

FINAL REPORT TO THE FACULTY SENATE OF THE RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE AY20-21

April 18, 2021

The Faculty Senate Recreation Advisory Committee (Esther Peters, Robert Pasnak, and Joel Martin) supported the Mason Recreation Advisory Board, by attending the meetings held during the academic year on these dates: September 29, November 4, December 3, February 1, March 19, and May 6. The committee was established to provide a voice for faculty on recreational activities at GMU and speak on behalf of faculty on issues brought up in the meetings, such as how to teach fitness or recreational courses or advise students who want to start sport clubs and how access can be maintained to help keep the university community healthy.

At the meetings, the Recreation Advisory Board shared staffing updates and membership survey results; presented and discussed issues related to reopening of the Recreation and Athletic Complex (RAC) and Aquatic and Fitness Center (AFC) after COVID-19 closures and limitations in facilities, users, and types of activities permitted by CDC and GMU health concerns; requested marketing ideas to attract new members from faculty and the community; and provided information to the Board to help them contribute ideas and support Mason Recreation. Questions about operations and opportunities were forwarded to the appropriate staff and answers were provided to the Board. During this year, the Board discussed how recreational swimming patrons could access locker rooms during the winter (began November 16), whether modified team sports and tournaments could be added (masks required, smaller groups), kinds of fitness classes that might be conducted outside versus inside versus virtually, how to better inform the Mason community of recreation opportunities for programs and hiring (develop a list of department liaisons to reach students, staff, and faculty through department listservs to increase participation), staffing challenges, and voted for the Mason Recreation Employee of the Year. The committee also investigated access to AFC pools for training research SCUBA divers, primarily students studying coral reef ecology in the Environmental Science and Policy and Biology departments. With increased research opportunities, our GMU AAUS (American Association of Underwater Scientists) chapter would like to expand our training opportunities using campus facilities; however, COVID-19 led to extensive restrictions for the 2020–2021 academic year.

Our committee has no recommendations or action items that need to be addressed by the Faculty Senate at this time.

Appendix 1

Our responses to the questions posed by the Faculty Senate to evaluate the effectiveness of interactions of GMU administrators with the Recreation Advisory Committee are as follows:

1. During the past calendar year has the President, Provost, or Senior Vice President (or their respective offices) announced initiatives or goals or acted upon issues that fall under the charge of your Committee?

No

2. Did your Committee seek information or input from the President, Provost, or Senior Vice President or members of their staffs?

No

3. Please suggest how you believe the President, Provost, Senior Vice President and/or their staffs might more effectively interact with your Committee in the future, if necessary.

We have no suggestions.

4. Please relate any additional information you may have regarding interactions between your Committee and the President, Provost, Senior Vice President, or their staff.

We have no additional information.