



FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

Thursday, September 7, 2023 (meeting held via Zoom)

In attendance: Speaker: Ott Walter; Communications Director: McDonnell; Accounting: Briggs; Art, Design, and Art History: Brooks; Biology: May; Chemistry: Kokhan; Comm. Sci. and Disorders: Clinard; Comm. Studies: Nelson; Comp. Inf. Sci. & Bus. Analytics: Wang; Computer Science: El-Kadi Rizvi; 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: Harrison; Health Sciences: Lassiter; History: McCleary; IDLS: Schmitt-Harsh; Integrated Sciences: York; Justice Studies: Castle; Kinesiology: McKay; Learning Tech. & LE: Wiley; Libraries: Price; Management: Pattie; Marketing: Ozcan; Math & Stats: C. Lubert; Media Arts. & Design: Mitchell; Mid, Second, & Math: Shoffner; Music: Suggs; Nursing: Lewis; Phil. & Rel.: van Leeuwen; Physics: Butner; Political Science: H. Lubert; Psychology: Melchiori; Social Work: Yeom; Soc. & Anth.: Trouille; Strategic Leadership Studies: Vanhove; Theatre & Dance: De Sanctis; Writing Rhetoric & Tech Comm: Hickman; Part-time Faculty Reps: Harlacker, Janow; Trocchia; Guests—Coltman, Shackelford, Oldmixon, and others.

- I. **Call to Order**—3:55 p.m.
- II. The minutes from two meetings in March and two meetings in April were approved.
- III. **Provost's Report**—Dr. Heather Coltman
 - The provost paid tribute to two JMU community members who passed away over the summer and are greatly missed: Emeka Anaza, faculty member from the Hart School (and a recent faculty senator), and Laura Butler, longtime staff member from Engineering.
 - Covid and other respiratory illnesses are increasing. While faculty should encourage students to use their best judgment and can refer students to the University Health Center website for current information, faculty may not require a note or test results. The self-care note is still an option.
 - The workload report, which was overseen by Elizabeth Oldmixon, was shared through Canvas. Faculty are encouraged to discuss the report within their units and to engage in developing policies. This report is a first step in a long-term project.
 - A dinner for faculty who earned promotion and/or tenure, including Harold Butner, Erica Lewis, Karen McDonnell, Tim Ozcan, Ping Wang from the senate, will be held on September 7.
 - The hiring guidelines will be available early next week.
- IV. **Speaker's Report**—Dr. Katherine Ott Walter

- The speaker reviewed the responsibilities of senators to communicate with and represent their departments. Different approaches are used: sending out emails, having informal conversations, running surveys, reserving a spot on department meeting agendas, holding office hours. The senate website has [information for new senators](#).
- A template for composing senate motions is forthcoming. When the Steering Committee receives a motion, the path that it takes can vary: If it needs revising, it can be sent back to the author, referred to committee, or brought to the floor at the full meeting. The marshal will repost to Canvas the flowchart outlining the options available for motions that are on the floor. While the senate does follow Robert's Rules of Order, the bylaws supersede Robert's Rules.
- Revisions to the bylaws, including some committee structures, have been put forward by the Steering Committee. Senate subcommittee meetings should review and discuss the suggested changes.
- President Alger sent out an email soliciting Big Ideas. The speaker encourages faculty to propose big ideas with an academic focus.
- President Alger will deliver an address to the faculty senate at the October meeting, which will be held in person in room 2021 in Hartman (the business building).
- The Committee on Academic Programs still needs a senator to fill an open seat.

VII. Treasurer's Report

- Treasurer Cathy McKay reported a total of \$3,200.05 in the senate's combined accounts.
- She reviewed her role, which entails collecting dues, arranging memorials upon request, and conducting the computer lottery. Senators are responsible for completing, or arranging for the completion of, the [online bereavement request form](#) when a colleague's family member passes away. (Do not use the old PDF form.)
- Nine bereavement requests have been processed since May.
- To support the bereavement fund, senators collect \$5 in dues from all full-time faculty members in their department. According to the bylaws, October 15th is the dues deadline. The October 5th in-person Faculty Senate meeting offers a good opportunity to submit the collected dues.
- The computer lottery funds have been approved. Expect information next week.

V. Committee reports

- A. Faculty Concerns—Chair Kristen McCleary announced that the committee will meet from 3:55 to 5:25 p.m. on September 14. They are seeking answers to questions about summer pay, when raises are paid, and the delay in paying new faculty. The committee often works with Academic Policies. Other areas of focus include rethinking the AUH position, growth and contraction at the department level, and

concerns about what's happening at WVU. Thanks were expressed to Dr. Carter-Hoyt's office for creating the Inclusive Event Planner Alliance.

- B. Academic Policies—Chair Smita Mathur acknowledged the work of the prior chair, Hala Nelson, who stepped down over the summer. The committee will meet on the second Thursday of every month. They're looking at the Academic Affairs Policies process—how policies are developed and implemented—and the recommended changes to the bylaws related to this committee and its work.
- C. Adjunct Affairs—Chair Leslie Harlacker is working on scheduling the committee meetings and working to develop a web form for adjuncts to submit concerns. The committee will brainstorm other priorities for the year. Faculty professional development funds for part-time faculty are available. The committee is gearing up to start the application process for this cycle. Help spread the word. If possible, a listserv will be set up to communicate more effectively with adjunct faculty.
- D. Student Relations—no report
- E. Budget & Compensation and Government Relations—no report
- F. Faculty Appeals—no report
- G. Nominations and Elections—no report
- H. Other Committee Reports—Jennifer Lang-Rigal supplied the changes made to the Faculty Handbook as recommended by President Alger and as approved by the BOV (document included with the minutes).

VI. New Business

- The Bylaws Motions are undergoing a first reading.

VII. Unfinished Business

- After a friendly amendment, the Resolution on JMU's ALICE population passed.

VIII. Open Discussion

- The meeting modality for the spring needs to be decided.
- The Dependent Tuition Remission Resolution is being discussed by the Budget, Compensation, and Government Relations Committee.
- Follow-up on resolutions from last year is requested. The Faculty Senate website will be updated to reflect the outcomes.
- Faculty are encouraged to read the Shared Governance Report. The provost is putting together an implementation team.
- A question arose about how the Workload Report connects with JMU's R2 status.

IX. Adjournment: 5:25 p.m.