

FACULTY SENATE JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY

Meeting Agenda

January 27, 2004, 3:30 – 5:30 p.m.
Taylor 306

1. Call to order: Larry Ham, Faculty Marshal.
2. Provost Report: Douglas Brown.
3. Approval of Minutes: David Zimmerman, Secretary of the Senate.
4. Treasurer's Report: Geoff Egekwu.
5. Speaker's Report: Michael Smilowitz.
 - A. Faculty morale survey.
 - B. Status of the voting on the amendments to the Senate's Constitution.
7. Committee Reports.
 - A. Academic Policies – Beth Eck.

Resolution regarding changes in withdrawal policies – Dietrich Maune
(please see attached resolution).
 - B. Faculty Concerns – Cynthia Gilliatt.
 1. Reception for retiring faculty to be held after April 29th meeting of the Senate.
 2. The committee is reviewing AAUP guidelines regarding adjunct faculty.
 - C. Student Relations – Reba Leiding
 - D. Institutional Budget Priorities – Val Larsen.

Draft report is being prepared.
8. Old Business.

Academic Freedom – William O'Meara (please see attachment "Fundamental Dedication").

9. New Business.

A. Motion from the Steering Committee to implement a lecture series on Academic Freedom (please see attached motion).

B. Other new business?

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Smilowitz", written in a cursive style.

Michael Smilowitz, Ph.D.
Speaker of the Faculty Senate
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On the matter of modifying current policies regarding
withdraws from individual courses after the course adjustment date.

Whereas, dropping individual courses after the course adjustment date often extends the period of time required for students to complete their programs of study, and

Whereas, repeating courses further strains limited teaching resources, and

Whereas, the current petition process discourages students from dropping individual classes, and

Whereas, there is no compelling justification for modifying the current procedures,

Be it resolved, that the faculty of James Madison University do not endorse modifying the current policy and procedures for authorizing and evaluating drops from individual courses after the course adjustment date.

The Fundamental Dedication of Our Faculty

James Madison University is a community of scholars and students devoted to the expansion of human knowledge and artistic creativity. All members of our community, especially the faculty and the students under the guidance of the faculty, strive to advance, preserve, transform, and transmit knowledge through study, teaching, aesthetic expression, research, and scholarship. As a public university, we recognize the insight of our namesake, President James Madison, who affirmed a deep interconnection between knowledge and liberty, and we dedicate ourselves to help liberty increase knowledge and knowledge increase liberty.

All who join the university community participate in the profound obligation to advance human knowledge and liberty and consequently in the derivative human right of academic freedom as the essential means for advancing knowledge. We believe human liberty embraces free expression, free inquiry, intellectual honesty, and respect for the rights and dignity of others. We respect the autonomy of each person's conscience in matters of conviction, religious faith, and political belief. We recognize that our students are undergoing profound opportunities for growth as they study the arts, the humanities, and the sciences, and we dedicate ourselves to honor our students' free inquiry as they learn to participate in the professional practices and standards of our academic disciplines. For this purpose, we affirm the importance of maintaining high standards of academic and professional integrity. In defining the responsibilities we bear and affirming our right to academic freedom, we commit ourselves to ensuring that our professional activities are consistent with these basic principles.

All members of the university have civil rights guaranteed by the Bill of Rights. Because the search for knowledge is our most fundamental purpose, the University has an especially strong commitment to preserve and protect freedom of thought and expression. Reasoned dissent plays a vital role in the search for truth; and academic freedom, including the right to express unpopular views, is a cherished responsibility of university faculty everywhere. All members of the university have the right to express their own views and hear the views of others expressed, but they must take responsibility for according the same rights to others. We seek a university whose members may express themselves vigorously while protecting and respecting the rights of others to learn, to do research, and to carry out the essential functions of our university's dedication to knowledge and liberty free from political oppression, economic interference, and partisan obstruction.

Academic Freedom Lecture Series

The Faculty Senate of James Madison University shall provide to all interested audiences an annual lecture on the topic of academic freedom.

1. The Faculty Concerns Committee is responsible for organizing, publicizing, and staging the lecture.
 - a. During each Fall semester, the Committee will present its recommendation for the presenter of the lecture to the Senate for its approval,
 - b. The Committee will arrange for the presentation of the lecture to occur in, or around, the Madison week ceremonies.
2. Transportation, lodging, and an honorarium will be provided to the presenter as appropriate.
3. Funding for the series will be drawn from the Senate's operating budget.