



FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

Thursday, October 7, 2021

In attendance: Accounting: Briggs; Art, Design, & Art History: Rooker (proxy); Biology: May; Chemistry: Kokhan; Comm. Sci. and Disorders: Clinard; Comm. Studies: Woo; Computer Science: Kirkpatrick; Early ELED & Reading: Mathur; Economics: Doyle; Edu. Found. & Exception: Wiley; Engineering: Harper; English: White; Foreign Languages: Lang-Rigal; Geol. & Environ. Science: McGary; Grad. Psych: LeBlanc; Hart School of HSRM: Anaza; Health Professions: Goetschius; Health Sciences: Ott Walter; History: McCleary; IDLS: Chamberlin; Integrated Sciences: York; Justice Studies: Scheurman; Kinesiology: McKay; Learning Tech. & LE: Wilcox; Libraries: Clarke; Management: C.K. Lee; Marketing: Ozcan; Math & Stats: Garren; Media Arts & Design: Mitchell; Mid, Second, & Math: Shoffner; Military Science: Turnboo; Music: Peterson; Nursing: Leisen; Phil. & Rel.: Knorpp; Physics: Butner; Political Science: H. Lee; Psychology: Melchiori; Soc. & Anth.: Tracy; Strategic Leadership Studies: Vanhove; Theatre & Dance: Finkelstein; Writing Rhetoric & Tech Comm: Hlckman; Part-time Faculty Reps: Harlacker, Janow, Stone; Guests—Sullivan (SGA), Coltman, Shackelford, Bauerle, and other observers

I. Call to Order—4:20 p.m.

II. Provost's Report—Dr. Heather Coltman

- The COVID news is good: Testing compliance is strong, and the case numbers are low. Three noncompliant students were dropped from classes. Senior leadership continues to meet weekly and to receive regular updates from the University Health Center.
- The Climate Study is live with steadily increasing participation, though the response numbers, especially among students, are low. The deadline has been extended to 10/29. The survey takes about thirty minutes to complete. The institution is committed to using the results to plan and to make changes going forward, so robust participation is important. More efforts are being made to encourage a high response rate. Kristi Shackelford will send an email invitation to adjuncts to participate.
- The provost answered the following questions:
 - Is there any news on the \$1,500 bonus?
 - There's no information about a bonus.
 - Motorized vehicles (e.g., scooters, Starship robots) are crowding the sidewalks and are unsafe, especially for those with mobility limitations. Should JMU develop policies to address this problem?
 - The provost will check with Towana Moore.
 - Is there an update on the COACHE survey?
 - The results are posted (log-in required for access).
 - Is the Student Affairs DEI training still under review?
 - Tim Miller has developed a timeline to continue the training,

III. Speaker's Report

- Speaker Pro Tempore Katherine Ott Walter led the meeting and delivered the report on behalf of Speaker Val Larsen, who is at a conference.

- At the September BOV meeting, the speaker clarified that his April BOV remarks represented his own views and not the views of the Faculty Senate or the faculty. He also reported on two resolutions passed in April.
- Charlie King will be retiring. Towana Moore will be the interim replacement. The speaker has requested that an instructional faculty member serve on the search committee.
- An audit of the Faculty Handbook is being conducted to examine its clarity and structure, to eliminate inconsistencies and redundancies, and to improve the organization (but not to alter the substance). The Faculty Senate will need to carefully monitor these changes. The provost offered reassurances about the process and her commitment to involving the Faculty Senate and to upholding the principles of shared governance.

IV. Treasurer's Report

- Treasurer Cathy McKay reported a total of \$7,744.87 in the Senate's accounts, with a big deposit coming next week thanks to those departments that have already submitted their dues. She reminded the other departments about the 10/15 deadline (\$10 per veteran faculty member, \$5 for new faculty). Checks made out to the JMU Faculty Senate can be mailed to MSC 2302 (receipt will be confirmed through an email). Cash or checks can be delivered to Godwin 316. Please email to set up a time (mckayca@jmu.edu).
- The memorial flower/donation request form is on the main page of the Senate website and can be submitted by any faculty member.
- Computer lottery winners have been announced. If a winner elects not to participate, then alternates will be notified.

V. Committee Reports

- A. Budget & Compensation and Government Relations—Chair Tim Ozcan reported that the committee met. They're conducting research into the historic underfunding of JMU compared to peer institutions. By examining BOV minutes, financial reports, and other data, they're investigating the issue and hope to work with the administration (e.g., Charlie King's office) to address the problem. Recently, there was [an opinion piece in the Richmond Times-Dispatch](#) about the lower endowments at historically women's colleges. The writers suggested that 529 surplus funds (a billion dollars) be given to these institutions.
- B. Faculty Concerns—Chair Katherine Ott Walter seeks feedback on the two centers proposed by the Hart School of Hospitality, Sport and Recreation Management: the Center for the Advancement of Sustainable Energy and the Center for Sport Recreation and Hospitality. The committee has already reviewed the proposals and asked some questions. See the documents sent with the agenda. Feedback is due by October 21 to ottwalmk@jmu.edu. The committee will meet on Thursday, October 14, at 4:20.
- C. Academic Policies—Chair Smita Mathur announced that the committee met and discussed a handbook change, approved by the BOV in June, which establishes that student evaluations will be used primarily for formative assessment (50% or less weight will be given to student evaluations in annual evaluations and tenure and promotion consideration). The committee is also considering ways to support faculty who discuss CRT and other such topics.

An online form is available to submit relevant items to a [cultural observations calendar](#) that aims to generate awareness about different holidays.

- D. Adjunct Affairs—Chair Leslie Harlacker reported that the committee met virtually last month to discuss how to analyze the adjunct survey data. Some committee members will interpret the Likert responses, while some will examine the qualitative responses. A report is forthcoming with action items.
- E. Student Relations—Chair Hakseon Lee and the committee met two weeks ago (9/23). The student engagement mini-grants are open for applications. The SGA will send the proposals to the committee for review in November. The committee is following up on the Faculty Diversity Initiative, passed last year. Scarlett Sullivan is the new SGA rep to the Senate (nonvoting).
- F. Nominations and Elections—Chair Steve Harper announced that the committee is gearing up for the engagement mini-grants. The available \$50,000 will fund twelve to fifteen projects. Expect the call for proposals next week. The process is expected to wrap up by the December meeting.

There are open spots on the following five committees: Campus History, Changemaker Mindset Task Force, Madison Center Advisory Board, Professional and Cultural Name Use, and Information Technology Strategic Advisory Council. If you are interested in participating, send an email to Steve Harper and Val Larsen.

- G. Faculty Appeals—Chair Talé Mitchell reported that one appeal has been deemed by university counsel to be non-appealable because of an oversight in the faculty handbook. This problem needs to be corrected.

VI. New Business

The following motions were introduced for a first reading and will be eligible for a vote at the next meeting:

- Motion to Allow Faculty/Staff Parking Passes for JMU Graduate Student Instructors
- Resolution on Instructional Faculty Search Procedures

VII. Unfinished Business

- The Resolution for Speaker Rule Changes passed by the required 2/3 vote threshold.
- The remaining unfinished business—the Resolution Creating Office of Senate Webmaster, the Senate Bylaws Robert’s Rules Modifications, and the Motion to Recommend Strengthening DEI Education in General Education—was tabled until the next meeting.

VIII. Adjournment: 5:52 p.m.