



FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

Thursday, November 7, 2019 – Taylor/Madison Union 405

In attendance: Piper (Speaker); Accounting: Briggs; Art, Design, and Art History: Phaup; Biology: Seifert; Chemistry: Hughey; Comm. Sci. and Disorders: Clinard; Comm. Studies: Woo; Computer Science: Kirkpatrick; Early ELED & Reading: Mathur; Economics: Cavusoglu; Educ. Found. & Exc.: Bosch (proxy); Engineering: Harper; English: Lo; Finance & Bus. Law: Parker; Foreign Languages: Lang-Rigal; Geology: McGary; Hart School of HSRM: Anaza; Health Professions: Skelly; Health Sciences: Ott Walter; History: McCleary; Integrated Sciences: McGraw; Justice Studies: Beers; Kinesiology: McKay; Learning Tech. & LE: Beverly; Lib & Ed Tech: Flota; Management: Shahzad; Marketing: Larsen; Math & Stats: Garren; Media Arts & Design: Mitchell; Mid, Second, & Math: Shoffner; Military Science: Waller; Music: Suggs; Nursing: Lam; Philosophy & Religion: van Leeuwen; Physics: Butner; Political Science: Lee; Psychology: Melchiori; Sociology & Anthropology: Tanaka; Theatre & Dance: Finkelstein; Writing Rhetoric & Tech Comm: McDonnell; Part-time Faculty Reps: Harlacker, Janow, PeekMease; SGA Rep: Deger; Guests—Johnson (Provost's Office), Kirk (Phil/Rel), Luke (SGA)

I. Call to Order—3:30 p.m.

II. Acting Provost's Report

- Vice Provost Johnson extended greetings from Provost Coltman, who is recovering well.
- Academic Affairs underwent a budget reversion of \$467,000. Colleges and units had agency in deciding how to make adjustments, and the process went quickly and smoothly (no freezes on travel, for example).
- Classes with enrollments of 12 or fewer have to justify their existence.
- Madison Cares is an initiative from the Dean of Students focusing on student mental health. The [website](#) gives students, parents, faculty, and staff a way to initiate a check on a student who seems to be struggling. The submission can be anonymous. About fifty reports were received in the first month. The goal is to intervene when a student is first facing problems to try to prevent a deeper crisis.
- A two-day fall break has been proposed for next year as part of the effort to improve student well-being. In the proposed schedule, the semester would start earlier (on a Wednesday) and include a mid-semester break, likely on a Thursday and Friday (*tentatively* 10/22 and 10/23). The details (e.g., lab schedules) are still being worked out. Contact johnsomx@jmu.edu with questions.

III. Speaker's Report

- The group photograph in Grafton-Stovall Theater is set for 3:30 on Thursday, Dec. 5. Send a proxy from your department if you can't make it.
- Smita Mathur, the senate rep on the Academic Affairs Strategic Planning (AASP) Committee, reported on the committee's work:
 - The group meets every other week for two hours
 - Deans, the provost, and others on the university leadership team have presented to the committee (with robust Q&A)
 - Brief overview of college/unit (qualitative and quantitative)
 - Themes that should be considered in the strategic plan
 - Importance of research and scholarship
 - Divisional values that the AASP should consider
 - Full-day retreat on Dec. 13 to synthesize the various perspectives and information
 - Committee is charged with providing action items in March
 - Send questions to mathursx@jmu.edu
- Anne van Leeuwen, reported on GenEd Council

- Modest changes are on the horizon for the GenEd program, which is outgrowing its current structure.
- The program has an outcome-based curriculum and a faculty governance model
- 66% of juniors said GenEd prepared them with critical thinking, communication, and information literacy skills

IV. Treasurer's Report—Treasurer Nevin Cavusoglu reported that the Senate has \$7,579.21 in the account. More dues were collected at the meeting. The 50 winners of the computer lottery (out of 573 participants) have been notified and are filing receipts for their purchases. There's a backup list in case any winners don't meet the submission deadline. Two faculty members whose loved ones were memorialized by flowers or a donation expressed their heartfelt thanks to the Senate.

V. Committee Reports

- A. **Faculty Concerns**—Speaker Pro Tempore Val Larsen announced that the committee will meet at 3:30 on Thursday, November 14, with COE Dean Mark L'Esperance about expanding childcare services. Senators are welcome to attend. The meeting will take place in Showker 521.
 - The chair is inquiring into the policy on alternative lodging (e.g., Airbnb) handed down by the Department of Accounts (DOA).
 - January 9 is Higher Education Day in the General Assembly. Higher education needs an effective lobby. One proposal is to extend the terms to three years for Faculty Senate of Virginia representatives to be more effective. Another proposal is to meet with SCHEV to align lobbying interests. Faculty need to start paying attention to their institutions' six-year plans since the state funding hinges on these plans.
 - Using Blue to collect course evaluations was mandated beginning this past year. One concern had been that centralizing evaluations (rather than allowing departments full control) might lead to the administration taking over the process. Currently, three items from the administration (e.g., a question about the supportiveness of the classroom environment) are slated to be added.
- B. **Academic Policies**—Chair Kathy Ott Walter reported that the committee met with Registrar Michele White about registration times (scheduled between classes). Alternative times are not feasible because there has to be staff available to answer questions. At the next meeting (11/14 at 3:30 in Cleveland), the committee will continue to discuss the Honor Code test, which began as a Senate initiative. Students could not access their final transcripts if they hadn't passed it. The overall goals and oversight of the process warrant review.
- C. **Adjunct Affairs**—Chair Leslie Harlacker announced that the committee met on Oct. 10 to develop a list for AUHes to include adjuncts more fully in the life of their departments (e.g., invite to special meetings, offer opportunities for participation, list adjunct faculty on the website and in the building directory, provide access to office space and photocopying). The list would function as an annual gauge of what departments are doing to support adjuncts. Other plans include coordinating efforts with the Adjunct Compensation Task Force, discussing ways to compensate adjuncts who serve as readers on honors theses and supervise independent studies, creating a system of progressive titles for adjunct faculty, and maintaining email accounts for retirees and those who lose access over the summer.
- D. **Student Relations**—Committee Chair Lee reported that the committee met on October 17. Both he and the speaker attended the last SGA meeting to outline the role of the Senate. Student mini-grants proposals are being accepted by the SGA, who will then pick 10 to 12 submissions to forward to the committee for review. The committee meets next week in Madison Union 307 at 3:30. A Dec. 3 meeting with Josh Bacon about counseling services has been scheduled.
- E. **The Faculty Appeals Committee** currently has no cases.
- F. **Budget and Compensation**—Committee Chair Steve Garren expects data soon from Jason McClain about comparing adjunct salaries across departments.

- G. Nominations & Elections—Marshal Steve Harper announced that 85 mini-grant proposals were submitted. The committee meets at 3:30 on Nov. 14th in ENGE0 1128 to review the submissions. The plan is to announce the winners at the Dec. 5th Senate meeting.

VI. New business

Three new motions are up for a first reading:

- Motion to Amend the Computer Lottery Rules
- Motion to Enhance Student Diversity
- Motion to Rename the Secretary Position

VII. Old business

After further discussion of the Resolution on Freedom of Expression, the motion did not pass. The discussion focused on a range of matters from the clarity of the suggested language to whether the syllabus is an effective channel of communication for such a complex, nuanced issue.

VIII. Adjournment 5:07 p.m.