

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

The Faculty Senate of James Madison University has met 2.5 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. To assist the Bond initiative, the Senate prepared a letter for individual faculty members to sign and arranged for the letters to be mailed to each faculty member's former advisees of the last five years. The letter urged voting on the bond and contacting state legislators. Close to 90% of the faculty participated and over six thousand letters were mailed. The project was funded by the JMU Foundation.
- B. The Senate, based on the recommendation of its Academic Affairs Committee, approved the following revision in the *Catalog's* wording regarding selection to the *President's List*.

"To qualify for the honor of being placed on the President's List, a student must earn a grade point average of 3.90 or above in at least 12 graded hours of course work" (changed from previous requirement of 14 hours).

- C. Responding to a request made by President Rose last spring, the Senate's Student /Faculty Relations Committee developed a list of recommendations to improve the attendance of students at the campus-wide presentations of major speakers. The Senate unanimously endorsed the recommendations.
- D. The Senate's Student/Faculty Relations committee arranged for a representative of Student Government to sit with the Senate.
- E. To promote opportunities for better communication, the Senate created a website for the Faculty Handbook Committee. The website provides a vehicle for members of the JMU community to submit proposals for the handbook, and to review the committee's deliberations. The site is at:
<http://web.jmu.edu/facultysenate/facultyhandbook/main.htm> .
- F. To begin the Senate's "Expanding Horizon's Project," Thomas Harrison Middle School was asked to provide students. The school's counseling staff is currently identifying the first 24 participants.
- G. The Senate completed its work in assisting the University's "Advising Initiative" Taskforce in the effort to create a document to benefit further the planning and the implementation of excellence in academic advising.

II. On Agenda.

- A. The Student/Faculty Relations Committee is exploring possibilities by which the Senate can recognize/reward outstanding student government leaders.
- B. The Faculty Concerns Committee is in the process of determining if there is a need for University-wide policy regarding the conversion of current RTA faculty with ranks of assistant professor and above to tenure-track positions.
- C. The Faculty Concerns Committee is exploring the feasibility of organizing a group of faculty to meet with legislators in late January or early February.
- D. The Senate's special committee on the status of faculty *emeriti* has met, organized by Professor Emmert. The committee is finding that: (1) some concerns that seemed to need attention actually do not and (2) some other concerns actually require much more investigation than what was thought necessary. While progress is slow, the committee assures that its recommendations are forthcoming.
- E. The Senate is considering two changes to its Constitution. The first corrects wording regarding Senate representation of the Library's professional staff. The second provides the opportunity for teaching and research faculty with RTA appointments to sit on the Faculty Appeals Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

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