



FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

Thursday, April 29, 2021

In attendance: Larsen (Speaker); Biology: May; Chemistry: Hughey and Kokhan (incoming); Comm. Sci. and Disorders: Clinard; Comm. Studies: Woo; Comp. Inf. Sci. & Bus Analytics: Tchommo; Computer Science: Kirkpatrick; Early ELED & Reading: Mathur; Economics: Cavusoglu and Doyle (incoming); Ed. Found. & Exceptionalities: Wiley; Engineering: Harper; English: Lo; Finance & Bus. Law: Parker; Foreign Languages: Lang-Rigal; Geol. & Environ. Science: McGary; Grad. Psych: Critchfield; Health Professions: Skelly and Goetschius (incoming); Health Sciences: Ott Walter; History: McCleary; IDLS: Chamberlin; Integrated Sciences: McGraw and York (incoming); Justice Studies: De Fazio; Kinesiology: McKay; Learning Tech. & LE: Beverly and Wilcox (incoming); Libraries: Flota (proxy); Management: C.K. Lee; Marketing: Ozcan; Math & Stats: Garren; Media Arts & Design: Mitchell; Mid, Second, & Math: Shoffner; Military Science: Turnboo; Music: Stringham; Nursing: Leisen (incoming); Phil. & Rel.: Knorpp; Physics: Butner; Political Science: H. Lee; Psychology: Upadhyay (proxy); Soc. & Anth.: Tanaka; Social Work: Trull; Strategic Leadership Studies: Vanhove; Theatre & Dance: Finkelstein; Writing Rhetoric & Tech Comm: McDonnell and Hickman (incoming); Part-time Faculty Reps: Harlacker, Janow, Munier, Stone (incoming); Guests—Coltman (Provost), Nowviskie (Dean of the Libraries)

Organizational meeting

I. **Call to Order**—4:05 p.m.

- 2021-2022 officers were elected:
 - Speaker: Val Larsen, who will be serving the second year of a two-year term
 - Leslie Harlacker was elected the chair of the adjunct affairs committee prior to the meeting and is therefore the adjunct representative on the steering committee
 - Speaker Pro Tempore: Katherine Ott Walter
 - Marshal: Steve Harper
 - Treasurer: Cathy McKay
 - Communications Director: Karen McDonnell
- Officers and the following committee chairs take office the day after graduation:
 - Academic Policies: Smita Mathur
 - Budget, Compensation, and Government Relations: Tim Ozcan
 - Faculty Appeals: Talé Mitchell
 - Faculty Concerns: Katherine Ott Walter,
 - Nominations and Elections: Steve Harper
 - Student Relations: Hakseon Lee
- Representatives to the Faculty Senate of Virginia (FSVA): Val Larsen (three-year term), Katherine Ott Walter (one-year term), Tim Ozcan (one-year term), Harlacker (one-year term), and one open seat. If interested, prior to graduation, let Steve Garren know (garrenst@jmu.edu). After graduation, Steve Harper (harpe2sr@jmu.edu) is the person to contact.

Regular meeting

I. **Provost's Report**—Dr. Heather Coltman

- On April 7, the governor approved the proposed budget, which includes a 5% salary increase for those employed by March 10, 2021, and still employed by June 10, 2021.
- For adjuncts, raises will be determined by length of service and how they were evaluated.

