



FACULTY SENATE

Minutes

Thursday, September 6, 2007

Taylor 306

Called to order at 3:30PM (In attendance: Andre, Borg, Castle, Cobb, Cockburn, Cote, Fiegenger, Frederick, Garren, Gilje, Harris, Henriksen, Hobson, Hoeltzel, Hughes, Jerome, Kastendiek, Minor, Mitri, O'Neill, Parsons, Riordan, Rudmin, Sargent-Beasley, Scherpereel, Shelton, Sierra, Slade, Spear, Szmagaj, Whittaker, Wright. Guests: Rose, Gonzalez, and Wheeler)

President Rose addressed the Senate, focusing on progress in the following areas in recent years:

1. Planning and Priorities – The current strategic areas of emphasis are diversity, financial resources, private support, graduate programs of distinction, professional development, institutional planning, and environmental sustainability
2. The development of new academic programs and the creation of more student support programs
3. Increases in acreage, square footage, classrooms, and total parking
4. A new commitment of resources for faculty and staff development and training
5. Admissions and enrollment—JMU now has relationships with 14 community colleges, undergraduate applications are up 37% in the last 10 yrs., graduate applications are up 50%, and minority applications and enrollment are also up (though he hopes for more in this area)
6. Financial condition – the first capital campaign is near completion, there has been a significant increase in large donations, the inflation-adjusted budget is up 47% in ten years, and research grants are up 36% since 1998
7. A number of positive strategic indicators

In addition, his preliminary news on the university's budget reduction response was that he thought no positions or planned salary increases were threatened, and that hiring freezes were not likely to be put in place this year. He also indicated that he continues to assert that the university will not grow without the necessary resources and may look at selective reductions if necessary. The additional news on salaries was that, with the revised new peer group for JMU, the state has increased the faculty salary goals by \$3000. He was asked about impacts on tuitions and stated that he does not want to see mid-year increases this year, though future increases are open for discussion. He was also asked about student aid and pointed to some resources. Finally, he was asked about the environmental impact of more students and cars as the university grows, and he indicated that the university is meeting with the city about our resource use and impacts regularly and that we are in the midst of transportation master plan discussions.

Provost's Report (from Vice Provost Teresa Gonzalez): Safety procedures and plans have been reviewed post VA Tech. Faculty who have a cell phone can sign up for emergency notification on JESS. Half of faculty/staff have signed up, 1/3 of students. The Provost's office asked that senate representatives go to their colleagues for feedback on what to do about student cell phones being on in class. Ideas can be emailed to Joan Frederick, Teresa Gonzalez, or Susan Wheeler. In response to a suggestion that intercom and loudspeaker systems are a good alternative, Susan Wheeler said that the administration would like to have backup systems.

Marshal's Report: Ruth Sheldon was elected Temporary Senate Treasurer, and Sharon Cote was elected Senate Secretary. Senate Information booklets and information on committee assignments were given to all representatives.

Speaker's Report:

1. The job description for the ombudsman position is nearly finished and the steering committee is hopeful that the ad will be out soon.
2. The Faculty Senate of VA will have its first meeting of the year at VA Tech. JMU is hosting the April meeting. There is a link to the Faculty Senate of VA on the JMU Faculty Senate website, and faculty may also email concerns to Joan Frederick.
3. Transition of treasurer last year resulted in some flowers not being sent to colleagues. Joan asked the representatives please find out if any colleagues' requests were not fulfilled. The senate will be sending out belated condolences and will also send donations to charities or such if requested. The \$5 senate dues collected each year goes only to the flower fund. Future requests should be sent to Treasurer.
4. The updated Faculty Morale Survey results will be posted soon on the senate website. A copy is also available in the senate information booklets handout out at this meeting.
5. The Senate speaker was invited to the luncheon for Archbishop Desmond Tutu, and Ken Wright, Speaker Pro Tem, will attend
6. Joan asked that representatives talk to their colleagues about what concerns they have for the Senate.
7. The Faculty Senate has been promised an office for records/history/visibility/steering committee meetings (possibly in Miller Hall).

Treasurer's Report: The Flower Fund is currently \$5852. In addition, senate university funds are as follows: personal \$4441, non-personal \$2952.

Representatives were asked to collect the \$5 Senate dues from their colleagues for the Flower Fund.

Faculty Concerns Committee Report: There is the possibility of hiring a full-time lobbyist for VA faculty. The committee asked that representatives find out from colleagues if they might be willing to support this move, perhaps with an add'l \$10 dues.

Student Relations Committee Report: The committee met with the current SGA president, who brought up two academic student concerns-- class size and faculty advising.

Academic Policies Committee Report: The committee requested that representatives seek early comments from colleagues on the three items currently on its agenda: the possibility of adding a D-grade, the possibility making Fs for honor code violations temporarily or permanently marked as XFs, and a re-examination of the WP/WF option.

Budget and Planning Committee Report: The committee is looking at enrollment growth and also at the relationship between growth and budget concerns. Copies of a report prepared this summer are available through Joe Spear. Joan Frederick and Scott Gallagher already met with members of the

administration and of the Board of Visitors this summer to discuss this. Dr. Meredith Gunter, Vice Rector of the Board of Visitors will speak with the senate this year.

Faculty Appeals committee report: nothing to report

OLD BUSINESS

There was a request for an update on the possibility of getting plagiarism software. Susan Wheeler indicated that the courts are discussing the copyright issues associated with this software and suggested that the issue might be tabled pending court decisions.

NEW BUSINESS

None

Meeting adjourned at 5:15pm