



FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

Thursday, November 6, 2014 - Taylor 306

In attendance: McGraw (Speaker); Biology: Rife; Chemistry: Wright; Comm. Sci. & Disorders: DePaolis; Comm. Studies: Nelson; Computer Information Sys: Wang; Early ELED & Reading: McCartney; Engineering: Harper; English: Rankin; Exceptional Ed.: Desportes; Finance & Bus. Law: Parker; Foreign Languages: O'Donnell; Geology & Env. Sci: Whitmeyer; Health Sciences: Burnett; Hosp., Sports & Rec MGT: Shonk; ISAT: Benton; Justice Studies: Parsons; Kinesiology: Sackett (alt.); Learning, Tech & Leadership Ed.: Griffin; Lib & Ed Tech: Mungin; Management: Stark; Marketing: Larsen; Media Arts & Design: Leidholdt; Middle, Secondary, & Math: Kindig (alt.); Military Science: Fleck; Music: Dabback; Philosophy & Religion: Piper; Physics: Giovanetti; Political Science: Lubert; Psychology: DuVall; Social Work: Bryson; Sociology/Anthropology: Polanco; Theater & Dance: Sherrill; Writing Rhetoric & Tech Comm: McDonnell; Part-time Faculty Rep: Harlacker; **Guests** – Vice-Provost: Gonzalez; Reporter: William Mason.

I. Call to Order – 3:32 p.m.

II. Speaker's Report

1. Clarification on recent Breeze article. Speaker McGraw clarified that the recent article in the Breeze could be read to imply that the Senate had approved the Madison Vision Teaching Excellence Award proposal was a misinterpretation; the motion had only had its first reading as of the article date.
2. University Policy Process. Reminder: Senators and other faculty can opt-in to receive e-mail notice of proposed changes to University policies relevant to faculty members. There are currently revisions to three policies that may be of interest (emeritus staff, animals on campus, and telecommuting).
3. Lunches with President Alger. As per last week's e-mail, one of the previously scheduled lunches with President Alger has been re-scheduled for January 28. There is still space available for the December 2 lunch (11:15-1:00); Senators are asked to sign up for that lunch (via e-mail to Louise White) ASAP, so that any remaining spots can be made available to non-Senators.
4. JLARC Report. The third of four JLARC reports, dealing with higher education administration, has just been released. Overall, the report is favorable to JMU in terms of administrative costs among Virginia state universities.
5. University Advancement office issue. A number of faculty members have raised concerns regarding the policy, which went into effect this past summer, whereby the University Advancement office receives 7% of all donations to the University; the purpose of this practice is to allow Advancement to self-fund (i.e., by keeping a portion of the funds it helps raise) new staff positions and programs (it is at present unclear whether the goal is for the Advancement office to eventually become completely self-supporting). Concerns raised include lack of advance notice and transparency; that this may be an unprecedented approach; and that 7% is arguably too large an amount, especially in the context of bequests. On the other hand, Speaker McGraw pointed out that an argument could be made that (1) this change might make the Advancement Division more successful, which would be good for all

of us, and (2) the Senate should mostly stick to issues within the scope of our shared governance role (which follows the AAUP's guidelines for faculty governance: that faculty be involved on issues of curriculum, research, faculty status, and aspects of student life related to academic processes). The question was put to Senators in a non-binding straw poll vote as to how the Senate should proceed. After discussion, including debate over whether to invite Nick Langridge (Vice President for University Advancement) to discuss the issue at the December Senate meeting, it was decided to send the issue to the Budget and Compensation Committee.

III. Treasurer's Report

- \$5,590.99 balance; two donations have been made since last report, and four memorial expenditures are pending. The computer lottery is slated to begin within the next few weeks.

V. Committee Reports

- Faculty Concerns – Waiting on data from Rick Larsen to be able to move forward with brainstorming ideas on how to improve the JMU work environment in the context of the Best Colleges to Work For report. One more meeting is planned this semester.
- Academic Policies – Continuing to explore the possibility of offering half-credit micro-courses. Working with Teresa Gonzalez, the committee obtained information from units such as Financial Aid and the Registrar; no office has said no, but there are still feasibility issues to be worked out. Academic units would have to work out their own policies regarding how such micro-courses would fit into curricula and teaching loads. The committee will continue to collect information and is planning to issue recommendations for best practices. Additionally, work is continuing on the textbook issue (that the bookstore doesn't always follow faculty requests for adoptions); the bookstore manager has been invited to the next committee meeting.
- Student Relations – Continuing to work with ODS on the comfort, therapy, and service animals issue. The committee has also solicited input at their January meeting from a full-time therapist with comfort animal experience who is also a JMU adjunct faculty member; the Provost and university counsel will also be providing input at the meeting.
- Faculty Appeals – No cases.
- Budget – Will be taking up the Advancement office issue.
- Nominations and Elections – No report.
- Other Committee Reports – No reports.

VI. Old Business

1. Motion to provide faculty/staff showers (Mark Rankin, English). See attachment. During the discussion, an amendment was proposed and passed to add the wording "and lockers" to mentions of showers in the text of the motion. A second amendment was proposed and passed to strike the wording referring to estimated costs from the motion. Senators reported on a range of opinions from their constituents, with some faculty strongly in favor and others strongly opposed; voices in opposition primarily felt that the issue should not have a high priority in the current budget climate. Concerns were also raised regarding the actual cost of the showers. The full motion was voted upon and failed (9 in favor, 21 against, 3 abstentions).

VII. New Business No new business.

VIII. Open Discussion of Vision Grant Task Force recommendations. Speaker McGraw and Mark Piper noted that the President and Provost have emphasized that the goal is for the \$10,000 to be used in ways that address all three pillars of engagement, and that funds can be used for either new or existing initiatives. Piper summarized the major recommendations of the task force, and Senators expressed their opinions:

1. For the Learning pillar, the Madison Vision Teaching Excellence Award proposed by Mark Rankin, Department of English. Senators raised concerns regarding fairness – i.e., whether the competitive aspect of the award would be fair to smaller departments, and whether the size of the proposed awards was out of line with other teaching and service awards. Senators also asked for clarification on what the body tasked with making the awards would be looking for. The motion proposing the award was tabled pending further information.
2. For the Civic pillar, the JMU Citizen Card. This proposal received little discussion.
3. For the Community pillar, the Madison Stand. Several Senators voiced support for this idea.
4. Potentially encompassing all 3 pillars, Vision mini-grants. Discussion involved questions about who would be responsible for vetting mini-grant proposals and making awards; Senators also requested clarification on the criteria envisioned for the grants.

Moving forward, a list will be circulated to all members of the Senate of all the ideas proposed to the Vision Grant Task Force, as well as a few additional proposals that surfaced after the task force completed its work. Senators were encouraged to take the lead on bringing ideas they particularly favored to the Senate.

IX. Adjournment – 5:01 p.m.