ AI?
      2. Concrete guidelines on how to use AI?
      3. Attendee suggested Ahmad Taheri publication on leveraging AI for administrative or instructional processes
      4. Question regarding ITS providing training and support for the GMU platform – Tracy Mason suggested a program called Grow with Google through the VA Works arm. It is an asynchronous online certification with about 9 hours of training that is free for GMU faculty and family members. Website is <https://careers.gmu.edu/google-career-certificates>
10. Please email Lori Mandable with items for COS Faculty Meeting Agenda at [lmandabl@gmu.edu](mailto:lmandabl@gmu.edu)
11. Adjournment 12:53pm

**Attendees:**

Patrali Banerjee

Ernie Barreto

Emily Bartholomew

Gabrielle Belle

Jessica Callus

Andre Clayborne

Michael David Coleson

Karen Crossin

Liping Di

Paul Dirmeyer

Cody W. Edwards

Maria Emelianenko

Megan Erb

Alireza Ermagun

Suzanne Gantar

Geraldine Grant

Bill Hahn

Dan Hanley

Kerin Hilker-Balkissoon

Rosa Isela Gallagher

Saleet Jafri

Rebecca Jones

Sarah Karimi

Dmitri Klimov

Jason Kinser

Kelly Knight

Tim Leslie

Stephanie Lessard-Pilon

Chris Lockhart

Alessandra Luchini

Lori Mandable

Tracy Mason

Alexandra Masterson

Ferah Munshi

Aarthi Narayanan

Andrea Nikoi

Mikell Paige

Sheila Nicewarmer Pena

Esther C. Peters

Matt Rice

Jessica Roman

Jessica Rosenberg

Christine Rosenfeld

Christine Sausville

Padhu Seshaiyer

Cynthia B. Smith

Paul So

Megan St. George

Fadi Tahan

Ahmad Taheri

Xiaoyan Tan

Samir Tiwari

Aman Ullah

Iosif Vaisman

Benoit Van Aken

Monique Von Hoek

Patrick Vora

Ningchao Wang

Sarah A. Ward

Andrea Weeks

Georgia Williams

Yuntao Wu

Chi Yang