



## FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

Thursday, November 6, 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: Harbick; Comm. Studies: Reynolds; Computer Info. Systems & Bus. Analytics: Wang; Computer Science: El-Khadi Rizvi; Early ELED & Reading: Hass; Economics: J. Doyle; Edu. Found. & Exception: Wiley; Engineering: Harper; English: Lo; Finance & Bus. Law: Parker; Foreign Languages: Galarreta; Geol. & Environ. Science: Pyle; Grad. Psych.: LeBlanc; Hart School of HSRM: Hallmon; Health Professions: Harrison; Health Sciences: Zaman; History: McCleary; Integrated Sciences: Integrated Sciences: Palkovitz (proxy) and 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; Military Science: Eshelman; Music: Suggs; Nursing: Armstrong; Phil. & Rel.: van Leeuwen; Physics: Butner; Political Science: Lubert; Psychology: Zinn; Social Work: Miller; Soc. & Anth.: Porter; Strategic Leadership Studies: Selznick; Theatre & Dance: Zazzali; Writing Rhetoric & Tech Comm: Hickman; Part-time Faculty Reps: Harlacker; Smith; Guests—Kolvoord, Bryan, Oldmixon, Shackelford, and others.

- I. **Call to Order**—3:55 p.m.
- II. The minutes from September and October were approved.
- III. **Provost's Report**—Dr. Bob Kolvoord
  - The interim provost reported that departments across campus are holding conversations about AI. As part of Reengineering Madison, an AI Readiness Survey will allow JMU to compare results with peer institutions. Results are expected in early December. The plan is to create a campus strategy roadmap. Alumni with experience will be asked to engage in strategizing.
  - GenEd renewal: The Core Curriculum Committee will propose the next iteration of the model before break.
  - The Faculty Handbook revision is out for the final round of commenting (due by 11:59 p.m. on November 15). The BOV will approve the final version at their April meeting. The ad hoc handbook committee is standing in for the regular committee this year. The regular committee returns to duty next academic year.
  - A draft of the space master plan will be shared before break.
  - The provost raised concerns about scooters with Tim Miller, who is discussing the matter with JMU Police. The "13<sup>th</sup> Grade" banner will be retired.
  - Overall grade distributions for online versus face-to-face classes will be shared and compared.

- A draft of the pillars of the strategic plan will be presented to the BOV at their November meeting for their endorsement. Vision teams will be established for each pillar to decide how to actualize the ideas. The call will go out (likely before the Thanksgiving holiday) to faculty and staff to join those teams. The Madison Promise is an example of a likely pillar. Under the Madison Promise, if a student does not land a job within a year of graduating, JMU would support them with additional coursework. Those struggling in a first job would be similarly supported. Other examples of likely pillars include partnerships with government, business, and industry; increasing national prominence by bolstering research; and housing more students on campus.
- The following questions were asked and answered:
  - Details about the CISE dean search? The president will have time with each candidate and will share his thoughts with the provost.
  - Can the AI survey include people who have taught courses on AI-related content/machine learning? The provost will take this suggestion under advisement.

#### IV. **Speaker's Report**

- Guest Robin Bryan, Associate VP and CIO of Information Technology, emphasized that supporting faculty is the primary goal of IT.
  - File storage is migrating from the N-drive to MS 365, which provides true collaboration tools and stronger protection for highly confidential data (including research data).
  - Netscope Private Access will allow access to applications without a VPN, even from off campus. This client works just as well on Apple products as on Windows devices.
  - IT is working closely with the Libraries and other entities on the Title II requirements (not trying to achieve perfection but instead focusing on the “big hits”).
  - VOI protocol will allow faculty to forward their JMU phone number to their personal devices.
  - MOU: Technology staff within the colleges (CSM was the first) will be accommodated more effectively for special applications. This move ensures that we're applying appropriate security across the university.
  - Security awareness: A new training system, which faculty must complete, was rolled out a few weeks ago. Previously, security awareness was tied to password changes. The end user is the key to the university's security. Security awareness (100% compliance) is required by the state. The penalty for noncompliance will be blocked access to critical systems. It's crucial that faculty understand the ways that bad actors are trying to access information.
  - CRM integration continues to expand. IT welcomes feedback. Undergrad admissions recruiting will go live in June 2026.
  - Marketing Cloud will replace bulkmail.
  - Oracle was chosen for the ERP (HR, Finance, Budget). Implementation is under way. This system will allow faculty to see pay advice detail

and a full benefits and compensation summary. HR and Budget will go live in July of 2027, the new student system in 2030.

