



FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

Thursday, February 23, 2023 (meeting held via Zoom)

In attendance: Speaker: Ott Walter; Communications Director: McDonnell; Accounting: Briggs; Biology: May; Chemistry: Kokhan; Comm. Sci. and Disorders: Clinard; Comm. Studies: Woo; Comp. Inf. Sci. & Bus. Analytics: Wang; Computer Science: Kirkpatrick; Early ELED & Reading: Mathur; Economics: Elwood; Edu. Found. & Exception: Brown; Engineering: Morton; English: Lo; Finance & Bus. Law: Parker; Foreign Languages: Lang-Rigal; Geol. & Environ. Science: McGary; Grad. Psych.: LeBlanc; Hart School of HSRM: Hallmon; Health Professions: Goetschius; Health Sciences: Lassiter; History: McCleary; IDLS: Chamberlin; Integrated Sciences: York; Justice Studies: Scheurman; Kinesiology: McKay; Learning Tech. & LE: Wiley; Libraries: Price; Management: Lee; Marketing: Ozcan; Math & Stats: Nelson; Media Arts. & Design: Mitchell; Mid, Second, & Math: Shoffner; Music: Suggs (and Peterson, proxy); Nursing: Lewis; Phil. & Rel.: van Leeuwen; Physics: Butner; Political Science: Lubert; Psychology: Melchiori (and Zinn, proxy); Social Work: Hunter; Soc. & Anth.: Spear; Strategic Leadership Studies: Vanhove; Writing Rhetoric & Tech Comm: Hickman; Part-time Faculty Reps: Harlacker, Janow; Guests—Coltman, Shackelford, Oldmixon, Butters, and others.

- I. **Call to Order**—3:55 p.m.
- II. The January meeting minutes were approved.
- III. **Provost's Report**—Dr. Heather Coltman
 - The provost announced good news: In the near future, Dean L'Esperance plans to expand the capacity of the Young Children's Program.
 - In response to the Resolution Regarding Transparency and Accountability of A&P Appointments within the Division of Academic Affairs, the provost noted that resolutions have to meet certain standards (e.g., citing sources and data to support the claims made, needing a strong rationale, addressing only issues that have already happened) and that the agreed-upon process should be followed (i.e., consultation occurring between authors and stakeholders, focusing on recommendations for the future). See attached response from the provost, sent to all faculty. She also noted that she has established four joint task forces, including one focused on shared governance, which demonstrates that faculty and administration are working collaboratively to address the findings of the climate study. The provost also emphasized that she was the main advocate for conducting the climate study. She stated that she is “deeply committed to working collaboratively with Senate” and that “her door is open.”
- IV. **Speaker's Report**
 - The speaker pointed out that the reports from the BOV's Academic Excellence Committee are on Canvas.

- She also emphasized that the difficult conversations occurring in Senate demonstrate that we are moving forward and that no matter the outcome of the controversial resolutions before the Senate, faculty voices are being heard and progress is being made.

V. Treasurer's Report

- Treasurer Cathy McKay reported a total of \$4,886.02 remaining in the Senate's accounts after the \$10,000 donation to the Pantry.

VI. Committee Reports

- A. Faculty Concerns—Committee chair Kristen McCleary referred senators to the GoogleDoc [list of faculty concerns](#) that the committee is working on. The committee also took an active role in drafting the statement about the earthquake in Türkiye.
- B. Academic Policies—Chair Hala Nelson reported that the committee met at the beginning of the month. They're reviewing the draft of the policy on policies (in collaboration with Dr. Oldmixon).
- C. Adjunct Affairs—Chair Leslie Harlacker reported that the committee met with Jason McClain to clarify how information (e.g., about raises) reaches adjuncts. The committee will work with Jason to ensure that information is communicated in a timely fashion. The committee will work with CFI and GenEd to develop orientation materials for adjuncts.
- D. Student Relations—Chair Kala Melchiori announced that the committee met to discuss their future direction, and they plan to meet next on 3/2.
- E. Budget & Compensation and Government Relations—no report.
- F. Faculty Appeals—no report.
- G. Nominations and Elections—Chair Melanie Shoffner announced that ten more mini-grant proposals were submitted. The committee will review them at their next meeting. On 4/3, the committee will meet to revise the mini-grant website information.
- H. Other Committee Reports
 - In response to a question from the floor about the status of the motion regarding the Faculty Handbook Committee's proposed revisions about Student Evaluations of Teaching (SETs), Jennifer Lang-Rigal of the Handbook Committee explained the process that the revisions underwent: After the public comment period, the Handbook Committee met for the second round of approvals to eliminate the use of SETs in annual reviews and tenure & promotion guidelines. Using SETs for formative teaching will still be allowed. The final recommendation of the committee was sent to the president to review. If the president approves, then the revisions would go before the BOV in April.
 - The marshal clarified that the SETs motion was reviewed by the Steering Committee and then sent back to the authors for clarification.
 - With the ODS resolution, the authors consulted with the ODS office. In the case the accommodations "fundamentally alter a course," let ODS know. Faculty

