

COS Faculty Meeting Minutes

9/12/2024

2-3pm Exp 3301 and via zoom

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:02 PM.

2. Announcements:

2.1 Accolades:

- 2.1.1 Faculty Hires: Approximately 20 faculty members have been hired.
- 2.1.2 Promotions: Around 10 faculty members received promotions.
- 2.1.3 Reappointments, Promotions, and Tenure (RPT): At least 48 faculty members are undergoing the RPT process this year.

2.2 New Faculty Roles and Leadership for the Academic Year:

- 2.2.1 Several new individuals in leadership posts for the coming academic year across the college, from deans to chairs.
- 2.2.2 Faculty Matters Committee: Faculty should plan to meet in the next two weeks. If no meetings are scheduled, Faculty Leadership will convene a committee.

2.3 Events of note:

- 2.3.1 University Town Hall with President Washington on the Faculty and Staff Experience. Date: *September 18, 3:00–4:00 PM*
- 2.3.2 Space Day. Date: *September 28, 3:00–9:00 PM*, Dewberry Hall
- 2.3.3 Meet the New Provost Listening Tour: Date: *October 10, 1:30–4:00 PM*

2.4 New University Policies:

- 2.4.1 Academic Standards: A new honor code has been introduced. Training on the new code will be deployed within a month and will be mandatory by January. Clear sanctions have been outlined in the updated code.
- 2.4.2 Required Syllabus Structure/Addendum: Faculty are required to distribute the updated syllabus structure/addendum on the first day of class.

2.5 From the Floor:

2.5.1 Rebecca Jones

- 2.5.1.1 The Learning Environments Group assembled a video about active learning at George Mason University, featuring multiple College of Science (COS) faculty members, has been produced. The video can be viewed here: <https://vimeo.com/904191428>
- 2.5.1.2 For more information on integrating active learning strategies into classes, visit: stearnscenter.gmu.edu/knowledge-center/student-engagement-classroom-managment/active-learning/ or connect with STEM Accelerator (<https://science.gmu.edu/stem-accelerator>)

3. COS Leadership Focus for the Coming Year

- 3.1 Workload: Taking concrete steps to move towards a standard 2-1 teaching load for tenure stream/tenured faculty that are research active
- 3.2 Evaluation: New faculty assessment procedures were implemented last year. COS leadership will collaborate with Deans to evaluate the effectiveness of these changes.
- 3.3 Dean's Hire: A committee for the Dean's hiring process has been assembled by the Provost. An official announcement will be made in the coming week. The committee's first meeting is scheduled for the week of September 16.
- 3.4 Communication to Faculty: Leadership aims to minimize the number of emails while ensuring faculty receive all necessary information. More concise communication methods are being explored.

4. Deans' Remarks

4.1 Cody Edwards (Interim Dean, 2023-2024)

- 4.1.1 Commitment to transparent processes within the Dean's Office, particularly regarding budgeting. Future meetings will discuss this year's budget in detail. A budget town hall (including faculty, students, and staff) will also be held.
- 4.1.2 COS enrollment is higher compared to other colleges, reflecting positive growth.
- 4.1.3 Will be seeking a replacement for Mary Crowe of the STEM Accelerator, hoping to launch search in October. Rebecca Jones will lead Stem Accelerator in interim.

4.2 Jason Kinser (Associate Dean for Academic Affairs)

- 4.2.1 Open-door policy for faculty support and engagement.
- 4.2.2 The Continuity Working Group (a Provost-level initiative) notes will now be made available on the intranet. Strategic plans and goals will be implemented, with some initiatives beginning immediately.
- 4.2.3 Three working groups are being formed for academic year-long positions:
 - 4.2.3.1 Emerging Pedagogies
 - 4.2.3.2 merging Sciences (future-focused degrees)
 - 4.2.3.3 AI in the Classroom (guidance for instructors and practical use)

4.3 Andre Clayborne (Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs)

- 4.3.1 Open-door policy to support faculty development.
- 4.3.2 Promises further communications to ensure faculty have the resources needed to excel in their roles, invites engagement

4.4 Tracy Mason (Assistant Dean for Communications)

- 4.4.1 Faculty are encouraged to use the intranet (science.gmu.edu/intranet) as the central repository for information. The intranet will be further developed to improve usability.
- 4.4.2 If you are not receiving faculty emails, please contact Tracy Mason. If you opted out of email communication, you must email Tracy to be added back to the list.
- 4.4.3 Two emails per month will be sent regarding events:
 - 4.4.3.1 End-of-month email will cover events for the following month.

- 4.4.3.2 Mid-month email will include any added or updated events.
- 4.4.4 Faculty can submit event information to: cosnews@gmu.edu.

5. New Business

5.1 Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs): A question was raised regarding whether Planetary Sciences has an AED. Additionally, it was suggested that AEDs should be accompanied by “Stop the Bleed” kits.

5.2 A discussion about the potential value of creating a centralized teaching resource page on the intranet concluded with general agreement that this would be useful. Volunteers to help develop this page will be sought.

6. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 2:41 PM.

Attendees:

Chi Yang
Peter Plavchan
Jessica Rosenberg
Pritha Roy
Mikell Paige
Harbir Lamba
Andrea Weeks
Sheila Pena
William Lamberti
Ferah Munshi
Alexandra Masterson
Rebecca Jones
Zafer Boyebi
Lori Mandable
KL Akerlof
Tracy Mason
Valerie Olmo
Kerin Hilker-Balkisson
Aarthi Narayanan
Lee Solomon
Geraldine Grant
Anamaria Berea
Ningchao Wang
Amanda Haymond Still
Megan Erb
Patrali Banerjee
Matt Holzer
Xioayan Tan
Sarah Ward
Tim Leslie

Hamdi Kavak
Christopher Lockhart
Daniel Hanley
Christine Rosenfeld
Greta Ann