FACULTY SENATE MINUTES
Thursday, January 28, 2010  Taylor 306


3:35 PM: Call to Order

- Approval of the Minutes
- Provost's Report, Dr. Douglas Brown
  i. State Budget Update: Kaine Budget contained the following items. A. Reduction in educational funds, B. No salary increases for state employees, C. No budget amendments allowed for additional funds for projects, D. Reduction in retirement benefits. Kaine budget is likely to be rejected by new assembly. 2010-2011 JMU shortfall is projected to be 4 million dollars and 2011-2012 JMU shortfall is projected to be 11 million dollars. Significant tuition increase will be one action taken by JMU. JMU will also put all general fund building projects on hold.
- Speaker's Report, Dr. Steven Garren
  i. Questions for Dr. Rose presented and discussed. Motion presented form the floor: "To entrust the steering committee to edit, revise, and prioritize the list of questions for Dr. Rose." Vote: passed.
- Report of the Academic Policies Committee, Dr. Val Larsen (Chair)
  i. Seniors Course Selection/Prerequisites discussion and vote. Vote did not pass as written. Straw vote taken for committee to pursue an optional/alternative proposal. Vote: passed.
  ii. Excused Absence Policy - Discussion and vote taken. Vote: Did not pass. Straw vote taken to pursue/consider alternate proposal presented by Arch Harris. Vote: passed.
- Report of the Nominations and Elections Committee, Dr. Mary Slade (Chair)
  i. 5 Officer positions open for upcoming Senate year-currently taking nominations.
  iii. New senators for 2010-2011 year will meet on April 22, 2010 at 3:30. Departments must have new senators in place by April 1, 2010-email names to Mary Slade.
- Treasurer's Report, Dr. Robert Jerome
  i. Report - We received $88 in contributions, and have disbursed funds in memory of Don Corbin's mother-in-law, Barbara Shifflett's brother, Hossain Heydari's mother, Arch Harris’ mother, Elizabeth Haworth's mother, and Mark Facknitz's mother. Our current balance is approximately $7237.
  ii. Pending donations in the memory of Larry Burton's mother, Doug Brown's mother, and Loretta Grunewald (secretary- Economics).
- Report of the Faculty Concerns Committee, Dr. Arch Harris (Chair).
  A detailed summary may be seen at http://w3.cs.jmu.edu/arch/jmu/sen-09/report-2010-01.php
  i. IT concerns raised. Determined not to be a pressing item.
  ii. Retirement. Date of retirement impacts dollars received. Early date would allow for employee to receive an extra paycheck.
  iii. Benefits/Pay and Contract Dates for new faculty. Benefits begin Sept. 1 but
contract begins early August.

iv. Merit pay Policies are being collected.

• Report of the Budget Committee, Dr. Nancy Poe (Chair)
  i. Currently considering concerns received from Steering, Budget, and Faculty concerns committees.

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

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

• OLD Business
  Referrals from the Handbook Committee (5 Items). Votes taken on each item.
  III. A. 14. Office Hours VOTE: NO
    Suggestion: Remove reference to minimum of five office hours per week.
  III. E. 4. a. Faculty Anticipated Activity Plan VOTE: YES
    Suggestion: Limit minimum weight for any performance area to ten percent.
  III. E. 6. a. Standards VOTE: YES
    Suggestion: Mandate excellent rating in teaching for promotion to full professor.
  III. J. 1.a. (1) Educational Leave VOTE: NO
    Suggestion: Limit eligibility of Education Leave to those who have been at the university for [at least] six years.
  III. E. 2. a. AUPAC VOTE: NO
    Suggestion: Limit ability of untenured faculty members on PAC to vote on promotion decisions.

Alternative Excused Absence Proposal (presented by Arch Harris at December 2009 meeting.)

• NEW Business

  Drop Fee Proposal presented in written form by the Academic Policies Committee.

• Meeting adjourned 5:08 pm