

**Faculty Senate's
Report to the Board of Visitors
October, 2002**

The Faculty Senate's steering committee met several times over the summer, while the Senate has sat only once 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. Summer Meetings of the Steering Committee.

A. In May, the Steering Committee met with President Rose. Dr. Rose made three requests of the Senate.

1. *Devise solutions to increase attendance and participation at events with major speakers.*

The Senate's *Student Affairs Committee* is currently identifying potential solutions.

2. *Participate in the process for improving student perceptions of advising.*

The Senate's *Academic Policies Committee* and *Faculty Concerns Committee* are both reviewing the initiative prepared by the *ad hoc committee* on advising, chaired by Dr. Karyn Sproles. Both Senate committees plan their reports for the October meeting of the Senate.

3. *Assist in the passage of the November bond referendum.*

The *Speaker Pro Tem*, Dr. Cynthia Gilliatt drafted a letter for faculty to send to their former advisees. Senators are having colleagues take voter registration forms and absentee ballot requests to their classes. The Senate endorsed a resolution supporting passage of the bond.

B. The Steering Committee began implementation of three initiatives.

1. *Providing Day Care Services for JUM Faculty and Staff.*

Under the leadership of Dr. Larry Ham, a committee of faculty and staff was appointed. The Committee has investigated day care provision at other universities and large commercial organizations, and private day care facilities in the region. The JMU faculty and staff are currently being surveyed to determine the extent of the need and participant's' expectations for appropriate fees. Preliminary analyses indicate that operating costs for providing day care would be wholly self-sustained through participant fees.

2. *Enhancing the opportunities for Faculty Emeriti to remain active in the JMU Community.*

To respond to concerns of current *Emeriti* and faculty planning retirement, a committee was formed under the leadership of Dr. Philip Emmert. The committee is investigating what services should be provided to *Emeriti*, and how *Emeriti* would be best utilized to remedy short-term teaching and research needs.

3. *Enabling the educational and career opportunities of low-income, middle school children of the region.*

To further *JMU's* service to the community that surrounds it, the Steering Committee crafted the attached proposal (Attachment A). The Superintendents of Harrisonburg City Schools and Rockingham County Schools were contacted to enlist their cooperation. Both Superintendents regarded the program as a valuable contribution for their students. Thomas Harrison Middle School has been selected for the pilot program, and the School has begun the selection of the first 24 participants.

- C. The Steering Committee resumed management and maintenance of its web site.
- D. The Steering Committee approved the move of the Senate office to Cleveland 312.

II. Decisions of the Senate.

- A. The Senate resolved:

1. To unanimously support the resolution endorsing the *bond referendum*.
2. To unanimously support the *Expanding Horizons* project.

- B. The Senate identified the following for its consideration during fall semester:

1. Revision of the Senate's Constitution to recognize Library faculty as members of the Faculty Senate.
2. Revision of the Senate's Constitution to elect the *Speaker* first to the position of *Speaker Pro Tem*.
3. Review the *Faculty Handbook's* description of tenure procedures to provide University-wide consistency on processes such as the composition of yearly review committees, the role of spouses in reviews, and joint appointments.
4. Review grading practices.

Respectfully submitted,

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A Program Sponsored by the Faculty Senate of James Madison University to Benefit the Educational and Career Opportunities of Low-Income, Middle-School Children of the Shenandoah Valley.

Program Description

Under the auspices of the Faculty Senate of James Madison University, the proposed program provides the University with a mechanism to involve further its resources into the development of its external, adjacent communities (*JMU Mission Statement, Defining Characteristic #7*).

The program is specifically intended to enable the educational and career opportunities of low-income, middle school children whose parents or guardians do not have post-secondary degrees. The strategy is to provide these children with educational, cultural, and technological experiences they otherwise cannot easily access. These experiences are selected to encourage the program participants to pursue post-secondary education, consider professional careers, and to motivate them to develop the academic skills necessary for successful completion of college preparatory courses during high school.

Discussions with Dr. Ford, Superintendent of Harrisonburg City Schools, and Dr. Kidd, Superintendent of Rockingham County Schools indicated there is a strong need for the type of program outlined below. Both superintendents believe the program makes a unique contribution, would greatly benefit students of low-income families, and both are anxious to further relationships between James Madison University and their schools through this type of program.

Although there are deep needs in both the city and county school systems, prudence urges the development, operation and evaluation of a pilot program. Because of its geographical convenience, the pilot program is to be arranged with the city of Harrisonburg's middle school. If the program is evaluated successful towards the end of the two year period involving the pilot group, the same structure will be extended into a yet to be selected Rockingham county school. With continued success of the program and provision of external funding, it will extend to additional schools in the region.

Program Goals

1. To promote preparation for future educational endeavors.
2. To encourage the consideration of career choices.
3. To provide intellectual, cultural, social, and technological learning opportunities.
4. To develop a wide range of talents among a diverse group of students.

Program Structure

1. The Faculty Senate organizes a committee, known as the Horizon committee, which is comprised of a chair and six additional faculty members. The committee is charged with the implementation of the program.

2. Counselors at Thomas Harrison Middle School select twelve male and twelve female students from its seventh grade who meet the following criteria:
 - Students from families with incomes at, or below 150% of the federally established poverty level.
 - Students whose parents, or guardians have not completed post-secondary degrees.
 - Students with demonstrated potential for a level of academic success that would lead to acceptance by a typical Virginian state undergraduate institution.
3. The Horizon committee organizes and implements two classroom experiences each month, generally on Saturdays. These experiences are conducted on the campus of James Madison University, between the months of October and April.
 - One of the experiences each month features faculty members from each of the Colleges. Faculty are encouraged to engage the participants in a lecture-discussion format on a topic typical of their instruction, but adapted to the age group of their audience.
 - Approximately half of the remaining monthly experiences feature a presentation by professionals. These professionals are encouraged to discuss their work, and their college and career preparation.
 - The remaining experiences focus on providing participants with study and computer skills.
4. The Horizon committee provides participants at least four opportunities each academic year to attend concerts, musicals, plays, museums, art exhibitions and other cultural events.
 - The committee is responsible for securing complimentary tickets and arranging for the transportation to and from the events.
 - Approximately half of these experiences should occur at venues other than James Madison University.

Required Resources

- Vans for transportation.
- Funding for meals and refreshments as necessary.

Program Evaluation

- Questionnaires completed by teachers of the participants to assess the impact of the program on participants and the effects participants bring to their classrooms.
- Comparison of performance on measures of Standardized Learning Objects with a control group of non-participating students.
- Continued tracking of participants' progression through high school and onto college.