



FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

Thursday, January 30, 2014 - Taylor 306

In attendance: McGraw (Speaker); Accounting: Louwers; Art & Art History: Welter; Biology: Rife; Comm. Sci. & Disorders: DePaolis; Comm. Studies: Nelson; Comp Info Sys & Bus Analyt: Wang; Early ELED & Reading: Kindig; Economics: Grant; Engineering: Harper; English: Hefner; Exceptional Ed.: Blatz; Fin. & Bus. Law: Hamilton; Foreign Languages: O'Donnell; Geology: Ulanski; Grad Psych: Cowan; Health Sciences: Burnett; History: Davidson; Hosp., Sports & Rec MGT: Shonk; IDLS: Walker; ISAT: Benton; Justice Studies: Parsons; Kinesiology: Nye; Learning, Tech & Leadership Ed.: Estes; Lib & Ed Tech: Mungin; Marketing: Larsen; Media Arts & Design: Leidholdt; Mid, Second & Math: Carbaugh; Military Science: Ware; Music: Gibson; Nursing: Knopp; Philosophy & Religion: Piper; Physics: Giovanetti; Psychology: DuVall; Sociology/Anthropology: Bryson; Theater & Dance: Sherrill; Writing Rhetoric & Tech Comm: Lunsford; Part-time Faculty Rep: Harlacker; Student/SGA: Humphries; **Guests** – Provost: Benson; Vice-Provost: Gonzalez; Vice-Provost Practicum: Privott; Breeze: Chan

I. Call to order: 3:33p

II. Approval of December's minutes – Approved

III. Provost's Report

- BOV Update:
 - o Passing the strategic plan; culmination of 18 months worth of work to map out where JMU is going between 2014-2020; university faculty, staff, and community members were involved – very collaborative approach.
 - Vision – JMU will be the national model for the engaged university; core values and goals to guide our initiatives and efforts; now divisions, colleges, academic units will develop objectives that relate to the vision, core values and goals, and align efforts to meet the vision.
 - o Education and Student Life Committee –
 - JLARC (Academic spending and workload) – <http://jlarc.virginia.gov/reports/Rpt450.pdf> – less than 2% increase per year in instructional costs over the 2005 – 2010 time period; not due to faculty salary, but due to increase in instructors to meet student growth.
 - The Committee noted that the values in the McGraw resolution and the elements for study in the Lubert resolution are consistent with the committee's values and what the Board would take into consideration for any decision.
 - Benefits for same-sex partners – no action taken, but JMU Administration is monitoring the progress on this matter very closely; recognized legal aspects in the state of Virginia. Nevertheless, JMU remains in alignment with its Core Values, including inclusiveness, diversity, community, excellence, and student focus.
 - o Summer tuition will remain the same as it was last year.
 - Summer School Task Force – Enhance summer activity; one step is keeping the tuition the same as it was last year.
 - o Task Force on defining “engagement” as used in the vision statement – Task is to define engagement in a more meaningful way, particularly engaged in ideas and examining high-impact learning activities, such as study abroad, internships, undergraduate

student research/creative projects, interdisciplinary activities; engaged with the world – branching beyond local community to include global community; civic engagement in terms of our relationship with James Madison and enlightened citizens – roles and responsibilities of the engaged citizen. The task force will convene again around February 14; empaneled by University Planning (part of the Strategic Plan).

IV. Speaker's Report

- McGraw reported to the BOV on the two athletics resolutions and same-sex partnership benefits at the January 17 BOV meeting.
- McGraw has had further discussion with President Alger – has open ear and really believes in the same-sex partnership benefits.
- McGraw joined other members of the Faculty Senate of Virginia for a day of lobbying in Richmond on January 9 along with Josh Humphries (Student Senate representative). Key initiatives were:
 - o Stressing that the JLARC Report shows that the rising cost of higher education is not due to faculty salaries, and that the legislature should protect the resource that we already have in the faculty.
 - o Tuition waivers for faculty dependents (Senate Bill 633) – Passed unanimously today in the Committee [Note: the bill has since been passed by the full Senate]. Last year, it passed the Senate, but failed the House. (See attachment for full text)
 - o Commission on Higher Education of Board Appointments – Attempt to do a better job to help in the selection of faculty to serve on Boards of Visitors; seeking a non-voting faculty member to serve; House Bill 1109.
- Engagement at the University – The University's new Vision statement is "To be the national model for the engaged university: engaged with ideas and the world." The President is very interested in the notion of "engaged with ideas" and deep learning (i.e., students are engaged more in the material via smaller seminar courses with discussions; more writing-intensive courses).
- Ford Award and Cahill-Goodman Faculty Award Committee
 - o Nominee from each of the Colleges and University Studies.
 - o Nominations are under five pages – about 12 or so.
 - o Info available electronically.
 - o One meeting.
 - o Complete by March 1
 - o 1 for Ford and 2 for Cahill-Goodman Awards.
 - o Volunteer is Sharon Blatz from Exceptional Education

