



## FACULTY SENATE

### Minutes

Thursday, November 1, 2007

Taylor 306

**In attendance:** Andre, Borg, Castle, Cobb, Cockburn, Cote, DePaolis, Fiegener, Frederick, Garren, Gilje, Greene, Hall, Harris, Henriksen, Hobson, Hoeltzel, Jerome, Kastendiek, Macgillivray, Minor, Mitri, Parsons, Riordan, Rudmin, Scherpereel, Shelton, Slade, Spear, Szmagaj, Whittaker, Wingfield, Wright. *Guests:* Gonzalez and Odane (graduate student)

#### Called to Order 3:30pm

**Approval of the Minutes:** approved unanimously

#### Provost's Report (Dr. Douglas Brown):

- \* The Faculty Concerns committee now has copies of all current faculty evaluation guidelines; Doug would appreciate any feedback.
- \* The merit process is complete and increments have been submitted to payroll. 4% came from Depts. plus \$100,000 from the provost's office.
- \* There is an ongoing reorganization of Doug's staff; Dr. Teresa Gonzalez was made vice provost last year concerned with Arts and Letters and the College of Visual and Performing Arts; two additional vice provosts have now been appointed: Dr. Jerry Benson and Dr. John Noftsinger.
- \* As a separation of science and technology seems to have resulted in reduced communication in program development and research, there is a need to re-organize to maximize communication and student opportunities. A major initiative is planned to re-organize stem programs and the image of these programs at JMU. (One goal is to get more interdisciplinary grants.) This is one reason for the new appointments.
- \* The re-organization of the senior staff in the provost's office is not done. The plan is to have a less centralized, more grassroots structure
- \* In response to a question about stem admissions, Doug said that new approaches will be used. In response to a follow-up about whether these approaches would be active or just informational, he added that there are many possibilities, and that other admissions issues, such as gender issues, are part of the dilemma
- \* The response to a question about whether re-uniting Stem programs would involve looking at equalization of resources and salaries was yes.
- \* Addressing a questions about re-organziation costs, Doug responded that the long term idea is to substantially increase the funding of the university, that the immediate cost is minimal at the moment though it costs money to create colleges (\$500,000). We also need to increase our faculty to match student increases – probably through grant money and increased tuition. We must reorganize provost's office if we want it to work
- \* Doug added that we do not want to become a tech place; we want to be a research and development place with heavy emphasis on the latter (for the social good). Several senators raised additional concerns about the development issues, including the value of being undergraduate-oriented and offering a liberal education, not just having some liberal arts in General Education. Doug's view was

that the teaching inheritance of this university will remain. He also noted that faculty will have a chance to have input into the details of re-organization. In response to additional concern about the tradeoffs between teaching and research he elaborated on his view that the R1 model does not work and the JMU does not want that.

**Old Business:**

- \*A vote on the Bill of Support for adding a transcript notation for honor code violations went 28 for and 3 against.
- \* After a discussion about possibly amending it to apply to undergraduates only, the proposal to recommend the addition of a “D-“ grade was voted on, passing with 16 for and 15 against.
- \* The WP/WF proposal has gone back to the academic affairs committee to consider an amendment.

**New Business:** None

**Speaker's Report:**

- \*Dr. King will probably attend the senate meeting in January. Mr Walsh in Admissions will also be invited in soon, as will a guest from the Board of Visitors.
- \*The faculty morale survey results information has been posted.
- \*Dr. Joe Spear will be representing us at the next VA Faculty Senate Meeting.

**Treasurer's Report:**

- \*After the addition of \$1315 in dues collected and the subtraction of \$300 outgoing, plus postage \$16, the flower fund is at \$7136.

**Report of the Faculty Concerns Committee:**

- \*The committee will consider the information from the Provost's Office.
- \*A motion to pass the resolution recommending that the Provost require changes to merit pay guidelines not in line with the handbook be done by mid/end April then went 22 for, 0 against, and 4 abstentions.

**Report of the Student Relations Committee:** no report

**Report of the Academic Policies Committee:**

- \*As explained by Susan Wheeler, the is committee was asked for feedback on an academic affairs policy on centers and institutes. The final version of the policy will also come to the committee.
- \*Thanksgiving break just one week before the end of a fall semester is an issue, and any ideas can be shared with Joan Frederick or this committee.

**Report of the Budget Committee:**

- \*The committee gave out copies of a budget summary sheet for budget reductions and offered the assessment that JMU is not bad off compared to some.

**Report of the Faculty Appeals Committee:** no report

**Meeting adjourned at 5:21pm.**