- The Okta new userID format (random) is an improvement for IT (challenges were created previously when users married or divorced) but created new problems for some faculty. Faculty with the new IDs can now request an alias.
  - Multifactor authentication starts tighter and then can be eased. Canvas is a high-risk system because of grades, but the timeout was adjusted to four hours. MyMadison is timed out after fifteen minutes. Students are using the same systems. There's only one approach for both groups. Students share their location, give their credentials to others, and create real risks for the university. They are hacked daily.
  - Provisional access to systems for new faculty started this summer. Access for continuing adjunct faculty will begin soon. FastPass—password-less log-in—is coming at the end of this year. Faculty may use biometrics. IT will not be storing anyone's biometric data (those are stored locally). A webcam may be used for facial recognition.
  - Notre Dame is working with JMU to help deliver a full alias solution.
  - There's a system status page, and faculty can sign up for text message systems updates.
  - Phishing has gotten more sophisticated. There are 4.5 million hits against the university per day. IT works to protect all JMU users.
  - Timing of computer reboots for updates ought to be applied at your convenience when the notifications begin (rather than delaying).
  - No faculty member's computer should be more than six years old.
  - Access to computers by IT using an XDTS account only occurs to support you if you ask them (or if legal requires a hold on someone's account, which means that there's a lawsuit). IT monitors how admin X accounts are used.
  - IT is happy to engage with you and answer your emails.
  - Bryan will follow up on the suggestion to create faculty profiles on classroom computers.
- The speaker gave the following report:
    - The presidential inauguration will be held on Wednesday, April 8, 2026, at 2:00. If you have a idea for an event on April 8 through the 10, submit it to Kristi Shackelford by 12/1.
    - The [Title II](#) deadline is 4/24/26. [Anthology Ally](#) is a tool to help faculty make changes to course materials.
    - The provost search committee has been formed and will soon begin work. There are four faculty members, one SGA rep, two deans, two AA provost's office members, two VPs, and one alum. The firm hired is Academic Search, which is founded by former higher education folks.
    - Higher Ed day in Richmond is in January. The focus will be on BOV reform and collective bargaining in VA.

- Thirteen senates across the country passed resolutions opposing the compact. A consortium has formed to discuss how to support universities and how to change the narrative about higher ed.

V. **Treasurer's Report—Dr. Melanie Shoffner for Dr. Talé Mitchell**

- There's \$5,202.66 in the senate's accounts. Seventeen of forty-three departments have not paid dues (which were due 10/15).
- Thursday, 11/13, was the deadline for lottery winners to submit receipts, or they forfeit their winnings.

VI. **Committee Reports**

- A. Faculty Appeals—no report.
- B. Faculty Concerns—Chair Sasha Kokhan reported that the committee met and discussed how to respond to the compact.
- C. Adjunct Affairs—no report.
- D. Teaching and Student Relations—no report.
- E. Budget & Compensation and Government Relations—no report.
- F. Research and Scholarship—Chair Ben Selznick announced that the committee reviewed forty-six mini-grant proposals, requesting more than \$200,000 total. Nine projects were fully funded, three partially funded. Thanks to the committee for their hard work and to the president and provost's offices for the funding. These seed awards are very important as "proof of concept" for seeking larger awards.
- G. Shared Governance—Chair Kristen McCleary shared the [link for a survey](#) about primacy over various matters (not every issue ought to be shared 50/50). Results will be used to guide conversations and policy reform. The committee is working to [shape policy](#) on how to vote within departments, how to conduct surveys, etc.
- H. Policies—Chair Steve Garren and the committee are working on proposing a resolution to notate transcripts with a V to indicate that a class was taken virtually. The notation would not be applied retroactively. The aim is to encourage students to take face-to-face classes because AI cheating in online courses is rampant. Respondus Lockdown Browser is not working to prevent cheating in online courses. The following questions/comments were aired:
  - How big of a problem is this? What does the data reveal about the number of credits being offered online as opposed to in the classroom? We're the ones providing the opportunity by offering online classes, and students are enthusiastically participating. It's easy money for the university.
  - A similar conversation is occurring at BRCC. They use HonorLock.
- I. No Other Committee Reports

- VII. **No New Business**
- VIII. **No Unfinished Business**
- IX. **Adjournment:** 5:35 p.m.