

JMU Faculty Senate Minutes
November 6, 2003
Taylor 306

Faculty Marshall Larry Ham called the meeting to order at 3:33PM in Taylor 306.

Members present included **Sharon Babcock**, Biology; David **Bernstein**, Computer Science; **Stephanie Chisolm**, Health Science; **Serena Colasanti**, Foreign Languages and Literatures; **Rory DePaolis**, Communication Sciences and Disorders; **Sandra Eagle**, Technical and Scientific Communications; **Beth Eck**, Sociology and Anthropology; **Geoff Egekwa**, Integrated Science and Technology; **Karen Ford**, Social Work; **Alex Gabbin**, Accounting; **Carter Lyons** (for Steve Garren), Mathematics and Statistics; **Cynthia Gilliatt**, Speaker Pro Tem; **Kevin Giovanetti**, Physics; **Oris Griffin**, Education; **Larry Ham**, Kinesiology and Recreation Studies; **Tamara Jetton**, Education; **Bob Jerome**, Economics; **Bill Knorpp**, Philosophy and Religion; **Val Larsen**, Marketing; **Reba Leiding**, Libraries and Learning Resources; **Bob Lembright**, History; **Dietrich Maune**, Media Arts and Design; **Annick Conis** (for Roberta Mitchell), Communications Studies; **Aashir Nasim**, Psychology (Ugrad); **Bill O'Meara**, Past-Speaker; **Claudia O'Neil** (for Judith Rocchiccioli), Nursing; **Mark Rooker**, Art and Art History; **Jim Ruff**, English; **Craig Shealy**, Psychology (Grad); **Michael Smilowitz**, Speaker; **John Slavin** (for John Wolf), Military Science; and **David Zimmerman**, Education. Guests included **Teresa Gonzalez**, **Susan Wheeler** and **Doug Brown**, Office of the Provost and Academic Vice President.

Provost's Report:

Doug Brown reported that the base adequacy study conducted by the department of planning and budget, indicated that JMU was under-funded by \$28M two years ago. This figure was determined by the distribution of disciplines within all Virginia institutions of higher education. Based on our programs and enrollment, we are the most deficient, in terms of budget, in the entire Commonwealth. Doug is pleased with the senate/high school partnership proposal and a detailed response will be forthcoming. He believes that this proposal will be relatively easy to fund. Similarly, a formal response to the emeritus faculty proposal will be presented. 90% of the report's suggestions will be accepted and become part of University policy. Several suggestions regarding employment of emeritus faculty will require the approval of individual departments. All future emeritus faculty members will have their names engraved on pavers in front of Wilson Hall.

The Governor will be presenting a tax-restructuring plan. It is hoped that the faculty will support this initiative, just as they did the bond issue last year. It is hoped that this plan will raise faculty salaries to the 60th percentile of our peer institutions. The announced salary increase of 2.25% will become effective on December 1, 2003 and will appear in the December 16th checks. The first round of salary adjustments for faculty will go into effect on January 1, 2004. The second round will take place in July and Doug hopes to provide future progressive adjustments every six months. Over time this will "fix" the present system. \$225K will be available for the first round with \$300K every six months after that.

Cynthia Gilliatt asked if a decision had been made to establish an Honors College. Doug explained that a task force has been appointed to explore the possibilities. Honors programs at other institutions have found that funding for their programs can be primarily borne by contributions if you develop that funding base over a ten-year period. Often this is done by instituting an honors college that is funded by contributions from honors graduates. Teresa Gonzalez reported that former members of the honor advisory committee were looking at possible revisions to the General Education Program to provide additional challenge to students enrolled in the honors program. The committee is also looking at the possibility of revising general education options for honors scholars. We are not near an implementation stage for these changes.

In response to a question regarding whether future salary adjustments would follow the procedures currently in place, Doug stated that they would probably be different since compression issues might be addressed during one cycle and retention issues might be addressed in the next.

A discussion of the excessive heat in academic buildings during the past week ensued and Doug indicated that restarting air conditioning after it had been turned off for the winter could be prohibitively expensive. He will look into the matter.

Approval of Minutes:

Secretary David Zimmerman indicated that a change in the wording of the October minutes regarding the repeat/forgiveness grading policy had been made in response to an e-mail from Karen Evans. The minutes were then unanimously approved as revised.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Geoff Egekwu reported that the current balance in the flower fund is \$1038.51. There is a balance of \$7162.16 in the university account. This latter account is composed of \$4219.00 in personal services and \$2943.16 in non-personal services. The computer lottery is being planned and the application form will appear on the Senate Website as it did last year.

