



FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

Thursday, September 4, 2014 - Taylor 306

In attendance: McGraw (Speaker); Accounting: Hayes (proxy); Art, Design & Art History: Welter; Biology: Rife; Chemistry: Wright; Comm. Sci. & Disorders: DePaolis; Comm. Studies: Nelson; Early ELED & Reading: McCartney; Engineering: Harper; English: Rankin; Exceptional Ed.: Rodriguez; Finance & Business Law: Parker; Foreign Languages: O'Donnell; Health Sciences: Burnett; History: Borg (alt.); Hosp., Sports & Rec MGT: Shonk; IDLS: Walker; ISAT: Benton; Justice Studies: Parsons; Kinesiology: Sackett (alt.); Learning, Tech & Leadership Ed.: Griffin; Lib & Ed Tech: Mungin; Management: Stark; Mathematics & Statistics: Lubert; Media Arts & Design: Leidholdt; Mid Second & Math: Carbaugh; Music: Dabback; Nursing: Knopp; Philosophy & Religion: Piper; Physics: Giovanetti; Political Science: Lubert; Psychology: DuVall; Sociology/Anthropology: Polanco; Theater & Dance: Sherrill; Writing Rhetoric & Tech Comm: McDonnell; Part-time Faculty Rep: Harlacker; Student/SGA Rep: Guendert; **Guests** – Provost: Benson; Vice-Provost: Gonzalez; ACE Fellow: Nicolle Parsons-Pollard; William Mason.

I. Call to Order – 3:32 p.m.

II. Approval of April's Minutes – Approved.

III. Provost's Report

1. Status of the budget process. JMU has been notified by the state that we will have a 5% reversion this year (\$3.7 million), 7% next year (\$5.7 million), of the money we receive from the state. Federal aid money received via the state is not impacted. The governor expects that there will be no mid-year tuition increases to offset this year's reversion. JMU is working on a plan to deal with these reversions, which will go to the BOV on September 26. Provost Benson emphasized that financial aid is off the table for cuts, and that the administration plans to protect the direct instructional process; the budget line for full time faculty is off the table, and educational leaves for this year will not be cut (a decision has not yet been made on next year's leaves). There isn't a hiring freeze – positions that have already been created are not being cut – and there will also be no cuts to the amounts departments are given for their part-time faculty budgets.
2. JMU is hosting American Council on Education Fellow Dr. Nicolle Parsons-Pollard, who will be working closely with the Provost and President.

IV. Speaker's Report

1. Welcome and Introductions. The Speaker introduced the Steering Committee and discussed the duties of Senators: (a) Communication with constituents. (b) Committee assignments. (c) Collection of dues, which are \$2 per full-time faculty member. The monies collected are used almost entirely for memorial contributions in honor of faculty and family members, which Senators should make sure their constituents are aware exist. (d) Electing a successor.
2. Compensation. Speaker McGraw noted this as the top issue faculty have raised in recent years, and mentioned his commitment to advocating for salary increases without relying on state support alone.

3. Great colleges to work for: JMU was acknowledged in the CHE's "Great Colleges to Work For" report in one category (see attachment), but did not make the honor roll. Speaker McGraw suggested the Senate could consider investigating what differentiates JMU from the institutions recognized on the honor roll, and look for ways we might improve, using the report's framework as a way to initiate conversations.
4. Transparency & policy process: The Senate had previously asked for a representative on the University Policies (UP) committee, so that faculty would know what changes were being considered and have a voice in the process. The Senate won't have a representative, but a process has been put in place to enable faculty input: the Speaker will receive notice of new policies being posted, and the UP committee will accept comments for two weeks. The Speaker and Steering Committee will filter proposed changes for relevance to faculty, and send them to an opt-in list of Senators in order to provide feedback on policy changes. The Speaker also briefly discussed the functioning of the Faculty Handbook Committee, and asked for input on possible ways to deal with the fact that the 14-day turn-around time for comments on proposed Handbook changes doesn't work well in terms of the speed at which the Faculty Senate operates.
5. Communications w/ President: Last year's small-group meetings with President Alger will continue. Dates and times: Weds., October 15, 12:15-2:00; Tues., December 2, 11:15-1:00; Fri., January 30, 12:15-2:00; and Thurs., March 26, 11:15-1:00.
6. JMU Vision: Engagement: Senators were asked for suggestions regarding how faculty can advance JMU's vision statement. Mark Piper provided a brief overview of the Vision Grant Task Force, which will be presenting its recommendations during the October meeting.
7. Rigor: Senators were encouraged to consider ways the Senate might keep the subject of academic rigor on the radar. Senator Benton noted that the Madison Institute on Academic Culture recommended using the term "appropriate challenge" in place of rigor.
8. Bylaws amendments: Several have been proposed, to bring the bylaws into conformance with current practice (see attachment): (a) Budget Committee to become Budget and Compensation Committee (will slightly change the scope of this committee's brief). (b) Eliminate "alternate" Senator position (as most departments don't elect one). (c) Eliminate the replacement Senator to back up the Speaker Pro Tempore (d) Create a procedure for free-form discussion at the end of Senate meetings. (e) A two-track system for motions – motions may be submitted in advance, in writing, as always, but now emergency motions may be considered at the Speaker's discretion. (f) Officers' terms begin the day after Commencement, not the day of the election.

V. Treasurer's Report

- Balance as on agenda. \$580 more than last year; 2 more expenses; don't forget the dues!

VI. Committee Reports

- A. Faculty Concerns – No report.
- B. Academic Policies – No report.

- C. Student Relations – 3 meetings scheduled; have a few items to take up.
- D. Faculty Appeals – One ongoing case.
- E. Budget – No report.
- F. Nominations and Elections – Bring your “nametag” signs to future meetings. Any changes to external committee reps need to be made as soon as possible. Important vacancies: the CAP may need one representative (meets one Wednesday per month at 3:30 if needed); Dingleline Steering Committee needs two representatives (brief but concentrated work, around finals week); Media Board needs a representative (meets one Thursday per month, late afternoon).
- G. Other Committees – No reports.

VII. Old Business – None.

VIII. New Business - First reading of the motion regarding the proposed changes to the bylaws.

IX. Adjournment – 5:01 p.m.