

**James Madison University**  
**Faculty Senate Minutes**  
**Taylor Hall 306**  
**December 4, 2003**

1. Faculty Marshall, **Larry Ham**, called the meeting to order at 3:33. 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; **Beth Eck**, Sociology; **Richard Finkelstein**, Theatre and Dance; **Alex Gabbin**, Accounting; **Steve Garren**, Mathematics and Statistics; **John Gilje**, Chemistry; **Larry Ham**, Kinesiology; **Bill Knorpp**, Philosophy and Religion; **Reba Leiding**, Libraries; **Bob Lembright**, History; **Brooks Marshall**, Finance and Business Law; **Dietrich Maune**, Media Arts and Design; **Aashir Nasim**, Psychology; **Bill O'Meara**, Philosophy and Religion; **Traci Pipkins**, Writing Program; **Gene Robinson**, Geology; **Claudia O'Neil**, Nursing; **Mark Rooker**, Art and Art History; **Jim Ruff**, English; **Tammy Gilligan**, Psychology; **Michael Smilowitz**, Communication Studies; **Kent Zimmerman**, Management; and **David Zimmerman**, Education. Guests included **Kristen Schiavone**, SGA; **Doug Brown**, **Teresa Gonzalez** and **Susan Wheeler**, Office of the Provost.

2. The minutes were accepted as distributed.

3. The balance in the flower fund is \$1155.51. The university account contains \$4219.00 in personal service and \$2943.16 in non-personal service. Senators were reminded to complete the gathering of dues from their faculty colleagues. Application forms for the upcoming computer lottery will be available early in the spring semester, 2004.

4. **Speaker's Report:** Michael reported that over 430 faculty responses were received for the faculty morale survey. This represents approximately 60% of the faculty and exceeds last year's percentage. He thanked the senators for their efforts to encourage their colleagues to respond to the survey. Results will be posted on the senate web site by the January senate meeting. Michael reported that at the academic council meeting on December 3<sup>rd</sup>, the administration indicated that they recognize that we are overburdened with students. A committee was formed to make recommendations regarding enrollment pressures. All in attendance recognized that the successes of the past several years have been on the backs of the faculty.

**5. Committee Reports:**

**A. Academic Policies:** Beth Eck reported that her committee has met with Steve Grande of freshman orientation and discussed the inclusion of a greater number of academic activities during orientation. The committee is researching "Turn-it-in" software that is designed to flag plagiarized material in student papers. Changes in honor code sanctions are being considered and the honor council is soliciting recommendations from the academic policies committee as well as the SGA. Final recommendations will then be voted on by the faculty senate and the SGA. The committee discussed the policy

on student withdrawal. Teresa Gonzalez presented several options to the committee. Changes in the withdrawal date and various procedures regarding withdrawal are being considered by various committees in academic affairs. There was discussion regarding whether WP or WF would be counted into semester and overall GPA. Faculty should also have the option to give a standard letter grade if the WP or WF does not count in GPA determination. After further discussion, Jim Ruff moved to table the withdrawal recommendation pending clarification of dates and grades until the next senate meeting in January 2004. Dietrich Maune seconded the motion and all but one senator approved the motion.

**6.** Provost Doug Brown reported that enrollment management includes not only the number of students physically on campus but the number of students in classes, either taking more than 15 hours or repeating courses. The number of students considered in this manner is approximately 17,000. His office is now studying the number of classes being accessed by students, not just those being completed by students. Doug invited the senate to participate in this review.

The governor will have significant funds in his budget for K-12 and higher education. We are concerned that the legislature may seek to cap tuition and the number of out-of-state students. This will be discussed in the January 2004 BOV meeting. The board will be looking at our tuition in comparison with tuition rates of our national peer institutions.

The first set of faculty salary adjustments (equity) totals \$350,000 that will be put in place in January 2004. A second set will be given during the summer. It is Doug's plan to provide these adjustments every six months. Approximately \$5 million will be required to address salary compression issues.

Mark Rooker expressed his department's concern regarding this semester's academic calendar that has only one week between Thanksgiving and the beginning of exams. Teresa Gonzalez is aware of the problem but has had difficulty finding ways to provide the required number of contact hours. Richard Finkelstein expressed his concern about students attempting to add a class after the free drop/add period. Teresa stated that the current schedule would change next year. Free drop will end on Friday of the first week of classes and free add will extend to Sunday at midnight of that week.

## **5. Committee Reports (continued):**

**B. Faculty Concerns:** No report.

**C. Student Relations:** Reba Leiding reported that the SGA would have a Web portal that will become part of the JMU portal. IT will work with the SGA during the next semester to facilitate its introduction.

**D. Institutional Budget:** No report.

**7. Old Business:** Bill O'Meara reported that the faculty handbook committee is looking at the paragraph dealing with academic freedom. "Right" vs. "Privilege" is being discussed and a statement will be brought forward soon for senate consideration. Bill will

pass this information on to the faculty concerns committee for their review. A list of proposed changes will be placed before the faculty during the month of January allowing for one to two months of consideration so that we may pass on our recommendations to the president and on to the BOV.

**8. New Business:** Aashir Nasim brought a revision of the academic calendar to the senate for its consideration. After discussing the matter and its effect on various student support functions, a sufficient number of senators had left and, with the absence of a quorum, the meeting was adjourned at 4:55PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
David P. Zimmerman, Secretary