Speaker's Report:

Michael reported that the university council met on Thursday, October 30th and it was decided that the council would meet only on an as-needed basis in the future. The Speaker of the Faculty Senate will continue to meet monthly with the Academic Council and meet quarterly with Division Heads. Michael indicated that the biennial faculty morale survey is ready for posting on the senate Web site and strongly encouraged senators to personally make their colleagues aware of the importance of completing the survey.

Committee Reports:

Academic Policies: Beth Eck reported that her committee had met with John Horigan, the president of the JMU honor council and Maggie Evans, the coordinator of the honor council, in their continuing effort to elevate academic life on campus. The honor council held eleven formal hearings last year (all resulting in convictions) and the council has scheduled thirteen to date this year. The six student members of the honor council are in favor of instituting a grade of "XF" to indicate a failing grade due to an honor violation. This grade would appear on the student's transcript. Filing procedures have changed during the past six years and the time allotted for an investigation has been reduced to two weeks. Concern was raised over the fact that entering students are no longer required to sign an honor pledge card as they were in the past. Teresa Gonzales will look into this matter with the admissions office as well as the coordinator of the honor council. John Horigan indicated that faculty are always informed of student appeals of convictions and their outcomes. Records of honor violations will be kept in the future. This will include type of honor offense, gender of the student violators, year of student (Sr., Jr., etc), as well as college and major. This information will be published to increase awareness of the honor system within the University community. It was noted that there needs to be better coordination between the office of registration and records and the honor council so that students who receive an F for violating the honor code in a course may not take that course again under the repeat/forgiveness policy. Inappropriate collaboration among students in a class is becoming the most frequent violation of the honor code. Faculty should be encouraged to note their definition of appropriate and inappropriate collaboration in their course syllabi.

The academic policies committee will meet with Steve Grandy of the freshman orientation staff next week. The committee also decided to take the recommendation regarding a weighted GPA off of the table due to lack of support among the faculty. The committee is still studying the possibility of limiting the number of withdrawals a student may take and the date on which a student may withdraw without penalty. A motion was introduced by Beth that the WP and WF grade be reimplemented and that a set of guidelines be provided to faculty. After discussion it was decided to withdraw the motion and bring a written proposal with guidelines to the next meeting.

Faculty Concerns: Cynthia Gilliatt reported that the RTA survey is still being discussed. Various definitions of adjunct faculty are being reviewed. Faculty Handbook revisions will be brought before the senate at its next meeting. A motion by the committee to endorse the *process* employed passed unanimously.

Student Relations: Reba Leiding reported that the committee is continuing to look at various revisions to the class schedule to permit students adequate time to travel between the East campus and the West. Teresa Gonzalez reported that she is in the process of setting up a sub-committee to consider this issue. Changes will be considered and will be implemented for the 2005/2006 academic year. The senate will have representation on this sub-committee and will report to the senate periodically.

Institutional Budget Priorities: Val Larsen reported that his committee has met with J. W. Myers to determine where the budget crunch is having an impact on the academic affairs budget. They will also meet with Sherry Hood within the next two weeks.

Old Business:

Bill O'Meara presented the second reading of the constitutional amendment regarding membership on the senate. The proposal to take these amendments before the full faculty for a vote was approved unanimously.

New Business:

Larry Ham reported that the professional development task force is looking at the definition of faculty development. Is it doing your current job better or enhancing your professional credentials? Is the aim to keep faculty here or increase their chances for mobility? Does professional development include support for maintaining professional skills and certification? The committee affirmed that professional development should cross teaching, scholarship, and service. Professional development should be considered when planning for retention and recruitment. The committee is discussing what the administration will support – as stated in the JMU mission statement, defining characteristics, and SACS criteria. The committee is studying ways to promote a university culture that values learning and professional development.

Larry indicated that a proposal was being considered to have the council on academic programs establish written criteria for the approval of new programs. Programs that have been approved pending funding allocations need to be prioritized and this matter will also be considered. Larry indicated that previous discussion at lower levels, in favor of as well as in opposition to various proposals, should be presented to the CAP before they issue an approval. Michael indicated that this proposal would be brought before the senate at a future meeting.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 4:59.

Respectfully submitted,

David P. Zimmerman, Secretary