



FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

Thursday, November 3, 2022 (meeting held via Zoom)

In attendance: Speaker: Ott Walter; Communications Director: McDonnell; Art, Design, & Art History: Rooker; Accounting: Briggs; Biology: May; Chemistry: Kokhan; Comm. Sci. and Disorders: Clinard; Comm. Studies: Fife (proxy); Comp. Inf. Systems & Bus Analytics: Wang; Computer Science: Kirkpatrick; Early ELED & Reading: Mathur; Economics: Doyle; Edu. Found. & Exception: Brown; Engineering: Morton; English: Lo; Foreign Languages: Lang-Rigal; Geol. & Environ. Science: McGary; Hart School of HSRM: Hallmon; Health Professions: Goetschius; Health Sciences: Lassiter; History: McCleary; IDLS: Chamberlin; Integrated Sciences: Odumosu (proxy); Justice Studies: Breneman (proxy); Kinesiology: McKay; Learning Tech. & LE: Wilcox; Libraries: Carrier (proxy); Management: Lee; Marketing: Ozcan; Math & Stats: Nelson; Media Arts & Design: Mitchell; Mid, Second, & Math: Shoffner; Music: Suggs; Nursing: Buchanan (proxy); Phil. & Rel.: van Leeuwen; Physics: Butner; Political Science: Lubert; Psychology: Melchiori; Social Work: Hunter; Strategic Leadership Studies: Vanhove; Theatre & Dance: Finkelstein; Writing Rhetoric & Tech Comm: Hickman; Part-time Faculty Reps: Harlacker, Trocchia; Guests—Coltman, Oldmixon, Shackelford, Miller, Schoolcraft, Lewis, Sander, Butters, and others.

Send the audit document along with the minutes

- I. **Call to Order**—3:55 p.m.
- II. The October meeting minutes were approved.
- III. **Provost's Report**—Dr. Heather Coltman
 - The Madison Research Day was a great success with huge turnout. The winners gave lightning talks.
 - IIHHS held a similar event where projects were presented. The program is deeply engaged with students and is having an impact on Page County and the Shenandoah Valley.
 - JMU hosted Dr. Dietra Trent, whom President Biden appointed as Executive Director of the White House Initiative on Advancing Educational Equity, Excellence, and Economic Opportunity through Historically Black Colleges and Universities (WHI-HBCUs).
 - Building an external network is a crucial element of shared governance (for comparative research). The provost is making connections with other Chief Academic Officers. The Sun Belt Conference provosts have met; the Virginia provosts will have a retreat in Williamsburg in December; Dr. Coltman is on the board of the Association of Chief Academic Officers (she's contributing a chapter to a forthcoming guidebook); and JMU recently, because of the R2 status, was invited to join the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities (APLU).

These interactions offer a wonderful opportunity to build fruitful relationships and to gather information.

- The provost answered the following questions:
 - Where did the funds for the \$20 million pricetag to join the Sun Belt Conference come from? This figure will be checked into, but leadership is unaware of a \$20 million cost. JMU had the facilities and the scholarships already in place. Years two and three will begin generating money from TV and such.
 - There's a lot about the R2 status that is unknown to faculty. Will you comment on the ways that R2 is expressed? Hopefully, these conversations are happening in the colleges. Anthony Tongen is coming to the December meeting, so he'll expand on this topic.
 - Advisors are dealing with the fallout (e.g., student stress) from the change to the enrollment appointment schedule. How did this change come about? The new schedule is based on data from past registration practices. It's a trial and will be gauged for effectiveness. Advisors might've benefited from a few talking points.

IV. **Speaker's Report**

- Speaker Katherine Ott Walter introduced the SCHEV audit of curriculum information across JMU's website.
- According to Elizabeth Oldmixon, many inconsistencies were identified, so departments have been asked to remove curricular content and instead to refer readers to the catalog. The catalog is the binding document. The discrepancies created problems for students. It's important to be in compliance. Paula Maxwell is working with units and program directors to ensure accurate information in documents such as advising worksheets and handbooks before these materials can be reposted. A detailed explanation will be distributed with the minutes and posted to the Canvas site.
 - Did this directive come from SCHEV? SCHEV requires that action be taken, but the administration decided to take an aggressive approach because of the severity of the problem.
 - Does this include plans of study and lists of prerequisites? Yes, this information needs to come down to ensure that our students have access to the best information.
 - Can't departments provide more up-to-date information than the catalog, which lags behind? The catalog is the official curriculum.
 - A comment in the chat noted that the catalog is not user friendly.
- A team—including Valerie Schoolcraft, Brent Lewis, and Tim Miller—addressed the challenges that the Office of Disability Services (ODS) is facing as the number of students needing accommodations increases.
 - Tim Miller expressed his appreciation for the willingness and interest of faculty to raise concerns. The number of students needing accommodations has increased by 500 in just one year (from 1,300 to 1,800). The issue is a priority for Student Affairs, and there's a great team working on meeting the current challenges and preparing for more growth.
 - Valerie Schoolcraft recognized the thoughtfulness and spirit in which the ODS resolution has been drafted. ODS and faculty have a shared institutional

responsibility and a legal obligation to meet students' needs. ODS is there to partner with faculty.

