



FACULTY SENATE

Minutes

Thursday, January 31, 2008
Taylor 306

In attendance: : Bernstein (for Harris), Borg, Castle, Cockburn, Cole (for Mitri), Cote, DePaolis, Fiegenger, Frederick, Garren, Greene, Hall, Hoeltzel, Jerome, Larsen, Macgillivray, McGraw, Minor, Papero, Parsons, Riordan, Scherpereel, Sierra, Slade, Spear, Szmagaj, Taylor, Wright. *Guests:* (6 visitors from University of the Virgin Islands)

Called to Order 3:30pm

Brief Guest Announcements:

*Student Alicia Romano informed the senate that Relay for Life will be on April 5-6. She asks that we share the information about this 12-hour cancer walk with our departments. The website for further information is www.jmurelayforlife.com, and questions may be sent to jmurelay@gmail.com. The organizers offer to give information presentations, if invited.

* SGA President Lee Brooks and Mr. Art Dean spoke to the senate, requesting that faculty help support a planned civil rights monument that will be specifically memorializing Virginians. They are also asking student organizations for contributions. Senators and their colleagues may email Lee Brooks with questions.

Approval of the Minutes: approved unanimously

Guest: Mr. Charlie King, VP Administration and Finance, and Ms. Diane Stamp, Assistant VP

*JMU's budget is roughly 360 million

*Internal factors: All forms and much budget information is on the website for the Office of Budget Management. The revenue types are state appropriations, student fees, and income from sales and services. The state has a "Base Adequacy Funding Model." Our Auxiliary Enterprise budget does not get state funding. Capital projects are financed through the general and non-general budgets and with debt.

*External factors: We will probably see an increase in cuts (reduction level) by March. Nonetheless, for institutions below 95% of base adequacy level, the goal was to get half way to 95%. (Institutions at 95% -- like JMU-- still 1% more). The Governor's budget recommendations included very little for specific institutional initiatives.

*Questions from senate representatives:

Q: Are we on a grow or die "ratchet" while in budget reductions?

A: Catching up has been the history of this school; last year we were exactly where Charlie King feels we needed to be in budget. We won't grow without the money. However, he thinks of the current

reduction as just a cycle.

Q: (addressing percentage of budget spent on instruction and instructional support)

A: We are number one or number two in the state in the percentage of our budget spent on instruction and instructional support. (It was noted, however, that this not a comparison of dollar amounts.)

Q: Why was fiscal crunch not anticipated and planned for?

A: (concerned the general nature of how state politics work)

Q: What exactly is included in “instruction and instructional support?”

A: “Pretty standard across the state.” Some things, like honor council, are not in that budget for us, though they could be.

Q: How can we the Faculty Senate, develop the ability to provide budget feedback? (For example, we thought the cuts were done well except for the big problem of cutting faculty recruitment dollars.)

A: Talk to Dr. Brown.

Q: Can you describe further the presentation slide on the Governor’s budget changes (specifically, with respect to spending recommendation for Higher Education)?

A: The changes show a number of reductions for all institutions.

Provost’s Report (Dr. Theresa Gonzalez)

*The provost’s office requested input on the proposed revision to next year’s academic calendar to eliminate the one-day fall holiday and have no classes during the week of Thanksgiving (though the university would remain open). This change will result in the loss of one instructional day (Tuesday). Compared to other universities in-state, our number of instructional days is currently in the middle, and we would still be around the middle with the lost day. There is no data on the *hours* of instruction, but Theresa thinks we’re in the middle on that as well. We also actually have extra days in the spring instructional calendar.

Old Business:

WP/WF vote – Following discussion of extraordinary circumstances and consistencies of application vs. faculty authority/responsibility, the proposed changes to the current WP/WF grading policy were rejected 18/3.

New Business:

From the Faculty Concerns Committee – FAQ website about faculty rights and responsibilities—see handout of this proposal and go back to colleagues for input – email input to Ken Wright by Feb. 13; faculty concerns would do it, using established fac Handbook input and set up website
Susan Wheeler praised the idea and volunteered to assist

Speaker’s Report:

- ii. PBK – we are one of just 6 schools receiving visits this year, and our chances are good
- iii. BOV information – they are very interested/concerned about the D- issue
- iv. Ombudsman search update
- v. The Honors program is hosting a guest presentation on academic freedom by Dr. Bill Scheuerman, Wednesday, March 19, at 5:00pm in ISAT 159. Please let your colleagues know about this event.

Treasurer’s Report:

- i. There is \$7316 in in the flower fund. (Joan has receive a number of thank you notes from recipients of flowers.)
- ii. The computer lottery has a webpage to register. Ken Lewis is working on it. Faculty will get a notice about this.

Report of the Academic Policies Committee:

- i. The excused absence policy will hopefully to be finalized at the committee's February meeting.
- ii. The senate has already had a first reading of a proposal to move Friday of fall break to the Monday after Thanksgiving; this is currently suspended in light of Theresa's new information.

Report of the Faculty Concerns Committee:

(Nothing beyond the proposal in new business.)

Report of the Faculty Appeals Committee: (Presented by Joan Fredrick)

- i. We need to get a committee together in case there are any appeals. It must be pool of tenured faculty.

Report of the Student Relations Committee:

(no report)

Report of the Budget Committee:

(The committee will discuss the budget presentation and decide if they want to make recommendations about faculty involvement.)

Meeting Adjourned at 5:14pm.