



FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

Thursday, February 27, 2020 – Taylor/Madison Union 405

In attendance: Piper (Speaker); Accounting: Briggs; Art, Design, and Art History: Phaup; Chemistry: Hughey; Comm. Sci. and Disorders: Clinard; Comm. Studies: Woo; Comp. Inf. Sci. & Bus Analytics: Wang; Computer Science: Kirkpatrick; Early ELED & Reading: Mathur; Economics: Ahmed; Educ. Found. & Exc.: Koubek; English: Lo; Foreign Languages: Lang-Rigal; Geology: McGary; Hart School of HSRM: Anaza; Health Sciences: Ott Walter; History: McCleary; Integrated Sciences: McGraw; Kinesiology: Hargens (proxy); Learning Tech. & LE: Beverly; Lib & Ed Tech: Flota; Management: Shahzad; Marketing: Larsen; Math & Stats: Garren; Mid, Second, & Math: Shoffner; Nursing: Lam; Philosophy & Religion: Kirk; Physics: Butner; Political Science: Lee; Psychology: Melchiori; Social Work: Yeom; Writing Rhetoric & Tech Comm: McDonnell; Part-time Faculty Reps: Harlacker, Janow, PeeksMease; SGA Rep: Eccleston; Guests—Coltman (Provost), Onestak (Counseling Center Director) Polanz (AAUP Chapter President), Adajian (AAUP Chapter Secretary), Gardner (SGA)

I. Call to Order—3:30 p.m.

II. Provost's Report—Heather Coltman (coltmahj@jmu.edu) offered the following updates:

- Rudy Molina has been selected to be the Vice Provost for Student Academic Success and Enrollment Management. He'll officially begin on May 4, though he'll be making a couple of visits to campus before then.
- The Virginia legislature is working on two compensation bills, one in the House and one in the Senate, so there's some hope for a raise.
- The administration is in active conversation with CGE about COVID-19, especially about the Italy programs. The senior leadership team is meeting Monday. CGE has been in communication with students and parents. There is an emergency response and recovery team headed by Donna Harper. The Infectious response team is headed by Marsha Mays-Bernard. Key players across campus are working on this concern.
- On Wednesday, February 26, Provost Coltman sent out an email about JMU's pending national status. There's still plenty of time to have robust conversations about the change and to answer questions or concerns. Suggestions and ideas from the faculty senate are welcomed. Academic Council is working on the best way to handle the conversations and is looking at implications for the short- and long-term. This is an important step for the university. In response to a question from the floor, Provost Coltman confirmed that the strategic planning task force has been discussing the matter and continues their work to develop a strategic plan that's nimble and flexible. JMU's priorities and values remain the same.

III. Speaker's Report—Mark Piper (pipermc@jmu.edu)

- This semester's lunch with the president and provost is scheduled for Thursday, April 16, from 12:15 to 1:30 in the BOV dining room in Festival (RSVP to Yvonne Miller millerys@jmu.edu).
- Encourage colleagues to complete the COACHE survey. Senior leadership takes the survey very seriously. Recommendations are looked to for guidance and followed up on.
- The Senate will be working to facilitate communication about the change to R2 national status by gathering information, streamlining communication between the administration and the faculty, and disseminating answers through the Senate Canvas site.
- Elections for the 2020–21 Senate will take place in April. Consider running for an office (speaker, pro temp, communications director, marshal, treasurer).

IV. **Guests**

David Onestak, Director of the Counseling Center (onestadm@jmu.edu)

- Student mental health is a topic of increasing importance.
- Recognize, Respond, Refer is an hour-long presentation to departments about the role that instructional faculty can play in supporting our students. Fifteen departments have heard the presentation so far, with really positive response.
- Mental health struggles are the most powerful negative force impacting students in classes. The presentation covers ways of responding, including on-campus referral options (e.g., Madison Cares, the Counseling Center, the Threat Assessment Team)
- There's a plethora of information on the counseling center website. The Counseling Center phone number is 568-6552.

Doe Polanz, President of JMU's recently revived AAUP chapter and liaison to the national chapter (aaup.jmu@gmail.com)

- JMU used to have an AAUP chapter that went inactive.
- AAUP focuses on protecting academic freedom and rights of the faculty (free speech in and out of the classroom, faculty autonomy, more administrative transparency).
- The organization offers teams of lawyers, people who specialize in answering questions, and access to tools such as a survey about the degree of shared governance in the university (no additional cost for this).
- JMU's chapter will hold regular meetings. Next up is a social meeting to be held March 19, 2020, from 5 to 8 p.m. in the Montpelier Restaurant in Hotel Madison.
- Being a member is completely confidential, and you don't have to attend meetings to be a member. Dues are based on academic income. Click here for information about how to join: <https://www.aaup.org/membership/join>.
- A comment from the floor emphasized the importance and independence of the organization.

V. Treasurer's Report— Acting Treasurer David McGraw reported dues participation from all departments. The Senate account has \$9,135.32. Copy both mcgrawdk@jmu.edu and cavusonx@jmu.edu on bereavement requests.

