



## FACULTY SENATE

### Minutes

Thursday, January 29, 2009  
Taylor 306

In attendance: Andre, Baker, Barber, Borg, Buckley, Castle, Cavey, Cote, Devore, Fordham, Garren, Gross (for Scheikl), Fink, Hall, Ham, Harris, Hoeltzel, Jerome, Kastendiek, Klippert, Larsen, Marler, McGraw, Mitri, Parsons, Pierrakos, Poe, Scherpereel, Slade, Smith (for Maiewski), Sokoloff, Szmagaj, Tkac, Trice (for Cobb), Wasta, Wright (*Guests*: Teresa Gonzalez, Susan Wheeler, Nikitah Imani, Brian Keilson)

3:30PM: Called to Order

- Approval of the Minutes – approved unanimously
- Treasurer's Report, Dr. Val Larsen
  - i. Val put forward a motion to support changing the annual computer lottery from a matching grant that requires faculty to spend \$500 of their own money to receive the full \$500 award to a straight grant of \$500 for allowable technology purchases with no matching expenditure required. (The motion was seconded by Bob Jerome.) A motion was moved and seconded to suspend the rules and vote on the computer lottery today. The motion to suspend the rules was approved unanimously. Discussion of the motion to support the lottery change included clarification of continuing limits on how frequently faculty can get this grant and issues concerning safeguards on the types of purchases. A concern was also expressed that faculty with less important needs would still apply in the absence of a matching requirement. Conversely, those without money for matching grants might not be able to use the money with a matching requirement. One senator proposed instead considering possible new uses for the money. \*\* The vote to change the grants passed : 27 yes, 0 no, 2 abstentions.
- Speaker's Report, Dr. Steve Garren
  - i. At the next meeting, we will have a guest speaker on the JMU master plan.
  - ii. We'll possibly also have Charlie King as a guest speaker this semester
  - iii. Retirement party – BOV and Dr. Rose would like to have a BOV luncheon for retiring faculty on 3/27 rather than a party coordinated with the faculty senate.
  - iv. Handbook revisions- Steve gave the floor to Bob Jerome, who discussed (with input from Ken Wright and Susan Wheeler) a new handbook committee policy that would allow motions to change the handbook in some way to be tabled for two months to allow faculty senate consideration. This would require a vote in favor of tabling from three members of the committee. (Three of the six members are appointed by the speaker of the faculty senate.) For now, substantive proposed changes that are currently controversial ( full professor promotion requiring excellence in teaching, educational leave becoming available only for faculty who have been here at least six years, and office hours/40-hour work week changes) will not be approved at this point. The committee will complete its review before next Friday (2/6). Any changes approved by the handbook committee will go to the website and to the president for a decision on whether to send them to the BOV for final approval. Any changes that are

made are always eligible for review by next year's committee. There was also some discussion of the status of the handbook as a legal document.

- OLD Business
  - i. The parking motion was given a second reading and discussion: After discussion, an amendment was proposed (to drop the first two sentences under item 1 and in the existing third sentence under that item, drop “student”) and seconded. In discussion, Val suggested that drafting new language could not be effectively done in a full senate meeting, and suggested letting the committee bring issues back for new language. The motion to amend was not passed. The issue of the graduated fees for employees based on salary was also then discussed, as was the issue of individual employees paying more than individual students. There was a suggestion to redesign the motion as two separate motions. There was also a suggestion that graduated fees could be based on percentage of salary rather than on tiers. There was a suggestion to vote on whether the senate supports a change to put less of the parking fee burden on faculty. A straw vote on this issue supported the idea. There was a split straw vote on whether the faculty supports a graduated fee structure based on salary. A straw vote on congestion pricing (graduated based on location) was strongly in favor. One faculty member suggested exceptions may be needed for handicaps and other special circumstances. There was a discussion related to addressing the impacts on staff, with the committee suggesting that this motion is just intended to give the parking committee the faculty's perspective. After all discussion, the committee withdrew the motion and is now working on a revision.
- Report of the Steering Committee
  - i. A proposal to conduct a survey addressing faculty preferences in faculty support, faculty development and faculty benefits was presented informally as a resolution for senators to bring back to their colleagues for input on specific ideas. Steve asked for email from senators.
- Report of the Budget Committee, Dr. Nancy Poe (Chair)

Charlie King has been invited to the senate. The email about the budget sent to all faculty from the president relates to the importance of having faculty input on budget issues. If you have questions you'd like to have the committee pursue with Charlie, please email Nancy.
- Adjourned at 5:00pm.