should be aware that their actions must follow the law. Email Jennifer Lang-Rigal with questions.

VII. New Business—none

VIII. Unfinished Business

- The Resolution to Revise Election Procedures for Adjunct Faculty Senators passed.
- When the Resolution Regarding Transparency and Accountability of A&P Appointments within the Division of Academic Affairs was raised, a motion to go to closed session passed, and non-senators were asked to leave (5:08 p.m.). At that point, the meeting was locked.
- Minutes are not published for a closed session.
- Despite the *Breeze*'s claim that the Virginia Code does not allow the Senate to go into closed session, the Senate does not qualify as a “public body” (cf. *Students for Animals v. The Rector and Board of Visitors of the University of Virginia*); therefore, the code cited by the *Breeze* does not apply. *The Breeze* refused to retract [the erroneous article](#).
- After about an hour in closed session, the Senate returned to open session.
- A motion to call the question (stop discussion) did not meet the 2/3 threshold.
- A motion to postpone further discussion until the next meeting passed.
- Senators were reminded that 20% of senators must sign a petition to request that the speaker call a special meeting.

IX. Adjournment: 6:23 p.m.

Special Meeting of the Faculty Senate

Thursday, March 2, 2023 (meeting held via Zoom)

In attendance: Speaker: Ott Walter; Communications Director: McDonnell; Accounting: Briggs; Biology: May; Chemistry: Kokhan; Comm. Sci. and Disorders: Clinard; Comm. Studies: Woo; Comp. Inf. Sci. & Bus. Analytics: Wang; Computer Science: Kirkpatrick; Early ELED & Reading: Mathur; Economics: Elwood; Edu. Found. & Exception: Brown; Engineering: Morton; English: Lo; Finance & Bus. Law: Parker; Foreign Languages: Lang-Rigal; Geol. & Environ. Science: McGary; Grad. Psych.: LeBlanc; Hart School of HSRM: Hallmon; Health Professions: Goetschius; Health Sciences: Lassiter; History: McCleary; IDLS: Chamberlin; Integrated Sciences: York; Justice Studies: Scheurman; Kinesiology: McKay; Learning Tech. & LE: Wiley; Libraries: Price; Management: Lee; Marketing: Ozcan; Math & Stats: Nelson; Media Arts. & Design: Loyacano; Mid, Second, & Math: Shoffner; Music: Suggs; Nursing: Lewis; Phil. & Rel.: van Leeuwen; Physics: Butner; Political Science: Lubert; Psychology: Melchiori; Social Work: Hunter; Soc. & Anth.: Spear; Strategic Leadership Studies: Vanhove; Writing Rhetoric & Tech Comm: Hickman; Part-time Faculty Reps: Harlacker, Janow; Many guests attended.

I. Call to Order—3:55 p.m.

This meeting was requested by a petition of more than 20% of senators

II. New Business

- The Resolution on Use of Student Course Evaluations in the Assessment of Teaching was introduced.

III. **Unfinished Business**

- The Resolution Regarding Transparency and Accountability of A&P Appointments within the Division of Academic Affairs had already been moved and seconded at the previous meeting; however, an attempt was made to object to consideration of the motion. The marshal deemed it too late for such a motion since it was already under consideration. After one amendment passed (and two amendments failed), the question was called. After meeting the 2/3 threshold to end discussion, the amended resolution—renamed to the Resolution Regarding Transparency and Accountability of Divisional & Senior Leadership Appointments within the Division of Academic Affairs—passed.
- The Statement in Support of the Letter in Response to the Holocaust Memorial Controversy was referred to committee.
- An amendment to the Resolution of Condemnation of Recent Actions of JMU's Provost passed. A motion to postpone this resolution to the next meeting passed after the speaker broke a tie vote.

III. **Adjournment:** 5:30 p.m.