

Final CAL Diversity Council Meeting, April 19, 2017

Chair: Frances Flannery	flanefl@jmu.edu	Phil/Rel
<u>Members:</u>		
Elizabeth Pass	passer@jmu.edu	WRTC
Erica Cavanagh	cavanaek@jmu.edu	English
Stephen Chappell	chappesx@jmu.edu	History
Michael Davis	davismk@jmu.edu	SCOM
Yenisei Montes de Oca	monstesyx@jmu.edu	Foreign Languages
Alexandra Vilela	vilelaam@jmu.edu	SMAD
Heather Scheuerman	scheuehl@jmu.edu	Justice Studies
Liam Buckley	bucklelm@jmu.edu	Soc/Anth
Jennifer Byrne	byrneje@jmu.edu	Political Science

In attendance: Frances Flannery, Elizabeth Pass, Yenisei Montes de Oca, Heather Scheuerman, Liam Buckley, and David Jeffrey

We thank Dean Jeffrey for his unflagging support of this committee and wish him the very best in his retirement!

1) In response to an earlier discussion in the committee regarding campus resources for students in distress and disruptive/offensive students, Dean Jeffrey opened with some resources for the Committee to distribute to their departments. These include:

*On Suicide:
<www.CampusSuicidePreventionVA.org>

This material was originally developed by Cornell University as Recognizing and Responding to Students in Distress: A Faculty Handbook and was adapted and published for Virginia campuses by The Campus Suicide Prevention Center of Virginia and The Institute for Innovation in Health and Human Services at JMU.

The handbook includes suggestions about the student who "is disrespectful... demanding or requires more attention"; about "supporting LGBTQ students"; about students who are "verbally aggressive and potentially violent," etc.

*Useful phone number: JMU Counseling 568-6552.

*Academic Affairs Policy #12 deals with disruption of class. The policy can be accessed at this link:
<<http://www.jmu.edu/academic-affairs/documents/policies/aapolicy-12.pdf>>
<http://www.jmu.edu/academic-affairs/documents/policies/aapolicy-12.pdf>

*While you would normally consult with your AUH about a disruptive student, if there is an emergency, call the campus police (568-6911).

You and your AUH may also wish to contact the Dean of Students (568-6468) for advice about whether a disruptive student is a repeat offender.

He clarified an earlier discussion on hate speech, noting that hate speech is protected by the First Amendment. Hate acts are not. See:

www.americanbar.org/groups/public_education/initiatives_awards/students_in_action/debate_hate.html.

2) Suggestion for Disability Accommodations from PHIL/REL followed. Several old buildings are not configured for full access by disabled persons. Flannery noted that we are unsure whether a wheelchair can even fit through the doors, and that there is no elevator. She reported that PHIL/REL discussed the issue and decided that professors with offices on the 2nd and 3rd floors would voluntarily include a statement on their syllabi that students who are unable to get to those floors can request that their professor meet them in another office on the 1st floor. The department designated three professors on the first floor who would allow their offices to be used. PHIL/REL recommends that other departments in similar situations discuss their accommodation plans for disabled students.

At the CAL Diversity Committee meeting, Pass noted that the accommodations must be equivalent: a private office with a computer, etc. Meeting in the lobby violates equal access laws.

3) Due to other commitments, Flannery decided to step down as Chair for 2017-2018 and the committee enthusiastically elected Heather Scheuerman as Chair, from Justice Studies.

4) The committee discussed plans for next year, including continuing our attempts to obtain an external campus climate survey. All members on the committee are positive about the progress made this year and the prospects that await us next year!

Respectfully submitted,
Frances Flannery