



FACULTY SENATE

Minutes

Thursday, October 2, 2008

Taylor 306

3:31PM: Called to Order

In attendance: Barber, Borg, Buckley, Cavey, Cote, Devore, Fordham, Garren, Giovanetti, Greene, Hall, Ham, Harris, Hobson, Hoeltzel, Jerome, Kastendiek, Kindig, Klippert, Larsen, McGraw, Mitri, Parsons, Pierrakos, Poe, Scheikl, Scherpereel, Slade, Sokoloff, Tkac, Wasta, Wright (*Guests*: Brown, Gonzalez, and Wheeler)

- Approval of the Minutes- approved unanimously
- Speaker's Report, Dr. Steven Garren
 - The School of Engineering now has a faculty senator, Olga Pierrakos
 - From the recent Board of Visitors meeting:
 - Karen Santos gave a presentation on the faculty development center
 - The issue of alcohol abuse by students came up; ideas are welcome
 - Senate sub-committees can use extra time after senate meetings
 - The Ombudsperson Search Committee is being formed. The committee's first task will be to consider how to hire an ombudsperson and what the exact job description will be.
 - Senate members were asked for ideas about the best uses of faculty development
 - Compensation for faculty filling in for colleagues on maternity leave is an issue because it is now minimal.
- Provost's Report, Dr. Doug Brown
 - The COACHE survey for early career faculty (faculty who have not achieved tenure – including RTAs) is being implemented here this year; six schools in VA are involved. We have added questions designed by the faculty senate and questions designed by the six institutions (the latter primarily being about support for faculty activities.) The survey started circulating here Oct. 15 and will be available through January. We are hoping for over an 70% response rate. Data will be anonymous and will be handled by just one IT person who is required to maintain security. The results will come to the Faculty Senate and to other constituencies to be analyzed for possible recommendations about changes.
 - Doug suggested that possible areas of administrative collaboration with the faculty senate should be identified by the senate, and his office will help as needed. He'd particularly like advice about areas of faculty development and resources, including "Educational leaves." The Center for Faculty Innovation would like our feedback and recommendations for next steps.
 - The faculty handbook is not "in congruence with the new structures of the university and so needs to be brought into congruence." Because the Board of Visitors approves both new structures and handbook revisions, the order is not always handbook first.
(Susan Wheeler noted that the faculty handbook committee has been meeting and hopes to be through the handbook by Thanksgiving.)

- The latest update on budget news for the state – and we keep getting different update – is that there will be a 6% reversion, but we've also heard the equipment trust fund is frozen. Still waiting to hear on salary increases. Income tax revenue isn't looking bad for the state, but other tax sources are down. JMU's concern, more than state budget right now, is that students may not be able to afford college, which could reduce our student numbers too precipitously.

– Val Larsen asked whether bank problems could affect us, and Doug noted that more of JMU's money is in regional banks rather than national ones and is quite secure.

- Report of the Academic Policies Committee, Dr. David McGraw (Chair)
 - i. Considering possible mechanisms for inviting faculty suggestions/suggestion box (The senate representative from the library offered to talk w/ his people.)
 - ii. The committee was asked to consider whether the the single week left in the semester after Thanksgiving has negative pedagogical implications. They achieved consensus that nothing should be done about this given other calendar issues and the variability each year. (A senator suggested the possibility of having exam weeks bracketed around a weekend.)
 - iii. The committee is looking to senate representatives for ideas/suggestions. It's better to get action items started early in the year.
- Report of the Budget Committee, Dr. Nancy Poe (Chair)
(no report)
- Report of the Faculty Appeals Committee, Dr. Mary Slade (Chair)
 - i. The committee has had a couple things come up already.
 - ii. Clarification of the role of this committee-- it comes into play /after/ a decision has been made. Issues pre-decision will go to the ombudsperson's office once it is formed.
- Report of the Faculty Concerns Committee, Dr. Kenneth Wright (Chair)
 - i. Considering email quotas, and the Dean of the library is looking into alternatives (Google Apps).
 - ii. A parking enforcement issue came up- Ken emailed the Parking Office on behalf of the committee and feels that this has improved enforcement in the past
 - iii. Val Larsen will come to the next committee meeting to talk about Vanguard
 - iv. Considering the issue of a Faculty Club – the committee feels it is not clear how much interest there is based on the last morale survey. Email Ken with comments, especially if your department has a strong interest.
- Report of the Committee on Nominations and Elections
Jeff Marler was nominated for as the senate's General Education representative. He was approved by acclamation.
- Report of the Student Relations Committee, Dr. Kevin Borg (Chair)
 - i. Committee is discussing issues related to the faculty senate – safety and substance abuse – email Kevin have questions/concerns about those
 - ii. Q (Nancy) does Pres. Rose expect something from us on this A – committee will determine right approach/ level of response. Fac Sen in general can do more if committee stops. Steve G elaborated that Lyn was just giving suggestions

- Treasurer's Report, Dr. Val Larsen
 - Still collecting money from departments. Contributions from departments designated as being from particular faculty members in those departments.
- OLD Business
 - (none)
- NEW Business
 - i. The first reading of a parking motion from Arch Harris – for discussion at next month's meeting
 - ii. From Kevin Borg – A request for information about benefits for Aramark employees on campus, who perhaps have to pay for benefits in lump sum, making it more difficult to take advantage of them.
 - iii. From Joan Kindig – A colleague is concerned about equity adjustment in faculty salaries – some are making less than new hires.
(In response, Doug Brown noted that, in some colleges, the new faculty market commands a higher salary than for existing faculty. His office has adjusted existing salaries to compensate on several occasions. The policy at the university is to try to bring things into balance in November and July but there may not be money for it this year. His office also does a gender equity analysis on the entire faculty every year.)

Adjourned 4:23pm