VI. **Committee Reports**

- A. **Faculty Concerns**—Chair Val Larsen (larsenwv@jmu.edu) encourages all faculty to respond to the childcare survey, which should have been disseminated by department heads. There are 314 responses so far, with 80% rating the issue as extremely or very important. Now is the chance to move something forward if there's enough response, so also encourage colleagues to respond. Interest was expressed in year-round daycare, not just preschool, which runs only during the school year. Chair Larsen noted that Mary Washington University is following our lead of adding adjuncts to their senate.
- B. **Academic Policies**—Chair Kathy Ott Walter (ottwalmk@jmu.edu) reported that the committee continues to discuss the Honor Code test (ownership and maintenance of test). Students are required to take it by October 1, but there are currently no ramifications for not taking it.
- C. **Adjunct Affairs**—Chair Leslie Harlacker (harlacla@jmu.edu) is collecting information about how best to orient adjuncts (e.g., there is an orientation through the library modules). The committee plans to seek feedback from current adjuncts: what are things they wished knew?

The committee met and evaluated applications for the professional development spring funding cycle. Everyone who applied was funded. Emphasize to colleagues that the funds are not just for conference attendance. Funds can be used for research (e.g., travel to archives), but not for tuition expenses. A question from the floor raised the issue of RTAs who often don't receive funds for professional development. This could be an issue for Faculty Concerns to take up.

- D. Student Relations—Chair Hakseon Lee (leehx@jmu.edu) announced that the committee will meet jointly with the Academic Policies committee next Thursday, 3/5, in Madison Union 306. Students Against Sexual Violence (SASV) reps will present their recent resolution on “The Tracy Rule” (related to sexual harassment by student athletics) at the Student Relations committee meeting.

The Madison Vision Teaching Awards survey will take place in mid- to late March. The award ceremony will be held at the SGA meeting on April 28.

A question from the floor asked about grad student participation in the Faculty Senate. Michael Facey from the GSA is currently on the email list.

- E. The Faculty Appeals Committee currently has no cases.
- F. Budget and Compensation—Committee Chair Steve Garren (garrenst@jmu.edu) compiled and distributed a [report about instructional faculty salaries](#). He stratified the data according to department and rank. Some adjustments were made (e.g., library faculty). He also removed all current and former AUHes, deans, and program directors.

The floor was yielded to Cheri Beverly (beverlcl@jmu.edu) to discuss adjuncts from Professional and Continuing Education (PCE), which is a different model. The minimum course make number is negotiated with the department (adjunct is paid based on the tuition). PCE (used to be Outreach and Engagement) has to be self-supporting. These faculty are not part of the general JMU adjunct conversations; however, they do qualify for the professional development funds.

A question from the floor sought clarity about the difference between an instructor and lecturer. This may be a question for the Faculty Handbook Committee to take up if the distinction is unclear.

- G. Nominations & Elections—Committee member Karen McDonnell reported that the call for nominations for the three adjunct senator positions has gone out. Nominations are due to mcdonnkm@jmu.edu by 5:00 on Friday, March 6.

VII. New business

- Motion to Support the Valley Scholars Program. Speaker Piper shared information from Sean Mooney, director of the Valley Scholars program, on the use of the \$2,000 from a previously passed motion: book scholarships went to 12 students for the purchase of textbooks or other course materials through the bookstore. The money went directly to support access to academic materials. Any money not spent will revert back to Valley Scholars; thus the new motion seeks more money (\$4,000).
- Motion to Support the [SGA's Title IX bill](#). Ethan Gardner from SGA is working with Erin Coogan on this bill, which arose from a sexual harassment case against a professor. The SGA bill of opinion seeks productive changes to JMU's policy, pushing for more accountability (e.g., yearly Title IX training). The bill has broad support from the student body. Gardner emphasized that it's important to be united on this issue to make this a safer campus for students.

VIII. Unfinished business

- The Adjunct Title Resolution passed. The adjunct task force and handbook committee need to implement this recommendation.
- The Motion on Parking Passes Exception for Graduate Students was discussed. An amendment was suggested to remove “instructor of record” and to include a general description such as “primary teaching responsibilities for a course.” (KIN 100 courses, for example, have hundreds of students with one “instructor of record” but several graduate student instructors whose teaching loads qualify them for this privilege.) This change would increase the number of students who qualify for the exception. However, it's not clear what the new number would be or whether Parking Services could handle the increase. We need more data about the impact of the suggested amendment. A vote passed to table the amendment until we have further information about graduate students who may not be the instructor of record.

- The Motion to Enhance Student Diversity and the amended version were discussed. The original motion aims to pressure on administrators. Senator Lee encourages the amended version to be taken up as a separate motion, not in place of the original, because it alters the original intention. He emphasized that this has been an eight-months effort to send a signal to the administrators. The amended version did not pass. A vote passed to table the original motion until the next meeting.

IX. Adjournment 5:09 p.m.