



FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

Thursday, January 27, 2022

In attendance: Speaker: Larsen; Art, Design, & Art History: Phaup; Accounting: Briggs; Biology: May; Chemistry: Kokhan; Comm. Sci. and Disorders: Clinard; Comm. Studies: Woo; Comp. Inf. Systems & Bus Analytics: Tchommo; Computer Science: Sprague; Early ELED & Reading: Mathur; Edu. Found. & Exception: Wiley; Engineering: Harper; English: Lo; Finance & Bus. Law: Parker; Foreign Languages: Lang-Rigal; Grad. Psych: LeBlanc; Hart School of HSRM: Anaza; Health Professions: Goetschius; Health Sciences: Ott Walter; History: McCleary; IDLS: Chamberlin; Integrated Sciences: York; Justice Studies: Scheuerman; Kinesiology: McKay; Learning Tech. & LE: Wilcox; Libraries: Clarke; Management: C.K. Lee; Marketing: Ozcan; Math & Stats: Garren; Mid, Second, & Math: Wallace (proxy); Music: Peterson; Nursing: Leisen; Phil. & Rel.: Knorpp; Physics: Butner; Political Science: H. Lee; Psychology: Melchiori; Social Work: Trull; Soc. & Anth.: Tracy; Theatre & Dance: Finkelstein; Writing Rhetoric & Tech Comm: Hickman; Part-time Faculty Reps: Harlacker, Janow; Webmaster: Cole; Guests—Coltman, Shackelford, Sullivan, and other observers

- I. **Call to Order**—3:55 p.m.
- II. **Provost's Report**—Dr. Heather Coltman
 - As expected, the COVID case numbers are increasing. The task force is keeping a close watch on the severity of cases. Different data matters differently at this point in the pandemic. As a result, there are changes to the dashboard, which is updated daily (M–F) at 10:00 a.m.
 - Because of the new governor's executive order, there's no longer a vaccination mandate in place nor a requirement for weekly testing. There's an update to the food and drink policy for classrooms: eating is not allowed, but masks may be lowered briefly for drinking. There's also an update to the recording policy: students may record class but only with the instructor's permission and only to share material with absent students.
 - On the issue of temporarily changing your course's modality: If you must quarantine or isolate (or if you have urgent family matters such as a child with COVID), but you're well enough to teach online, you may do so; however, be sure to notify your AUH of the change. If a long-term modality change is needed, notify your AUH and dean.
 - The provost expressed appreciation for the flexibility that faculty are showing.
 - The Carnegie re-classification to R2 (high research institution) is official.
 - The winter session is proving to be popular. There's significant interest in summer classes as well.
 - The search for a new dean of the Honors College is underway.
 - The search committee for the new dean of Science & Math is hard at work.
 - Campus visits for finalists for the Vice Provost for Faculty, Curriculum, and Policy position will soon be announced.

- A new Vice President position has been created to establish a chief diversity officer. Towana Moore will chair the search committee. Hakseon Lee will represent the Faculty Senate on the search committee.
- Eighteen areas across campus have been charged with building a glossary of common language about diversity.
- An email sent out last Friday about mentoring resources has garnered significant interest. JMU has joined the [National Center for Faculty Development & Diversity](#) (NCFDD) as an Institutional Member. The NCFDD is a nationally recognized, independent organization that provides online career development and mentoring resources for faculty, post-docs, and graduate students.

III. Speaker's Report—Dr. Val Larsen

- The provost has committed to empaneling a committee to revise the 2021 hiring protocols. The speaker expressed appreciation to the provost for engaging with the faculty on resolving this issue.
- At the 2/17–2/18 BOV meeting, the speaker plans to discuss the importance of faculty ownership of the curriculum and tenure, adherence to the provisions of the faculty handbook, and maintaining a strong partnership with the administration.

IV. Treasurer's Report

- Treasurer Cathy McKay reported a total of \$13,204.71 in the Senate's combined accounts. Three departments still need to submit their dues.
- The online bereavement form has been very successful.

V. Committee Reports

- A. Faculty Concerns—Chair Katherine Ott Walter announced that the committee will meet on Thursday, February 3, during the 3:55 timeslot to discuss the workload-related policies and the hiring guidelines. She also shared via email a report from the FSVA about legislation in Richmond that faculty might be interested in (e.g., a proposal for a 5% salary increase that doesn't require a match from the universities).
- B. Academic Policies—Committee member Kristen McCleary announced that the committee will meet on Thursday, February 3, in the 3:55 timeslot. The committee is focusing on a resolution about moving to a department chair model (term limited, rotating). They welcome feedback about this proposal. Other R2 institutions use this model. The committee is still researching the details and views the matter as a long conversation, not something that could be implemented immediately.
- C. Budget & Compensation and Government Relations—Chair Harold Butner reported that the committee is analyzing the extent to which the move to R2 will affect long-term budget plans.

- D. Adjunct Affairs—Chair Leslie Harlacker announced that the committee will meet next month (TBA) to finalized the survey report and to work with Faculty Concerns about workload issues.
- E. Student Relations— Chair Hakseon Lee reported that the SGA received an unusually small number applications for the Student Engagement Mini-Grants last fall due to the ongoing pandemic situation. The unused grant money was transferred to fund the newly introduced [First-Year/Transfer Student Research Experience](#). Faculty members are encouraged to consider applying for the new program. The chair also announced that the Parking Advisory Committee declined to implement the parking resolution passed last semester that would've allowed graduated teaching instructors to park in faculty lots. The committee is discussing next steps. The committee is working with the SGA to implement the annual Madison Vision Teaching Awards. The Graduate Teaching Association has not acted on the invitation to send a non-voting representative the Faculty Senate.
- F. Nominations and Elections—Chair Steve Harper will be working on elections for the three senators who represent part-time faculty. The committee will be putting together a slate of officers for the April meeting. The Academic Affairs Faculty Endowment Awards Committee seeks a volunteer from the Senate to serve on the selection committee.
- G. Faculty Appeals—The committee has submitted modifications to the faculty handbook policy on appealing sanctions imposed for faculty misconduct. The three representatives of the faculty handbook committee that were appointed by the Faculty Senate should talk with the committee if they intend to vote against this provision.

VI. New Business

- Resolution on Administrative Transparency, Shared Governance, and Faculty Hiring
- Motion to Revise Faculty Hiring Resolution (from November 2021)

VII. Open Discussion

- The speaker reiterated that the provost has agreed to revisit the 2021 hiring guidelines. The speaker emphasized that the handbook process was not followed; therefore, [the previous guidelines](#), which did allow ranking, are in effect at this point. There is ambiguity about searches that are currently underway.
- The previous hiring guidelines also didn't go through the Faculty Senate. It's important to pin down what the approval process is and also to write into any such document what the revision process is.
- The document that compares the current and the previous guidelines should be shared via the Canvas site.
- The speaker held up as examples universities in Virginia that have a direct relationship with their governing boards: George Mason University, for example, has its own representation on the board in addition to the ex officio speaker membership. Another institution invites the rector to visit the Faculty Senate each year. This might be a way to build a relationship with the BOV.

- The [directive out of the governor's office](#) discouraging divisive topics in K–12 classrooms is a concern for many reasons, including the potential threat it poses to higher ed. Academic Policies and the AAUP might consider brainstorming ways to respond and to support our K–12 colleagues. There are multiple conversations to be had, especially since there's more than one perspective on this issue, with at least one senator expressing support for the governor's executive order. A brownbag might be another forum for input and ideas.

VIII. Adjournment: 5:15 p.m.