V. Committee Reports

- *Treasurer's Report*
 - o \$5,470.87; funds received (12/5 Meeting plus interest) - \$256.09; no funds expended since last Senate meeting.
 - o Computer Lottery has happened and winners have been selected.
- *Faculty Concerns* – No report.
- *Academic Policies* – Met last week in Cleveland 101 – Online course evaluation, reading periods, transfer credit, and short-term leave for military students.
- *Student Relations* – No report.
- *Faculty Appeals* – No report.
- *Budget* – No report.
- *Nominations and Elections* – No report.
- Other Committees
 - o *Gen Ed Committee* (Johnathan Walker) – Wants to bring to the Senate the issue of dropping the 'G' for gen ed courses (e.g., to eliminate questions from graduate programs; remove the idea on behalf of students that gen ed courses are easier).

Provide any negative feedback or questions to the committee. Earliest this would happen is Fall 2015; lots of info has to get out there prior to the change to avoid surprises.

- Straw poll vote – majority vote; no formal motion at this time.
- Committee on Academic Programs – Introduced during October/November meeting; inclined to go along with recommendation, but the timeline may need to be extended.
- Student Government Association’s concern is will the ‘G’ be retroactively removed.
- Individual departments can contact Johnathan directly with concerns.

VI. Old Business

- Val Larsen (see attached) – Blue system has created a problem of low response rates; developing solutions, but requires a lot more prompting on behalf of faculty; do not have to use class time, but response rate is very low.
 - Leave this to the discretion of individual Senators’ departments.

VII. New Business

- Mark Piper’s Resolution (see attached)
 - Trajectory for spring – Increase the ties of communication with President Alger – invite President Alger to more meetings, providing we have an agenda.
 - President Alger is planning to attend February’s meeting, as voted.
 - Motion to suspend the rules – unanimous vote.
 - Merits of motion/invitation:
 - Previous University Presidents did not regularly attend Senate meetings.
 - Motion is carried – majority vote – invitation for President Alger to attend the next Senate meeting.
 - *Possible topics to discuss with President Alger:*
 1. General introduction to his role/involvement in academics
 2. Attracting and retaining quality faculty
 - Faculty salaries (despite recent raise)
 - Focus on budget/monies within our control
 - Adjunct faculty salaries, compliance with ACA
 - Tuition waivers – internal funding & alternatives for those without children/older children (fairness)
 - Compensation Task Force → Compensation Advisory Council – issues of salary
 - What can we do to assist you with this issue?
 - Benefits for domestic partners
 - JMU’s academic identity
 - New vision statement/engagement – Positioning of JMU – What kind of University does he see us being?
 - FBS – status of academics
 - Endowment Report – focus on fundraising/lack of success in past.
 - What can the Faculty Senate do for you regarding promoting the engaged university?
 - Different venue – Madison Room in Taylor?
 - David to see if President Alger is open to a Q & A.
 - Lunch with President Alger on February 14 – see David’s recent email.

VIII. Meeting adjourned – 4:59p

1 **SENATE BILL NO.**

2 Offered

3 Prefiled

4
5 *A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered [23-7.4:6](#), relating to*
6 *a partial tuition waiver for dependent children of university and college faculty.*

7 -----
8 Patron--

9 -----
10 Referred to Committee on Education and Health

11 -----
12 Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

13 1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered [23-7.4:6](#) as
14 follows:

15 § [23-7.4:6](#). *Partial tuition waiver for dependent children of university and college*
16 *faculty.*

17 *A. There is hereby created the Dependent Children of University and College Faculty*
18 *Reduced Tuition Program, to be administered by the State Council of Higher Education*
19 *for Virginia. Under this program, dependent children of current full-time faculty*
20 *members who have been employed full-time by any one or more public Virginia colleges*
21 *or universities for an aggregate period of at least seven years shall receive a 50% tuition*
22 *waiver. The tuition waivers shall be used for undergraduate education at any public*
23 *institution of higher education in Virginia. The State Council of Higher Education for*
24 *Virginia shall promulgate regulations for the implementation of the provisions of this*
25 *section and the disbursement of funds consistent therewith and appropriate to the*
26 *administration of the program.*

