

Resolution for Speaker Rule Changes
James Madison University Faculty Senate
May 6, 2021

Whereas the actions of the Speaker of the Faculty Senate during the April 15, 2021, meeting of the JMU Board of Visitors Academics and Student Life Committee have abused the power of the office and breached the trust of the Faculty Senate,

Now therefore be it Resolved that the Faculty Senate amends its Bylaws to include three new sections to Section III.2.A as described below.

1. Specific direction on reporting to the Board of Visitors
 - The speaker shall, when invited, give a report to the Board of Visitors regarding the activities of the Faculty Senate and matters of concern to the faculty of the university. This report shall be developed in collaboration with the Steering Committee, and shall represent the views of the Senate, and not be used as an opportunity for the Speaker to advance their own personal agenda.
2. Speaker communications
 - When communicating with the JMU administration, Board of Visitors, and external entities such as the press, the Speaker shall, in good faith, fairly represent the views of the Faculty Senate as an institution or the majority of the faculty. When the Speaker instead expresses their own personal views, they must clearly indicate that they are not speaking on behalf of the Senate nor the faculty.
3. Speaker's Neutrality on Resolutions
 - The Speaker shall not have the power to introduce motions or resolutions. During the meeting, the Speaker's role shall be that of a neutral moderator, and they shall refrain from editorializing or seeking to influence the outcome of the debate. The Speaker shall be permitted to vote only to break a tie.
4. Giving the Senate a Power to Remove a Speaker
 - At any time, the members of the Faculty Senate may submit to the Steering Committee a motion for a vote of no confidence in the Speaker. The vote on the matter of confidence in the Speaker following the motion may only occur at a regular or special meeting of the Senate, and may only occur when at least seven (7) days' notice has been sent to the Speaker and the members of the Senate. Upon receiving such motion and second, the Speaker Pro Tempore (or the Marshal, if the Speaker Pro Tempore should be unavailable) shall preside over the deliberation about and vote on the motion. Voting shall occur by written ballot or equivalent electronic means to ensure

confidentiality. If the motion of no confidence shall pass by a two thirds (2/3) majority, then the Speaker shall be relieved of their duties, and the Speaker Pro Tempore (or the Marshal, if the Speaker Pro Tempore should be unavailable) shall assume the role of Interim Speaker until a vote for Speaker can be held at the next regularly scheduled Senate meeting.

Proposed Bylaws Changes in Context (Bold Text Indicates new language)

Article III: Officers

2. Officers

A. Speaker

1. The speaker shall preside over meetings of the Faculty Senate, with the exception of the organizational meeting.
2. The speaker shall call all meetings of the Faculty Senate as prescribed in Sections 2 and 3 of Article V.
3. The speaker shall serve as faculty liaison with the administration of the university.
4. **The speaker shall, when invited, give a report to the Board of Visitors regarding the activities of the Faculty Senate and matters of concern to the faculty of the university. This report shall be developed in collaboration with the Steering Committee, and shall represent the views of the Senate, and not be used as an opportunity for the Speaker to advance their own personal agenda.**
5. **When communicating with the JMU administration, Board of Visitors, and external entities such as the press, the Speaker shall, in good faith, fairly represent the views of the Faculty Senate as an institution or the majority of the faculty. When the Speaker instead expresses their own personal views, they must clearly indicate that they are not speaking on behalf of the Senate nor the faculty.**
6. **The Speaker shall not have the power to introduce motions or resolutions. During the meeting, the Speaker's role shall be that of a neutral moderator, and they shall refrain from editorializing or seeking to influence the outcome of the debate. The Speaker shall be permitted to vote only to break a tie.**
7. The speaker shall countersign all official communications of the Faculty Senate.
8. The speaker, with the aid of the Steering Committee, shall make the agenda for all regular Faculty Senate meetings, but a majority of those voting members present and voting may add items to the agenda at a regularly scheduled meeting.
9. The term of office for the Speaker shall be two years. No Speaker shall serve more than four years in succession or two terms in succession.
10. **At any time, the members of the Faculty Senate may submit to the Steering Committee a motion for a vote of no confidence in the Speaker. The vote on the matter of confidence in the Speaker following the motion may only occur at a regular or special meeting of the Senate, and may only occur when at least seven (7) days' notice has been sent to the Speaker and the members of the Senate. Upon receiving such motion and second, the Speaker Pro Tempore (or the Marshal, if the Speaker Pro Tempore should be unavailable) shall preside over the deliberation about and vote on the motion.**

Voting shall occur by written ballot or equivalent electronic means to ensure confidentiality. If the motion of no confidence shall pass by a two thirds (2/3) majority, then the Speaker shall be relieved of their duties, and the Speaker Pro Tempore (or the Marshal, if the Speaker Pro Tempore should be unavailable) shall assume the role of Interim Speaker until a vote for Speaker can be held at the next regularly scheduled Senate meeting.