

JMU Faculty Senate Minutes

Thursday, October 3, 2002

Taylor 306

1. Faculty Marshall **Larry Ham** called the meeting to order at 3:40 PM. Members present included: **Jose Barrio-Olano**, Foreign Languages and Literatures; **Susan Kruck** (for Michael Busing), Computer Information Systems; **Jack Butt**, History; **Stephanie Chisolm**, Health Sciences; **Melody Eaton**, Nursing; **Beth Eck**, Sociology and Anthropology; **Geoffrey Egekwu**, ISAT; **Alex Gabbin**, Accounting; **Stephen Germic**, English; **Dona Gilliam**, Media Arts and Design; **Cynthia Gilliatt**, English; **Kevin Giovanetti**, Physics; **Art Hamilton**, Finance and Business Law; **Jason Haney**, Music; **Hossain Heydari**, Computer Science; **Steven Hoeltzel**, Philosophy and Religion; **David Kaplan**, Management; **John Klippert**, Mathematics; **Andy Kohen**, Economics; **Val Larsen**, Marketing; **Reba Leiding**, Libraries and Educational Technologies; **Howard Lubert**, Political Science; **Roberta Mitchell**, Communication Studies; **Bill O'Meara**, Past Speaker; **Gene Robinson**, Geology; **Mark Rooker**, Art and Art History; **Michael Smilowitz**, Speaker; **John Wolf**, Military Science; and **David Zimmerman**, School of Education. Guests included **Doug Brown**, Provost; **Teresa Gonzalez**, **Susan Wheeler** and **Leslie Purtlebaugh**; Academic Affairs; **Maggie Burkhart Evans**, Residence Life; **Deb Davenport**, Student Affairs and **Philip Emmert**, Chair of the Task Force on Emeritus Faculty.

2. Provost Doug Brown provided an update concerning the budget situation in Richmond and its effect on JMU. The present deficit is approaching \$2.3 billion. The projected revenue line between now and 2006 points downward. Public schools, county government and virtually every state agency will be adversely affected by the upcoming cuts. We shall know more about the level of the cuts required by JMU on Tuesday night, October 15th when the governor addresses the citizens of the Commonwealth. All attempts will be made to minimize the disruptive effect of these cuts on the academic program. Beth Eck asked if individuals taking advantage of the early retirement option would be replaced. The money saved may temporarily be used for part time purposes but those positions will all eventually be replaced by full time faculty.

3. A. Theresa Gonzalez introduced Deb Davenport, Leslie Purtlebaugh and Maggie Burkhart Evans who represent various student support programs. *A Comprehensive Guide to Academic Support Resources* was distributed outlining the various services provided to students through the Office of Residence Life. This information will also be available on the Office of Residence Life Web site.

B. Michael Smilowitz introduced the chair of the Faculty Emeriti Task Force, Dr. Philip Emmert. A meeting is scheduled for Friday, October 11th in the Library Conference Room (109). There is an emeritus faculty group already recognized by the University and the board of that group has been invited to participate in the task force. Three questions will be addressed: What is currently being done for emeritus faculty? What should be provided to emeritus faculty? And, what can emeritus faculty do for JMU? Several items being considered in answer to this final question are teaching (at a substantially higher rate of pay than currently being offered) and advising. If you have any suggestions for the task force, please contact Phil at his e-mail address: emmertpx@jmu.edu.

C. Michael Smilowitz outlined the progress in creating a letter to be sent from JMU faculty advisors to their former advisees concerning the upcoming bond issue that will be on the November 5th ballot. Letters were distributed that need to be signed by individual faculty members. These will then be duplicated and mailed to former students (past five years of alumni who currently reside in Virginia) encouraging their support of the bond issue as well as a request that they contact their legislators urging their support for higher education in the future. Funds for this project come from the JMU Foundation.

4. Secretary David Zimmerman requested that senators review the list of current faculty senators and make any changes to phone numbers, e-mail addresses or committee assignments to bring our roster up-to-date. Minutes from the September 2, 2002 meeting were approved as amended.

5. Treasurer Geoff Egekwu reminded senators to complete their collection of dues. The flower fund stands at \$1,337.41. Our non-personal account stands at \$4,209.00 and the service budget: \$2,916.

6. **A. Academic Policies:** Beth Eck reported that this committee met last month and has requested grade data for their review of grade inflation concerns. They discussed the advising enhancement initiative and also reviewed the catalog wording regarding requirements for a student being named to the President's List and the Dean's List. Beth moved that revised wording (*see October 3rd Agenda*) be proposed. The motion was seconded by Andy Kohen and passed unanimously.

B. Faculty Concerns: Cynthia Gilliatt reported that her committee met with Karen Sproles regarding the Advising Initiative and is working with the Academic Policies Committee to formulate a common response. They are also reviewing last year's recommendations to the Faculty Handbook Committee. In response to a question from Art Hamilton regarding the VRS Long Term Disability program, Cynthia indicated that faculty must return the form to Human Resources electing to "opt out" of the program if they do not want to participate. She suggested that faculty should attend one of the information sessions listed in the HR memo to become familiar with the plan as well as the reporting requirements.

C. Student/Faculty Relations: Reba Leiding reported that her committee met last month and developed a statement regarding student attendance at campus speaking events (*see October 3rd agenda, attachment #1*). This statement is presented for first reading. The question of service criteria for student organizations was raised. The proposed "Scholars' Day" was discussed with several recommendations made: do not hold it on Assessment Day and possibly hold it at mid-week in lieu of the fall holiday.

7. **Old Business:**

A. Larry Ham reported that the day care committee had met to review an analysis of the day care survey. 532 individuals completed the survey. These respondents were composed of faculty, staff and BIS students. The results will be presented to the executive council and academic council in early November and to the faculty senate on November 7th. Initial review indicates strong support for a faculty/staff/student day care facility.

B. Larry Ham also reported on the faculty club initiative. At this point the report is on temporary standby and will be presented to the faculty senate on November 7th as well.

C. Andy Kohen reported on the recent work of the general education council (*see October 3rd agenda, old business, C. 1-5*). Withdrawal of the psychology department from general education is currently on the table and Andy will keep the senate informed of future actions.

D. Jack Butt introduced the matter of RTA's that had been previously discussed in the faculty senate (*see September 2001 senate minutes*). Differentiated hiring practices for RTA positions were discussed and the question of conversion of RTA to tenure track positions will be placed on the November faculty senate agenda for discussion with the Provost. This matter will be considered further by the faculty concerns committee.

Melody Eaton moved for adjournment, the motion was seconded by Cynthia Gilliatt and passed unanimously. The next faculty senate meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 7, 2002 at 3:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

David P. Zimmerman, Secretary