27 *B. To be eligible for the partial tuition waiver under this program, the dependent child*
28 *must be under the age of 21 at the commencement of the academic year during which the*
29 *initial tuition waiver is to be effective and either have been admitted to a public Virginia*
30 *university or college under the same admissions requirements, standards, and policies*
31 *applicable to other applicants of the same college or university or be a current student in*
32 *good standing at a public Virginia university or college.*

33 *C. An eligible applicant who has continued to maintain satisfactory academic progress*
34 *toward graduation may have his partial tuition waiver renewed until (i) he has*
35 *accumulated a maximum of 120 academic credit hours or (ii) he reaches his 25th*
36 *birthday, whichever occurs first.*

37 *D. No partial tuition waiver allocated under this program shall be charged against any*
38 *other tuition waiver limitation established by the Commonwealth of Virginia.*

39 *E. This partial tuition waiver shall not apply to students enrolled under the academic*
40 *common market agreement.*

41 *F. From such funds as may be appropriated for this purpose and from such gifts, grants,*
42 *donations, bequests, and other funds as may be received on its behalf, there is hereby*
43 *created in the state treasury a special non-reverting fund to be known as the Dependent*
44 *Children of University and College Faculty Reduced Tuition Fund, hereafter referred to*
45 *as "the Fund." The Fund shall be established on the books of the Comptroller. Interest*
46 *earned on moneys in the Fund shall remain in the Fund and be credited to it. Any moneys*
47 *remaining in the Fund, including interest thereon, at the end of each fiscal year shall not*
48 *revert to the general fund but shall remain in the Fund. Funds may be paid to any public*
49 *Virginia college or university on behalf of students who have been awarded tuition*
50 *waivers under this section. Expenditures and disbursements from the Fund shall be made*
51 *by the State Treasurer on warrants issued by the Comptroller upon written request*
52 *signed by the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia.*

53 *That the provisions of this act shall not become effective unless an appropriation of general*
54 *50 funds effectuating the purposes of this act is included in a general appropriation act passed by*
55 *the 51 2013 Session of the General Assembly, which becomes law.*

RE: Important Information, Fall 2013 Course Evaluations

Office of the Registrar <blue@jmu.edu>
Reply-To: Office of the Registrar <blue@jmu.edu>
To: [REDACTED]

Mon, Nov 25, 2013 at 11:51 AM

Dear Instructors:

Invitations to complete Fall 2013 course evaluations were sent to your students Friday. The email came from the Office of the Registrar. Students can only access the evaluation system via the link in the email invitation. Your students have two weeks to complete evaluations by the deadline – **midnight, Friday, December 6**. Please remind your students to fill out and submit evaluations in a timely manner.

Things you can do to improve response rates:

Do it in class – Even if you are not in a classroom with computers, the Blue Response system JMU uses is fully accessible from mobile devices like smartphones, tablets and laptops.

Explain why it is important—important to *you* and important to *them*. Even though they may hear this from multiple professors, it is important for you to make a personal appeal to students to complete the evaluations.

Communicate via multiple modes – Announce it in class. Send an email. Hand out a piece of paper with instructions and a brief explanation of why it's important. Through Canvas, you may even be able to send notifications directly to their cell phones if they have signed up to receive texts.

Remind them – Make multiple announcements. Send multiple emails. You may change your style and tone in the reminders. Try funny.

Use group incentives – To make this a truly course-wide effort, offer an incentive if 80% of the class completes the evaluation by a certain date. It only takes a very small incentive to get students to cooperate, say, a few points added to the final exam score. Send out regular emails to report on the percentage of the class that has responded. (Hint: If you announce the class is at 75% when the goal is 80%, it will really get a lot of people to dive in to get the class over the hump.)

Thank you.

Please respond to this e-mail address only if you have questions pertaining to the Blue Course Evaluation System. All other inquiries, such as grading, should be directed to registrar@jmu.edu.

**Resolution regarding agenda for today's Senate meeting (1/30) and the next
Senate meeting (2/27) – Mark Piper**

Whereas more direct communication with President Alger would be beneficial for the Faculty Senate, the faculty, and the administration, be it resolved (1) that the Faculty Senate will invite President Alger to attend the Faculty Senate meeting on 2/27 (or the earliest next meeting he is available), and (2) that the Faculty Senate will devote the remainder of today's Senate meeting discussing a short list of focal items (perhaps, say, no more than 4) that we wish to discuss with the President if he accepts our invitation.