- The BOV met last week. The board approved a new major in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies.
- Commencement is only a few days away. No faculty are required to attend. Students and guests have to pre-register and will have to show LiveSafe app. There will be no procession of faculty. Your regalia is your ticket. Enter through Gate H.
- Although the UHC is collecting vaccination information, they are not reporting the information to any outside agency. However, they expect to be asked about aggregate vaccination rates. Submission is voluntary, but this is the most effective way to gather the information.
- Students are receiving the same message as faculty. There's a lot of talk about requiring vaccination. The attorney general declared that institutions can require vaccination. Universities are trying to work together. JMU is reviewing the AG opinion. Decisions will be communicated to the JMU community.
- The provost answered the following questions:
 - Q: Is there going to be a process for seeking adjunct input about the raises? The Adjunct Task Force could be a resource for such input. A: The provost's office will be reaching out.
 - Q: Will vaccination be mandatory for faculty and staff members? Is the administration considering anything beyond strong recommendations to incentivize faculty and staff? A: COVID update meetings are held three times a week. It's all part of the mix of what we're talking about. JMU is seeking clarity from Richmond and keeping track of what our peers are doing.
 - Q: Is there a way for faculty to provide input on the process? A: Fletcher Linder leads the response team, and I could ask him to send out a call. Collective brainstorming could be beneficial.
 - Q: What are expectations going to be for scholarship when we transition to R2? A: It's up to the departments to set the expectations for teaching, scholarship, and service. I do not anticipate any dramatic shift; however, it's important for us to see what it means to be an R2 institution. We'll take a phased approach and will be guided by accreditation requirements. Ownership will be in the departments. The deans are eager to have these conversations, which will be informed by faculty guidance. The goal is to be ambitious but not disruptive.

II. Speaker's Report

- In light of concerns expressed about a potential change from Canvas to another LMS, Dean Nowviskie of the Libraries joined the meeting to discuss the RFP process (as she is not bound by confidentiality as are members of the committee). When contracts with vendors near completion, JMU is required to launch an RFP. Our current LMS contract lasts through summer 2022, and multiple state institutions depend on it. There are two finalists in this RFP process: one is Canvas. Dean Nowviskie described how competition through required RFPs helps JMU negotiate for better financial deals or new features that faculty desire.
- Speaker Val Larsen thanked Steve Harper, who during the steering committee meeting raised the topic of Qualtrics. Since the meeting, IT negotiated a year-long contract to maintain Qualtrics. Thanks also to the provost who acted so quickly.
- The speaker reported on Faculty Senate actions to the BOV, discussing the thank-you letter to legislators, the Free Speech Resolution, and JMU's lower per capita funding than any other state institution. It'll be a goal for the Budget, Compensation, and Government Relations Committee to work to increase JMU's appropriations to the average.
- Carey Cole will serve as the senate webmaster, starting in the fall. The bylaws may need to be changed to make it official.

- The Senate's new meeting time in the fall will be 4:20 to 5:50. The optimal meeting time will be discussed in September. The plan is to meet face-to-face. Contact Val Larsen (larsenwv@jmu.edu) if you're looking for an alternative to meeting F2F.
- Thanks to those who are retiring from the Senate, especially David McGraw, who served for many years, including as speaker.

III. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Nevin Cavusoglu reported that there is \$7,528.51 in the account.

IV. Committee Reports

- A. Faculty Concerns—Chair Steve Harper worked to secure one more year on the Qualtrics contract.
- B. Academic Policies—Chair Smita Mathur announced that the committee will meet on May 6 for last meeting of the year.
- C. Adjunct Affairs—Chair Leslie Harlacker distributed the adjunct survey. 105 responses so far. Deadline is Sunday. Will start crunching the data after that. Thanks to committee members for all of their work on getting the survey together.
- D. Student Relations—Chair Hakseon Lee expects Tim Miller to report on Student Affairs. Dr. Lee is still awaiting news about the SGA's request for faculty to upload syllabi to MyMadison for students to consider as they register for classes.
- E. Faculty Appeals—Chair David McGraw announced that there is one ongoing appeal but no new cases.
- F. Budget and Compensation—Chair Kimiko Tanaka mailed the thank-you letter to sixteen legislators.
- G. Nominations and Elections—Chair Steve Garren thanked Richard Finkelstein for his work on the Senate photo. What follows are links to next year's Senate membership and external committees:
<http://educ.jmu.edu/~garrenst/2021FallSenateList.xlsx>
<http://educ.jmu.edu/~garrenst/2021ExternalCommittees.doc>

V. New Business

- The Motion to Support the Madison AAPI Caucus passed after a successful 2/3 vote to suspend the rules.

VI. Unfinished Business

- The Faculty Senate Diversity Initiative passed after a vote to amend the revolving loan to grant funding.

VII. Adjournment: 5:34 p.m.