



FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

Thursday, April 30, 2015 - Taylor 306

In attendance: McGraw (Speaker); Accounting: Louwers & Hayes (new); Chemistry: Wright; Comm. Sci. & Disorders: DePaolis; Comm. Studies: Nelson; Computer Information Sys: Wang; Computer Science: Heydari; Early ELED & Reading: McCartney; Engineering: Harper; English: Rankin; Edu. Foundation & Exceptionalities: Desportes; Finance & Bus. Law: Parker; Foreign Languages: O'Donnell; Geology & Env. Sci.: Whitmeyer; Health Sciences: Burnett; History: Davidson & Van Norman (new); Hosp., Sports & Rec MGT: Shonk; Justice Studies: Parsons; Kinesiology: Nye; Learning, Tech & Leadership Ed: Griffin; Lib & Ed Tech: Mungin; Management: Stark; Marketing: Larsen; Mathematics & Statistics: Garren (alt.); Media Arts & Design: Leidholdt; Middle, Secondary & Math: Kindig; Music: Dabback; Nursing: Knopp; Philosophy & Religion: Piper; Political Science: Lubert & Lee (new); Psychology: DuVall; Social Work: Yeom (new); 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: Parsons-Pollard; SGA: Smith; SGA Rep-Elect: MinerBreeze Reporter: McAllister; Christine Hughey.

I. Call to Order – 3:32 p.m.

II. Officer Elections, 2015-2016 Faculty Senate. Audrey Burnett elected Speaker Pro-Tem; Leslie Harlacker elected Secretary; Val Larsen elected Treasurer; Mark Piper elected Marshal.

III. Provost's Report

Provost Benson first announced that a bonus has been provided to adjunct faculty. He then provided an update on the New Faculty Academy – the NFA Task Force final report was just released, recommending that the initiative begin this fall. More curricular development will take place over the summer; new faculty will be expected to participate. Provost Benson also mentioned that JMU does have a teach-out agreement with Sweet Briar College, to accept some of their students. Finally, Provost Benson gave recognition to a number of students and faculty: Kevin Giovanetti was recognized at the 26th International Conference on College Teaching and Learning, and Melinda Adams has been working on increasing the number of students qualifying for prestigious scholarships. This year, seven students have been recipients: J.D. Brady (Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship to Mexico); Adam White (Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship to South Korea); Patrick McCauley (Fulbright Study/Research Grant to Australia); April Pickens (Critical Language Scholarship for Russian); Maria Restrepo Chavez (Gilman Scholarship for Spain); Nicole Yohe (Boren Scholarship for Swahili/Tanzania); Amanda Crandall (NOAA Ernest F. Hollings Scholarship).

IV. Speaker's Report

1. Faculty Senate of Virginia. Speaker McGraw reported that he has been re-elected president of that organization, and asked for suggestions of issues it might address. He also mentioned the January advocacy day in Richmond as something Senators might consider participating in.
2. Faculty Handbook. The proposed changes have been released. The process is running behind this year, as the 30-day comment period has just begun for this year's changes. Because of this timeline, comments should be sent individually to the handbook committee. Speaker McGraw identified a few possible areas of

concern; he also mentioned that if some handbook wording may seem to lack for detail, it's because the specifics will be addressed in the policy manual, which has a longer timeline for being updated (i.e., the changes don't have to be approved at June's Board of Visitors meeting). First – the status of library faculty appears to be changed; it seems that library faculty are OK with the change. Policy manual changes describing the specifics will be forthcoming. Second – sexual assault. The sexual assault task force developed a new proposed handbook section running to 2500 words, which the handbook committee whittled down to 215 words. Much of what the task force had proposed will go into the policy manual. There is also, finally, a third policy, just recently announced (Policy 3115), that Speaker McGraw will circulate, relating to the supervision of minors; it was triggered by a state law about reporting child abuse/neglect.

3. Finally, Speaker McGraw explained why a few issues didn't make it onto today's very full agenda. Tim Louwers' motion on the 7% donation reinvestment being the main one. The Steering Committee didn't include the motion on the agenda because it requests serious action from the administration, and we wanted to ensure adequate time for discussion. Senators have also requested to discuss the recently announced new Convocation Center; this, as well as the SGA recommendation regarding mid-semester evaluations was not on the agenda because of all the other items we need to get through. It was suggested that these matters might be brought up during Open Discussion. Finally – last time we had a first reading of Rankin's proposed revisions of the Madison Teaching Award, which was inadvertently left off the agenda. Speaker McGraw brought up the possibility of a special meeting if Senate really feels we want to discuss these things.

V. Treasurer's Report

- \$5,532.20 balance as of 4/28/15. The computer lottery is wrapping up. Some winners haven't spent the money yet, so we may end up going deeper in the list of potential winners.

