



FACULTY SENATE

Minutes

Thursday, October 1, 2009

Taylor 306

In Attendance: Andre, Barber, Carbaugh, Castle, DePaolis, DeVore, Enyeart Smith, Fordham, Gallagher, Garren, Hall, Hamilton, Harris, Herron, Jerome, Johnson, Kastendiek, Klippert, Larsen, McGraw, Moghtader, Nelson, Niculescu, Nye, Pierrakos, Rankin, Scheikl, Slade, Sokoloff, Szmagaj, Trice, Veltman, Wasta, (Guests: Douglas Brown, Teresa Gonzalez, Daniel Smolkin-SGA)

3:35 PM: Call to Order

- Marshall's Report, Dr. Mary Slade
- Approval of the Minutes with amendments.
- Provost's Report, Dr. Douglas Brown
 - i. Budget Report
 - 15% cut of the E & G budget. Offset by 7 % of state stimulus funds advanced from 2010-2011, pending federal approval. Offset by “error money” (excess stimulus funds from the previous cycle). JMU – 2 cuts of 7% and 15%. Funding options for cuts: 1. Revenue & tuition; 2. Division cuts (1.4 million: 50% of travel budget, \$500,000 of library budget, reduced academic program reviews and fees associated with them). Operating budgets and personnel untouched. Hopes to bring travel funds back in the following year. A tuition increase is likely. Concerns raised regarding the 2012-2013 budget when federal stimulus funds are no longer available. Capitol constructions cost are down 30%. Size of student body has increased and the rate of student retention has also improved.
 - ii. Results of C.O.A.C.H.E. survey distributed. Report available at web URL <http://www.jmu.edu/acadaffairs/reports.shtml>.
6 VA institutions participated in survey of pre-tenure tenure-track faculty. JMU had a 74% response rate. Results generally positive. Dr. Brown indicated that it was difficult to find an adequate peer institution for comparison (University of Miami Ohio is really the only one). As the survey results are reviewed by the administration additional results will likely be posted. The next phase of the study will be college and departmental level meetings with faculty and C.O.A.C.H.E. staff. Dr. Brown intends to return to the senate with a more detailed presentation in the future. Survey cycle is once every 3 years.
- Treasurer's Report, Dr. Robert Jerome
 - i. October 1, 2009 balance is \$7,112.74. Activity since September 2009: minus \$50 memorial for Sheri Tratnack's father; plus \$42 in flower fund contributions. Memorials pending: Brenda Whitmer's father and Jean Cash's mother.



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- Report of the Academic Policies Committee, Dr. Val Larsen (Chair)
 - i. Committee met and voted down a proposal to allow transfer students to include classes taken outside JMU in the calculation of graduation honors. Will be examining the excused absence policy for students and current class schedules in an effort to improve use of space and time.
- Report of the Nominations and Elections Committee, Dr. Mary Slade (Chair)
 - i. Business from 2008-2009 amending senate constitution: Faculty members may serve on the senate only 6 consecutive years. The speaker may serve for 2 years. Changes require a 2/3 vote of full time faculty of which a 2/3 majority is required for approval. Vote will be conducted via email.
- Report of the Budget Committee, Dr. Nancy Poe (Chair)
 - i. No Report
- Report of the Faculty Appeals Committee, Dr. Rory DePaolis (Chair)
 - i. No Report
- Report of the Faculty Concerns Committee, Dr. Arch Harris (Chair)
 - i. Committee discussed and acted on the following items: 1. The Faculty Senate requests the Office of the President or Provost to annually email the entire faculty, during the week preceding the week of April 16th, encouraging faculty to, at their discretion, use a portion of their classes during the week of April 16 as a remembrance of the Virginia Tech tragedy. Status: The committee voted to not support. 2. Is there a problem with many departments having "interim heads" and are departments/deans taking full advantage of using internal searches. attractive to faculty within a department? Status: The committee voted to not take any action. 3. Is the university's retirement incentive program (where faculty receive a bonus of 150% of their salary over a 5 year period) ending? Status: At a meeting with the steering committee, Dr. Brown and Mr. King indicated this program is not ending. *It should be noted however, that this benefit is not guaranteed to all retirees, the policy only states "the university may at times choose to extend an offer of early retirement to a faculty member"*. 4. Review of Mr. King's response to the senate motion on parking. Status: The SGA will be asked to comment on the Faculty Senate parking proposal. 5. Review of departmental evaluation criteria and merit process policies. Status: A request has been made to Dr. Brown to collect a copy of the policies for the committee. 6. Are retiring faculty being given adequate information about choice for retirement date? Is it a problem that benefits do not begin until Sep 1 for new faculty, and if so, is there a solution? Status: The committee will be contacting Human Resources to gather more information about these issues. 7. The governor's announced a plan to furlough all state employees. Status: The committee is gathering information concerning this issue.



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8. How does JMU maintain its academic quality amid state budget reductions and does JMU's financial model need adjustment? Status: The committee is gathering information concerning this issue. 9. Should JMU install coin-metered electric car chargers? Status: The committee has not yet considered this issue. 10. Should JMU work with the city to provide better bike and pedestrian access via Paul Street? Status: The committee has not yet considered this issue.

- Report of the Student Relations Committee, Dr. Jeff Andre (Chair)

- i. No Report

- OLD Business: Motion to amend the 9/3/09 minutes under Speaker's item iii. Approved. Points tabled in 2008-2009 by faculty handbook committee – review at November meeting.

- NEW Business: Issued raised regarding the \$62 million dollar renovation to the stadium. Suggestion to reduce this amount and use balance to offset items currently being cut from the budget. Suggestion to rebalance fee/tuition structure.

Question posed to senate by steering committee: "Given the mandate for departmental reduction in funds, are you aware of the process for allocating funds within your department for such things as travel and equipment, and is this allocation reasonable and flexible?" Responses from the floor: Faculty could be satisfied with current allocation procedures but unsatisfied with amount of funds. Poll of senators indicated that the majority feels the process is working well.

Meeting adjourned: 4:58 pm