- Ten to twelve percent of students require accommodations (and this does not count students who choose not to report to ODS). The number of students disclosing disabilities is going up. In addition, according to Brent Lewis, ODS has done a better job of marketing and outreach (at Choices and Summer Springboard, for example). The increases are consistent with trends across the country. The high school data indicates that we should expect the numbers to keep increasing (high schools report 20% of students needing accommodations). Currently, twenty-six percent of students are needing accommodations related to mental-health issues. A pattern change is that students are needing accommodations for more than one issue—e.g., ADHD and anxiety.
- Sanctions for noncompliance are extreme because the legal obligation for the institution is high. Faculty need to design well (use universal design principles) and plan for accommodations. Changes are going to require multiple strategies and approaches, including space, exam-center capacity, renovations, staffing, and support from faculty and the administration. Buildings need to be planned and renovated with designated testing rooms for students who require extra time and quiet spaces.
- In response to a question about large sections, one possible solution might be to have drop-in testing times, which would require instructors to upload tests. However, it was noted, if dealing with exams becomes really problematic, faculty may give fewer exams (something students don't want).
- To what extent do faculty have the right to say that a required accommodation will interfere with the way the course is taught? (For example, the recording of lectures about certain subject matter might create fear about how the recording could be used.) The ADA gives clear guidance: a faculty member cannot simply forbid an auxiliary aid or service. Sometimes recording a discussion is appropriate, sometimes not. In such cases, there's a very effective process for making the content available in another way. Meg Sander, Associate University Counsel, pointed to the "reasonableness" standard, and the "undue burden" and "fundamental alteration" language, which is statutorily defined. Contact ODS if you have one of these concerns.
- The speaker is soliciting questions for the Office of Research and Scholarship. She plans to share the questions with the presenters in advance of the December meeting, so send questions to Kathy Ott Walter ottwalmk@jmu.edu. The speaker also meets regularly with the provost and in those meetings will gladly raise questions communicated by faculty.
- JMU participates in the Delaware Study, which tracks workload and ratios of instructional faculty to A&P positions, and tenure track to non-tenure track faculty. New data arrived just yesterday and will be reviewed.
- The speaker participates in the National Coalition of Faculty Senates and meets with other Sun Belt Faculty Senate speakers. A main topic of discussion is shared governance.

V. Treasurer's Report

- Treasurer Cathy McKay reported a total of \$14,390.61 in the senate's accounts.

- The following six units are delinquent in paying their dues: Computer Science, Geology and Environmental Science, IDLS (University Studies), Music, Physics, and Political Science. A message with instructions on how to submit was sent to the units' senators.
- Reimbursement documents for lottery winners were forwarded to Accounts Payable.

VI. Committee Reports

- A. Faculty Concerns—Chair Kristen McCleary has posted several items to the Canvas discussion board. The Faculty Senate is part of the chain of approval for centers and institutes. In Canvas, you can review a proposal for the Innovation Center for Youth Justice. There is a two-week window for feedback. The Faculty Concerns Committee has an eye toward sustainability and resources when considering such proposals. Also in Canvas, you can access [a list of seventeen concerns](#) currently before the committee. Kristi Shackelford shared information about one of the concerns—the website VA Grades, which reveals grade data. The data comes from FOIA requests.
- B. Academic Policies—Chair Hala Nelson announced that the committee met in October. They're working on the transparency and accountability of A&P hires resolution. They're also focusing on policy in general (clarifying the bylaws and developing a pipeline plan for policies), evaluation of administrators, and AAUH policies.
- C. Adjunct Affairs—Chair Leslie Harlacker met with Elizabeth Oldmixon about orientation for adjunct faculty. They hope to have a plan in place by the next academic year. Following up on a previous concern, the chair noted that raises were applied to adjunct pay late, but they did receive backpay. This type of issue will be better communicated in the future.
- D. Student Relations—Chair Kala Melchiori announced that the committee met a couple of weeks ago with Valerie Schoolcraft, Brent Lewis, and Emily Butters (the student rep to the Faculty Senate) to discuss an ODS resolution, which is forthcoming. The committee is reviewing student mini-grant applications. They received twenty proposals, which is more than in past years. Some applications were submitted by grad students, who were requesting travel funds. Support for graduate student travel is a topic worth bringing up at the December meeting with Linda Thomas, Dean of the Graduate School.
- E. Budget & Compensation and Government Relations—no report.
- F. Faculty Appeals—no report.
- G. Nominations and Elections—Chair Melanie Shoffner asked senators to remind their colleagues about the November 8 deadline for the [mini-grant applications](#).
- H. Other Committee Reports—A senator is needed to serve on the Online Teaching and Learning Committee. Jennifer Lang-Rigal serves on the Handbook Committee, which is currently reviewing fourteen proposals deferred from last year and some new proposals. The Handbook Committee is asking the Faculty Senate to consider a clarification change: The word *day* is used 42 times in the handbook, but whether it's referring to business days or calendar days is sometimes unclear. Although the term is defined on page 6, since

many instances of the word apply to faculty appeals processes, the meaning needs to be unambiguous. Leslie Harlacker, who's on the Parking Advisory Committee, plans to advocate for graduate teaching instructors to obtain faculty parking passes.

VII. Adjournment: 5:30 p.m.