



FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

Thursday, December 4, 2025 (meeting held via Zoom)

In attendance: Speaker: Ott Walter; Communications Director: McDonnell; Accounting: Briggs; Art, Design, and Art History: Brooks; Biology: L. Doyle; Chemistry: Kokhan; Comm. Sci. and Disorders: DePaolis; Comm. Studies: Reynolds; Computer Info. Systems & Bus. Analytics: Wang; Computer Science: El-Khadi Rizvi; Economics: J. Doyle; Edu. Found. & Except.: Wiley; Engineering: Harper; English: Lo; Foreign Languages: Galarreta; Geol. & Environ. Science: Pyle; Grad. Psych.: LeBlanc; Hart School of HSRM: Hallmon; History: McCleary; Integrated Sciences: Schmitt-Harsh; Integrated Sciences: Davis; Justice Studies: Svigelj; Kinesiology: Walters; Learning, Tech., & LE: Jin; Libraries: Price; Marketing: Snyder; Math & Stats: Garren; Media Arts. & Design: Mitchell; Mid, Second, & Math: Shoffner; Music: Suggs; Nursing: Armstrong; Phil. & Rel.: van Leeuwen; Physics: Butner; Political Science: Lubert; Psychology: Zinn; Soc. & Anth.: Porter; Strategic Leadership Studies: Selznick; Theatre & Dance: Zazzali; Writing Rhetoric & Tech Comm: Hickman; Part-time Faculty Reps: Harlacker; Bhandari; Guests—Kolvoord, Blackstone, Lang-Rigal, McGary, Oldmixon, Shackelford, and others.

- I. **Call to Order**—3:55 p.m.
- II. The minutes from November were approved.
- III. **Provost's Report**—Dr. Bob Kolvoord
 - Reengineering Madison: The ERP work is on schedule.
 - The Okanagan Charter work to center health and wellness will pick up in the spring semester.
 - The Faculty Handbook revisions are almost ready.
 - Synthesis of units' AI conversations will be shared.
 - The current Core Curriculum Proposal review and feedback is under way.
 - Vision teams for the strategic plan are formed. The timeline is driven by the BOV.
 - The campus space master plan will be distributed.
 - The query for the grade distribution data needs to be re-run.
- IV. **Speaker's Report**
 - Guests: Sarah Brooks, Shane McGary, and Bethany Blackstone from the Core Curriculum Committee
 - The feedback period has been extended to 1/28/26 (survey in email from 12/4/25).
 - Principles: Broaden unit participation and avoid structural bottlenecks (departments don't "own" particular pieces), learning outcomes will guide course decisions and will be an ongoing and

iterative process, provide flexibility while preserving cross-disciplinary learning, support transfer students

- Embedded themes: power skills, information literacy and critical thinking, well-being, and engaged citizenship and democracy
 - The vision will be outlined in the next phase.
 - The following questions/comments were raised:
 - With critical thinking and information literacy being dropped to two credits and propagated in upper-level courses, how will the skills be standardized to ensure fidelity?
 - The program feels US-centric. How does the world intersect? *Different lenses will be used to teach the courses.*
 - How will committees be formed to vet the classes? *Committees should bring different perspectives. The APR revealed that the structure of the current GenEd program is too rigid. The aim is to streamline the curriculum approval process with faculty committees.*
 - Are there alternatives to the “power skills” terminology? *It’s not hard to change the language. There are many audiences.*
 - Adjuncts aren’t paid for course development, so it will be important that courses can be maintained without constant tinkering. *The intention is to allow things to change when they need to change.*
- The speaker gave the following report:
 - The speaker attended the BOV meetings. The strategic planning pillars are mostly set. The vision teams include faculty members.
 - The search committee for the provost position is seeking the faculty’s perspective in discussion sessions. Attributes faculty hope to see in the ideal candidate include the ability to listen to faculty, transparency, a vision for where education is headed (e.g., AI as transformational technology), a willingness to resist external pressure, integrity, action with follow-through (more doing, less marketing). The consultants also seek information on what in five to ten years will indicate success. Examples offered include the following: faculty morale will be high, the provost will have earned the respect of the faculty, there will be a decrease in faculty departing, and a more serious academic culture will be evident. What do faculty want the candidates to know about JMU? JMU values literacy and stands for in-person instruction.
 - The president will be at the next Faculty Senate meeting, which will be held in person in the Hartman Hall Forum (room 2021) on January 29, 2026.

V. Treasurer’s Report—Dr. Talé Mitchell

- There’s \$6,100 in the senate’s accounts. There’s one department that has not paid dues.
- Three bereavements were sent out.
- There are five computer lottery winners still to be reimbursed.

VI. **Committee Reports**

- A. Faculty Appeals—no report.
- B. Faculty Concerns—Chair Sasha Kokhan reported that the committee met.
- C. Adjunct Affairs—Chair Leslie Harlacker announced that the committee is working on a survey.
- D. Teaching and Student Relations—Chair Anne van Leeuwen will email the committee about working on the honor pledge.
- E. Budget & Compensation and Government Relations—Chair Harold Butner reported that the committee met.
- F. Research and Scholarship—Chair Ben Selznick announced that the committee will meet to discuss library office space for faculty on educational leave, mini-grant advocacy, and research funding and priorities in the strategic plan.
- G. Shared Governance—Chair Kristen McCleary and the committee are discussing processes (e.g., develop practices that come with a deadline, return to decisions made during emergencies, nominate and vote for the membership on committees and task forces). The SGIT aims to recommend how to implement the task force recommendations and to develop best practices at unit-level governance (e.g., voting).
- H. Policies—Chair Steve Garren reported that the transcript notation proposal is suspended because of strong opposition. He met with Fletcher Linder. They discussed possibly developing a survey about how to deter cheating. The Academic Affairs Policy Committee will send out the student grievance policy for review because it contains a substantial change.
- I. No Other Committee Reports

VII. **No New Business**

VIII. **No Unfinished Business**

IX. **Adjournment:** 5:25 p.m.