VI. Committee Reports

- A. Faculty Concerns – No report.
- B. Academic Policies – Mungin reporting for Benton. Report was prepared (see attachment). Mungin drew Senators' attention to a couple of new matters: revision to the inclement weather policy as well as a policy for removing disruptive students from the classroom. The micro-course initiative continues; soon information about the pilot will be made available on the Senate website.
- C. Student Relations – Midterm evaluations. After a joint meeting with Faculty Concerns, the Student Relations Committee decided to send the proposal through the Provost's office because we're at an informational point in the process. Senators can send concerns to Micah Smith: smith5mc@dukes.jmu.edu.
- D. Faculty Appeals – no cases.

- E. Budget and Compensation – Faculty dependents scholarship endowment. We are about a week away from having that set up. \$1,000 already waiting to be put in the scholarship. Tim Louwers’ matching offer still stands!
- F. Nominations and Elections – Mini grants initiative results. 8 awards were made (put a link in); all \$10,000 of the Vision Grant money awarded, and the Provost’s office made available another \$11,850 available, so the total awarded was \$21,850. Mark Piper reported that he will soon be discussing keeping this initiative going into the future with the administration. He also drew Senators’ attention to the vacancies on the committees external to the Senate – contact him if you’re interested in serving.

VII. New Business

- 1. Val Larsen (Marketing) read a motion honoring Vice Provost Teresa Gonzalez (attached). Roberts’ rules were suspended and the Senate unanimously passed the motion congratulating her on her retirement.
- 2. Motion on sexual assault (attached). Roberts’ rules were suspended to introduce and discuss the resolution. There was a brief discussion; the sense of the Senate was that the motion was uncontroversial and we should make a statement on this issue. The motion passed.
- 3. The Senate also voted unanimously to add Tim Louwers’ motion on the 7% donation reinvestment (attached) to the agenda and have its first reading.

VIII. Old Business

- 1. The Senate discussed Mark Rankin’s salary compression and inversion motion (attached). (Though the motion has been considerably shortened, the spirit and substance are the same, so the Marshal ruled that it qualifies to have its second reading.) Rankin stated that the motion is intended to simply recognize that salary compression and inversion exists, and encourage the administration to consider addressing this a top priority. He suggested that the Senate should make a united statement to the university that this is the biggest compensation issue, in light of the possibly improving economic circumstances. Mark Piper moved to add the words “continue to” between “should” and “make”, to recognize that some efforts to address compression and inversion have already been made. Then, in response to concerns about possible consequences to implying it’s the highest priority (in light of the fact that not all departments have significant compression/inversion problems), Rankin moved to change “the highest” to “a high” priority. The majority voted to accept the two amendments. There was a motion to send the resolution to committee; that motion failed. There was then a successful motion to call the question; the motion then passed with 4 no votes.
- 2. The light pollution resolution. C.J. Brodrick-Hartman, the Executive Director of the Office of Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability (to whose office the motion was sent) requested clarification due to some ambiguities. The interpretation measure proposed clarified that it’s the 2015-2016 academic year that we mean; it also states that the issue could be taken up by an environmental concerns committee rather than a specific light pollution committee. Mieka Polanco (Sociology and Anthropology) raised the issue of safety being also an important concern, and students’ feeling safe. Kevin Giovanetti questioned whether it would get lost in the shuffle of other things on an environmental concerns committee; Speaker McGraw said the person he talked to felt it wouldn’t. The resolution passed.

IX. Open Discussion

The new Convocation Center was the sole topic during the Open Discussion period. Tim Louwers spoke in support of the project due to its benefits, but raised concerns about the fact that the College of Business needs to raise more money before its new building can begin than is needed to get the new Convocation Center underway.

Senators also asked why this project is needed, and whether the projected 2000 more seats than the current Convocation center would be enough for those purposes. It was pointed out that right now we can't attract concerts to the Convo Center because of the way it's constructed; the new Convocation Center would allow for such events to be held.

Provost Benson also noted that in terms of need, we have now exceeded the capacity of the Convocation Center to hold December graduation, a problem which will only get worse. He further mentioned that the project was approved over two years ago, as part of the new Strategic Plan; it's been in the works, but was only just officially announced.

Speaker McGraw said that the reactions he has received from faculty members seems to be primarily sticker shock about the amount being committed, alongside concerns about University priorities.

In answer to a question concerning how the bonds for construction would be paid off (with concern about rising student fees), Provost Benson pointed out that there is now a cap on the athletic fees that can be charged to students, but that other debts will get paid off, so it's not necessarily the case that fees will just continue to rise. Ticket revenues would also provide part of the money.

VII. Adjournment – 5:05 p.m.