Meeting Agenda
December 4, 2003, 3:30 – 5:30 p.m.
Taylor 306

1. Call to order: Larry Ham, Faculty Marshal.


4. Approval of Minutes: David Zimmerman, Secretary of the Senate.

5. Treasurer’s Report: Geoff Egekwu.

   A. Faculty morale survey.
   B.

7. Committee Reports.
   A. Academic Policies – Beth Eck.
      (1) Report of meeting with Steve Grande regarding “Freshman Orientation.”
      (2) “Turn-it-in” Software.
      (3) Honor Code Sanctions Update.
      (4) Recommendations regarding changes in the University’s withdrawal polices (please see attachment).

   B. Faculty Concerns – Beth Eck reporting for Cynthia Gilliatt.
      (1) Recommendations from the RTA survey.
      (2) Recommendations regarding adjunct faculty.

   C. Student Relations – Reba Leiding
      Report regarding Student Government website.

   D. Institutional Budget Priorities – Val Larsen.
8. Old Business.

Faculty Handbook Revisions regarding Academic Freedom – William O’Meara. (Please see attachment.)


A. Revising the academic calendar – Aashir Nasim. (Please see attachment.)
B. Other new business?

Respectfully submitted,

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Recommendations of the Academic Policies Committee regard withdrawal policies

1. Maintain the existing policy regarding withdrawal from a class without penalty prior to the 60% point of the semester.

2. Identify the 60% point of the semester as the course adjustment deadline in all published registration and catalog materials.

3. Discontinue the current “Petition for Registration Exemption” process for students wishing to withdraw from a particular class after the course adjustment deadline.

4. Replace the “Petition for Registration Exemption” with the following policy:

   A. Students wishing to withdraw from a particular class after the course adjustment deadline must notify the Registrar of their intention.
   B. The instructor of the particular class records a grade of “WP” or “WF” as appropriate to the student’s standing in the course at the time of the withdrawal.
   C. The grades “WP” or “WF” are not computed in the calculation of the student’s GPA.
Proposed Changes to Faculty Handbook re: Academic Freedom – William O’Meara

Here is the wording suggested by the Senate, and I number the sentences:

(1) James Madison University, as an institution of higher learning in a democratic society, is fundamentally committed to the open-ended pursuit of knowledge and the unfettered activity of inquiry and debate.
(2) Accordingly, each member of the James Madison University faculty has a right to the freedom of thought and expression, including a right to reasoned dissent, in the conduct of his or her professional activities.
(3) Of course, this right (hereafter, the right to academic freedom) must be exercised responsibly, in keeping with other social and professional obligations bound up with university work.

Here is the wording in the present handbook, and I number the sentences:

(1) Academic freedom is the liberty to pursue, discuss, inquire, examine, study, research, learn and teach relevant knowledge, ideas and theory.
(2) It is a privilege traditionally granted to all faculty members by institutions of higher learning to encourage the free exchange of ideas and information and to foster an atmosphere of tolerant and educated discourse on all matters.
(3) The university is a forum for intellectual explorations, and academic freedom is the means by which that forum is available to all.
(4) Academic freedom is a central right of an educational institution not the exclusive province of the faculty.

Suggested Rewording from Handbook Committee:

(1) The university is an institution of higher learning in a democratic society. It is fundamentally committed to the open-ended pursuit of knowledge and the unfettered activity of inquiry and debate.
(2) Just as the university is entitled to academic freedom in the pursuit of its educational mission, so each member of the faculty is entitled to academic freedom in the discharge of his or her professional duties.
(3) Each member of the faculty has a right to the freedom of thought and expression, including a right to reasoned dissent, in the conduct of his or her professional activities.
(4) This right to academic freedom safeguards one’s liberty to pursue, study, research, discover, teach, discuss, question, and critique relevant knowledge, ideas and theories, in accordance with one’s academic profession and discipline.
(5) Academic freedom must be exercised professionally, in keeping with the standards of one’s academic discipline and with other university and professional obligations.
Revision of the Academic Calendar regarding Thanksgiving Break -- Aashir Nasim

At the November CISAT Leadership meeting most department heads favored the proposal that during future years, we drop the Fall holiday and instead give students the entire week of Thanksgiving. This proposal was declined by students when it was proposed a few years ago. (Students probably opposed it because they take the whole week of Thanksgiving off anyway, so they didn't want to give up the Fall Holiday.) At the behest of Michael Stoloff, Chair, Psychology, this matter is brought before the Faculty Senate to debate whether to eliminate Fall break, and extend the Thanksgiving holiday.

Motion for consideration:

Effective in the 2005 – 2006 academic calendar year, the fall break holiday will be eliminated and the Thanksgiving holiday extended to the entire week in which Thanksgiving day occurs.