FACULTY SENATE MINUTES
Thursday, November 5, 2009
Taylor 306


3:35 PM: Call to Order
• Approval of the Minutes (10/09)
• Provost's Report, Dr. Douglas Brown
  i. State Council for Higher Education Report (2008 Support per Student)
     Virginia ranks 40th in State & Local Appropriations @ $5,805 Per FTE (US $7,059)
     Virginia ranks 20th in Tuition & Fee Revenue @ $5,322 Per FTE (US $4,004)
     Virginia ranks 26th in Total Revenue @ $11,127 Per FTE (US $11,026)
     The state has cut funding so the state ranks for VA may drop. Lobbying legislature to increase funding for public institutions. (JMU is currently receiving 88% of promised funding based on original projections)
  ii. JMU has been approved for a Phi Beta Kappa chapter (4 of 40 applications approved)
  iii. Budget: No further revisions under current governor.
  iv. Retention Rate at JMU is 82% this year. JMU ranks 17th in the country for retention rates (public). Looking at grants to attract/recruit strong out of state and international students. In state freshman numbers will be capped at 2009 level.

• Speaker's Report, Dr. Steven Garren
  i. C. King will attend the December meeting. Pres. Rose will attend the February meeting.
  ii. Presentation and discussion of Steering Committee proposals regarding the demolition of the stadium. After lengthy discussion a straw vote was held favoring Proposal I. The senate voted to suspend the rules requiring a 1st reading in favor of a vote. Proposal I as amended to include Godwin passed. 26-Yes/2-No/4-Abst.

Amended Proposal I: "The Faculty Senate requests that the Office of Academic Affairs be consulted prior to any major demolition or construction work on campus. The Faculty Senate would like to express its profound disappointment at the announcement that the partial demolition of Bridgeforth stadium will begin at the start of exam week on December 7, 2009. Demolition work at such a crucial time for student academic attainment (via studying) and achievement (exam administration) in such close proximity to both student residence halls (Eagle, Shorts and Chandler) and classrooms (e.g. Showker, Godwin) suggests a disturbing disregard for the academic mission of the university. The Faculty Senate respectfully requests that this decision to begin demolition work on Bridgeforth stadium on December 7, 2009, be reconsidered and rescinded in order to facilitate the education and enlightenment of our student body."
• Report of the Budget Committee, Dr. Nancy Poe (Chair)
  i. Consistent with the Provost's earlier comments regarding budgetary matters, and in conjunction with the Faculty Senate Steering Committee, the Budget Committee is undertaking the task of formulating a Resolution to lend faculty voice in an examination of JMU's "budget model" with particular attention to fee and tuition income sources and the allocation thereof. The current model results in Academic Affairs taking a disproportionate "hit" compared to other divisions in the institution, particularly during times of budget cutbacks/reductions.

  The Resolution will also present faculty concerns about the shifting priorities within Academic Affairs in the context of the changing nature of JMU and the resourcing of those priorities.

  Near-term and long-term recommendations will be included in the Resolution.

  If senators have specific questions or concerns that you wish the Committee to consider, please email them to Nancy Poe with the term "Budget" in the subject line. poent@jmu.edu

• Report of the Academic Policies Committee, Dr. Val Larsen (Chair)
  i. Excused Absence Policy review requested by SGA. Proposed draft from the Academic Policies Committee:

     "Catalog Statement Excused Absence Policy:
     [Absences from class occasioned by major religious holidays or by students acting as duly authorized representatives of the University at events and times approved by the appropriate dean are considered excused.]
     Instructor policies govern what [other] absences will be excused, how many excused absences will be allowed, and how missed work will be made up, if permitted. Students must notify the faculty by no later than the end of the Drop-Add period the first week of the semester of [any] potential scheduled absences and determine with the faculty if acceptable alternative methods exist for completing the missed classroom, lab, clinical/field, or other required activities. This allows students to drop the course if it is determined that missed academic activities cannot be rescheduled or that the absences would prevent adequate mastery of the material.

     Students cannot presume that scheduled, rescheduled, or unforeseeable absences will be excused by their instructor. Since instructor policies govern whether an absence will be excused, students should consult with their instructors regarding attendance policies.

     Faculty Handbook Statement
     Faculty are strongly encouraged to [should] publish as part of the course syllabus and/or discuss during the initial class session their attendance policies, including any mandatory, unrepeatable components of the course, and the expected procedure for requesting and obtaining approval for scheduled absences."

  ii. Proposal draft of new class schedule presented.

     "Courses meet for 75 minutes on Monday/Thursday or Tuesday/Friday.
     Courses meet for 150 minutes Wednesday before 3:00 p.m.
     From 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. Wednesday is reserved for presentations, speeches, meetings, etc. of interest to the broad spectrum of students and faculty."
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Schedule is currently being examined by a committee on campus. Should the faculty senate submit a proposal to this body? Please respond to Val Larsen.

• Treasurer's Report, Dr. Robert Jerome  
i. Report - Flower Fund  
Our current balance is about $7,385.38. We have received $322 in contributions and have disbursed $50, in memory of Jean Cash's mother. Pending disbursements: Brenda Whitmer's father; Hilda Taylor's mother; David Fordham's father; Dona Gilliam's mother

• Report of the Nominations and Elections Committee, Dr. Mary Slade (Chair)  
i. Report – Electronic Vote on amendments to constitution. Half of total number of faculty must vote. To pass 2/3 of that voting group must approve amendments. Emails will sent week of 11/9/09 and reminders will follow.

• Report of the Faculty Appeals Committee, Dr. Rory DePaolis (Chair)  
i. No Report

• Report of the Faculty Concerns Committee, Dr. Arch Harris (Chair)  
i. No Report

• Report of the Student Relations Committee, Dr. Jeff Andre (Chair)  
i. No Report

• OLD Business  
Faculty Handbook committee requests a consensus vote on the following items at December meeting:  
Referrals from the Handbook Committee (5 Items):  
III. A. 14. Office Hours  
_Suggestion: Remove reference to minimum of five office hours per week._


III. E. 4. a. Faculty Anticipated Activity Plan  
_Suggestion: Limit minimum weight for any performance area to ten percent._

III. E. 6. a. Standards  
_Suggestion: Mandate excellent rating in teaching for promotion to full professor._

III. J. 1.a. (1) Educational Leave  
_Suggestion: Limit eligibility of Education Leave to those who have been at the university for six years._

III. E. 2. a. AUPAC  
_Suggestion: Limit ability of untenured faculty members on PAC to vote on promotion decisions._

• NEW Business – NONE

• Meeting adjourned 5:00 pm