



Faculty Senate's Report to the Board of Visitors *April, 2003*

The Faculty Senate of James Madison University has met three times since the last meeting of the *Board of Visitors*. The following briefly notes some of the Senate's recent accomplishments and some of its important agenda items.

- I. Accomplished.
 - A. Dean Ralph Alberico, Libraries and Educational Technologies, met with the Senate to discuss the impacts of the State's budget cuts on the Library. The Senate committed to assist in communicating to the faculty the difficulties the Library is experiencing. Senators are arranging for Dean Alberico to meet with their faculties to discuss practices for selecting and maintaining journals and purchasing books. Also, the Senate's webpage will include a link to a Power Point presentation prepared by Dean Alberico. The Senate commends the Library for continuing to do an extraordinary job in providing the academic community with scholarly resources.
 - B. The *Expanding Horizons* project is fully operational and experiencing considerable success. As of March 31st, there have been three Saturday meetings, which included a presentation on philosophy and ethics by Professor Omeara, a tour of TV3's studios and a presentation by TV3's Danielle Banks, and a presentation by Professor Giovanetti on the physics of computers complete with the participants each constructing a simple computer. On April 5th, the participants will attend a performance of Shakespeare's *Tempest*, at the Blackfriars Theatre in Staunton.
 - C. The Academic Policies Committee concluded there is insufficient need and insufficient interest in examining the scheduling of the Thanksgiving break. The committee was finally successful in gathering grade distribution data, and is in the process of data analysis to prepare a set of recommendations.
 - D. The Faculty Affairs Committee arranged the purchase of gifts for retiring faculty and is planning an April 24th reception. The committee has completed a survey form to assess the needs of faculty with rotating term appointments. The committee also identified the procedures through which part-time faculty may access the Library and UREC during summer.
 - E. The *ad hoc* committee on the status of retired faculty has surveyed retired and current faculty. The committee is currently analyzing the data and expects, by mid-April, to have its recommendations for utilizing retired faculty more effectively, and to identify any needed changes that may enhance recruitment and retention of faculty.

F. The Senate endorsed the Speaker's formation of a budget advisory committee which will provide the Provost with the faculty's recommendations on budgetary matters. The committee membership has been identified, and its report is expected in mid-fall.

II. On Agenda.

A. The Faculty Handbook Committee will post on its website its recommendations for the changes to the Handbook.

B. The Senate's Steering Committee is preparing to administer the Biannual Faculty Morale Survey, and will meet during summer to prepare the report.

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
School of Communication Studies
James Madison University
(540) 568-6595, smilowme@jmu.edu