



FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

Thursday, October 2, 2014 - Taylor 306

In attendance: McGraw (Speaker); Accounting: Louwers; Art, Design & Art History: Welter; Biology: Rife; Chemistry: Wright; Comm. Sci. & Disorders: DePaolis; Comm. Studies: Nelson; Computer Information Sys: Wang; Computer Science: Heydari; Early ELED & Reading: McCartney; Economics: Grant; Engineering: Harper; English: Rankin; Exceptional Ed.: Desportes; Foreign Languages: O'Donnell; Geology & Env. Sci: Whitmeyer; 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; Marketing: Larsen; Mathematics & Statistics: Lubert; Media Arts & Design: Leidholdt; Military Science: Fleck; Music: Dabback; Nursing: Knopp; Philosophy & Religion: Piper; Physics: Giovanetti; Political Science: Lubert; Psychology: DuVall; Social Work: Bryson; Sociology/Anthropology: Polanco; Theater & Dance: Sherrill; Writing Rhetoric & Tech Comm: Moghtader (alt.); Part-time Faculty Rep: Harlacker; Student/SGA Rep: Guendert; **Guests** – Vice-Provost: Gonzalez; ACE Fellow: Nicolle Parsons-Pollard; Reporter: William Mason.

I. Call to Order – 3:32 p.m.

II. Approval of September's Minutes – Approved

III. Speaker's Report

1. Recent salary announcement. Speaker McGraw expressed appreciation for the announced 2% salary increase. He noted that it's still an open question as to whether this will be a merit increase or an across-the-board increase; this will of course have to be decided before the first paycheck affected in November.
2. Observations from Board of Visitors meeting. The BoV's new members expressed interest in learning faculty viewpoints and concerns.
3. Lunches with President Alger. Senators can pass on their seat at the lunches with the President, so long as space is available and all Senators have had a chance to sign up. There will likely be open slots at the first lunch; officially it will open up next Wednesday to non-Senators.
4. University Policy Process Clarification. The goal was to obtain more transparency and policy input into the policy making process, which was realized – the Senate now receives notice of proposed policy changes, the opportunity to propose policies ourselves, and a forum for objecting to proposed policies. An e-mail message to faculty covering these points will be forthcoming.
5. Handbook Committee. Any changes faculty might wish to propose should be submitted directly to the handbook committee, given time constraints. Committee member Caroline Lubert noted that the change from last year regarding covering classes in case of absence has been resurrected, and will continue to update the Senate on its progress.
6. Meeting of Faculty Senate of Virginia. McGraw, now the president of that body, will be attending; he asked for input on things it might put forward to the legislature. The main proposal of the past few years, which will continue to be pursued this year, has been for partial tuition waivers for dependents of faculty members to be

used at any Virginia state institution; the most recent version of the proposal would allow individual universities to offer waivers even without state funding attached. There was a suggestion that the FSoVA might produce a report card regarding the positions of legislators on education-related issues.

7. AAUP Chapter: Senators were reminded/made aware of its existence. Senate (or at least Speaker) is supportive of other voices being heard (i.e., other faculty groups).
8. Best Colleges to Work For: Sent on to Faculty Concerns Committee for further discussion.

IV. Treasurer's Report

- \$5,190.99 balance; two donations have been made since last report. There is money for the computer lottery, so that process will be getting underway soon. Reminder to Senators to collect dues from their department - \$2 per full-time faculty member.

V. Committee Reports

- A. Faculty Concerns – Meeting in the next couple of weeks to discuss the Best Colleges to Work For.
- B. Academic Policies – Will be doing a study on what it would take for JMU to offer courses for less than one credit hour. The committee also collected feedback on the proposed Spring Final Exam schedule; see attachment for summary. They will also be reviewing language from the Registrar regarding the assignment of Latin honors. Finally, the committee will be looking into how the bookstore fulfills textbook adoptions: the bookstore automatically orders the newest edition, and defaults to the e-book edition if available (in light of research, these are inferior for student learning). We want to be certain that the bookstore follows what faculty request. Meeting on second Thursday of month same time as senate meeting.
- C. Student Relations – Working with student government on textbook costs, as well as the proposal from the Vision Grant Task Force for the Madison Vision Card. Finally, the committee is working with Disability Services. In light of the fact that more students with disabilities are coming to JMU, the director of Disability Services wants to work more with the Senate to get information out to faculty about policies. The specific example that has come up this semester: animals. Service animals are allowed under ADA; comfort animals are also allowed, but there has been confusion about whether they are restricted to dorms or allowed classrooms also. Therapy animals are also allowed. Guidance should be coming soon. Each college has a liaison with Disability Services that will help disseminate information. Oct 16th is the committee's next meeting.
- D. Faculty Appeals – One ongoing case.
- E. Budget – Waiting on bylaws change for scope of committee.
- F. Nominations and Elections – No official report; if you don't have a name sign, let Mark Piper know.
- G. Other Committee Reports – GenEd committee reports that the "G-ectomy" is underway, and will be in place by Fall 2015. (This refers to the removal of the leading "G" from GenEd class numbers.)

VII. Old Business

1. Bylaws changes, which had its first reading at the September meeting. Changes adopted.

VIII. New Business

1. Motion to provide faculty/staff showers (Mark Rankin, English). See attachment. Friendly amendment – get input from people whose buildings the showers might go into.
2. Morgan Benton – Motion (see attachment) on the question of whether the pay increase be allocated by merit or across the board, the faculty senate endorses an across the board increase.

3. Motion to suspend the rules to allow discussion of the ad hoc motion Morgan just made. Compensation Advisory Council meets next Tuesday, so an exigent circumstance. Vote: 29 in favor, 4 against, motion carries. Research suggests merit rewards don't do what they're intended to do.
4. Vote on the pay increase motion. 29 in favor, 10 abstentions, 0 against. Motion passes.

IX. Vision Grant Task Force Report. Up to \$10k, give or take, for faculty initiatives related to engagement of any of the three kinds. Can be renewed in coming years. The task force presented a summary (see attachment) of its work and the ideas it found most promising; asked Senators for additional ideas and input. A motion to establish one of the task force's supported initiatives, the Madison Vision Teaching Award (Mark Rankin, English) received a first reading.

X. Adjournment – 5:07p