

James Madison University
Faculty Senate Minutes
Taylor Hall 306 March 25, 2004

1. Faculty Marshall, **Larry Ham**, called the meeting to order at 3:32. Members present included: **Sharon Babcock**, Biology; **Jose Bario-Olano**, Foreign Languages and Literatures; **David Bernstein**, Computer Science; **Tom Syre** (for Stephanie Chisolm), Health Science; **Rory DePaolis**, Communication Sciences and Disorders; **Sandra Eagle**, Technical and Scientific Communication; **Beth Eck**, Sociology; **Geoff Egekwu**, ISAT; **Roger Hall**, Theatre and Dance; **G. Edgar Parker**, Mathematics and Statistics; **Cynthia Gilliatt**, English; **Kevin Giovanetti**, Physics; **Oris Griffin**, Education; **Larry Ham**, Kinesiology; **Jason Haney**, School of Music; **Bob Jerome**, Economics; **Bill Knorpp**, Philosophy and Religion; **Val Larsen**, Marketing; **Reba Leiding**, Libraries; **Bob Lembright**, History; **Brooks Marshall**, Finance and Business Law; **Dietrich Maune**, Media Arts and Design; **Roberta Mitchell**, Communications Studies; **Aashir Nasim**, Psychology; **Bill O'Meara**, Philosophy and Religion; **Claudia O'Neill**, Nursing; **Traci Pipkins**, Writing Program; **Mark Rooker**, Art and Art History; **Jim Ruff**, English; **Karen Santos**, Education; **Michael Smilowitz**, Communication Studies; **Derek Slavin** (for John Wolf), Military Science; **Kent Zimmerman**, Management; and **David Zimmerman**, Education. Guests included: **Lin Rose** and **Donna Harper**, Office of the President; **Doug Brown**, **Teresa Gonzalez** and **Susan Wheeler**, Office of the Provost; and **G. Ken Lewis**, ISAT.

2. **President's Report:** Lin Rose explained the importance of his attendance at the NCAA meeting in April to consider academic reforms and he also expressed his thanks to Michael for his service to the University as speaker during the past two years. He then provided a legislative update concerning the current budget impasse in Richmond. Despite the inability of the legislature to pass a budget, all three competing plans provide greater funding for JMU than does the current year's budget. Tuition increases are expected. Lin encouraged individuals to attend town meetings to support higher education. Michael reported on his attendance at one such town meeting in Charlottesville. Most speakers encouraged the House to pass a budget and the bulk of the people there were educators. Lin stated that the first priority is to increase faculty positions to man sections of courses and to decrease faculty course-load. Funds will also be used to support faculty/staff development. In response to a question by Jim Ruff, Lin expressed his view that there will not be a statewide referendum to consider tax increases. He indicated that we are on course to raise over \$10 million to support two, and possibly three, endowed chairs. The diversity issue is well underway and a report may be reviewed at the diversity Web site. It is hoped that significant progress will be made between now and the centennial year of the founding of JMU in 2008. Increased diversity will improve the educational opportunities across the entire campus for everyone. Dan Wubah will remain in the President's office as assistant to the President for diversity. Various positions will be established to support diversity throughout the University. These positions will be administratively housed in the President's office. Larger financial aid grants will be established (50 per year) which would provide full support for a single student during their four years at JMU. We shall also look at our programs to be certain that we offer programs that will attract a diverse student population and still remain consistent with our mission. We shall expand our alliances with high schools that have significant minority populations. It is hoped that funds will be available to support visits to JMU by minority speakers and performers. Lin thanked the faculty for their past and future support for these initiatives. There was further discussion concerning various budget scenarios. Cynthia asked about the current search for a new basketball coach and Lin reported that the search committee for this individual consisted of Jeff Bourne and Charles King.

3. **Approval of Minutes:** David Zimmerman asked for approval of the minutes as distributed (there were 50 computer grants rather than 95 as previously reported in the February minutes). This was approved unanimously.

4. **Treasurer's Report:** Geoff Egekwu reported that there was \$1228.71 in the flower fund and \$6588.20 in the senate's university account.

5. **Speaker's Report:** Michael has finished the analysis of the professional development items from the latest faculty morale survey and will post it on the senate Web site. Doug Brown reported that the Board of Visitors will hold its retreat (held once every five years) in May 2004. Faculty development will be one of the items on the agenda for discussion. This will be on the same level as the diversity issue. Doug further voiced his support for the diversity initiatives. 90% of all issues discussed at this coming and future BOV retreats will be related to academics.

6. Michael introduced the proposed preamble to the Faculty Handbook and asked the senate for its approval. "Staff" will be included in line #3. After further discussion the preamble was passed with three senators voting against. The preamble will be posted on the senate Web site.

7. **Committee Reports:**

A. **Nominations and Elections:** Larry Ham reported that he had made calls to various senators and, as of this date, had no volunteers to run for senate offices next year. He appealed to the senators to consider running for the various offices. Committee chairs will be elected at the first senate meeting in the fall. Larry moved to eliminate the early-April meeting and to postpone the first meeting of the new senate to the last Thursday in April. Cynthia seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

B. **Academic Policies:** Beth Eck announced that her committee continues to look at various software packages designed to identify plagiarism.

C. **Faculty Concerns:** Cynthia Gilliatt announced that the gifts for retiring faculty will be presented after the April 29th meeting in Transitions, formerly the university bookstore in Warren Hall. Her committee is considering ways in which retirement calculations for faculty members could include summer salaries. Doug Brown indicated that VRS will not permit part time summer salaries to be included in these calculations.

8. **New Business:** The faculty concerns committee is considering the addition of "sexual orientation" to the list of protected groups in the university hiring and employment statement. Val Larsen expressed his concern that a harassment policy may be incompatible with the preamble we just passed. Susan Wheeler advised the senate that sexual orientation was not a legally recognized protected class in the U.S. courts. It is recognized in some states and localities but not in either this state or this locality. Sexual orientation was once treated as all other legally protected classes but the previous BOV removed that group due to a concern for increased liability on the part of the university. This being the first reading, this matter will be further considered at the next meeting of the full senate.

Cynthia urged that a faculty member be included in future search committees for athletic coaches.

Karen Santos reported that the faculty development task force will be ready to present specific recommendations in the fall.

9. The meeting was adjourned at 5:01PM

Respectfully submitted,

David P. Zimmerman, Secretary