



FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

Thursday, January 30, 2020 – Taylor/Madison Union 405

In attendance: Piper (Speaker); Accounting: Briggs; Art, Design, and Art History: Brooks (proxy); Biology: Seifert; Comm. Sci. and Disorders: Clinard; Comm. Studies: Woo; Comp. Inf. Sci. & Bus Analytics: Wang; Computer Science: Kirkpatrick; Economics: Grant (proxy); Educ. Found. & Exc.: Bosch (proxy); Engineering: Harper; English: Lo; Foreign Languages: Lang-Rigal; Geology: McGary; Grad. Psych: Critchfield; History: Borg (proxy); Integrated Sciences: McGraw; Justice Studies: Beers; Kinesiology: McKay; Learning Tech. & LE: Beverly; Lib & Ed Tech: Flota; Management: Shahzad; Marketing: Larsen; Math & Stats: Garren; Media Arts & Design: Mitchell; Mid, Second, & Math: Shoffner; Military Science: Waller; Nursing: Lam; Philosophy & Religion: Kirk; Physics: Butner; Political Science: Lee; Psychology: Melchiori; Sociology & Anthropology: Tanaka; Strategic Leadership Studies: Vanhove; Theatre & Dance: Finkelstein; Writing Rhetoric & Tech Comm: McDonnell; Part-time Faculty Reps: Harlacker, Janow, PeeksMease; SGA Rep: Deger (outgoing) and Eccleston (incoming); Guests—Coltman (Provost), Nowvieskie (Dean of Libraries)

I. Call to Order—3:30 p.m.

II. Provost's Report

Provost Coltman offered the following highlights:

- Eighty-four faculty applied for promotion and tenure. She's impressed with the applications and appreciates all of the hard work.
- A highly competitive search continues for the Vice Provost for Student Academic Success and Enrollment Management position. She encourages faculty participation and feedback about the candidates.
- Academic Affairs Strategic Planning is moving into the most substantive phase. Provide input when given the opportunity. Make sure your voice is heard. The process is intended to be very inclusive.
- The provost continues to hold college townhalls and visit departments (the entire process will have taken three years). Certain themes have emerged: advising, mental health, students with disabilities, equitable advising, greater consistency and transparency around all sorts of decision-making. She's working with Tim Miller across divisions to address some of these concerns. It's Important to hear from faculty so that the administration can find ways to communicate even better. One idea under consideration is a biweekly or monthly provost's digest
- In response to a question about the Madison Promise, which was in place for just one year, the provost noted that the legislature is in session now. The hope is that the plan will be put before the board and continued.

III. Speaker's Report

- This semester's lunch with the president and provost is scheduled for Thursday, April 16, from 12:15 to 1:30 in the BOV dining room in Festival (RSVP to Yvonne Miller millerys@jmu.edu). If you can't make it, but if someone in your department would be interested, invite him/her to sign up.
- The new COACHE faculty satisfaction survey will come out soon. Encourage you department colleagues to complete it. It's a very important vehicle for the faculty voice.
- Proofs from the group photo will be sent around soon. Please check for accuracy (names, departments).

- Michael Stoloff, Associate Dean of the Graduate School, seeks feedback on a recently drafted sunset policy for programs that have not received applications for six years. Send feedback to Hakseon Lee, chair of the student relations committee.
- Elections for 2020–2021 Faculty Senate officer positions (speaker, speaker pro tempore, communications director, marshal, and treasurer) are coming up in April. Start thinking about whether you'd be interested in running.

IV. Guest—Bethany Nowviskie, Dean of Libraries

- Dean Nowviskie emphasized her great vantage point from the libraries: she sees the deep creativity and innovation of the faculty. It's wonderful and refreshing to be in such a student-centered place.
- Input and oversight from faculty are important to her. JMU libraries currently lacks a strong standing faculty advisory committee, which can be a healthy check on library systems. She'd like to see a stand-alone committee or a deep and real relationship with the senate.
- The libraries are resource limited. To stretch dollars, JMU joins consortia. One is with VRL, seven institutions that have joined together to purchase a package from Elsevier. Their business model has been to buy up journals and then rent them to colleges and universities in bundles called "big deals." Nondisclosure agreements are meant to prevent discussion about costs among universities. JMU has refused to sign an NDA because it contradicts the mission as a public institution. The dean is trying to press against this model, and now is an opportune moment because the Elsevier contract is coming up for renegotiation. The libraries are analyzing data to see how much it would cost to find alternatives. Such a move would be part of a global movement to put pressure on the publishers to better serve the public good and to create a more sustainable and just global scholarly system. More information [here](#).
- Public resolutions of support have proven to be incredibly effective. The libraries' fundamental commitment is to support your research and teaching while also trying to invest university resources in ways that support our values (free and open access to the public). Faculty are encouraged to reach out to subject area liaisons or to Dean Nowviskie (nowvisbp@jmu.edu).

V. Treasurer's Report—Treasurer Nevin Cavusoglu is on leave in Turkey this semester but will still process bereavement requests. Acting Treasurer David McGraw reported that the Senate account has \$9,556.73. Ideas for spending bills are encouraged.

VI. Committee Reports

- A. Faculty Concerns—Chair Val Larsen noted that the committee was charged with considering the computer lottery rules. A survey of adjuncts by Senator PeeksMease showed that they preferred that the eligibility rules keep language about a demonstrated commitment (four semesters). The childcare survey is not ready yet, but it will attempt to gauge the demand for care for 3- to 4-year-olds, children under 2 years 10 months, and dropoff care. Dean L'Esperance can add up to thirty more slots in the Young Children's Program for 3- to 4-year olds if there is demonstrated demand and if the university can provide additional suitable space. Martha Ross, now retired, says that past surveys did not reveal a lot of demand for 4- to 5-year-olds but did point to unmet need for care for children 0 to 2 years, 10 months. Dropoff services have been offered in the past, but it's a difficult model to sustain.

Chair Larsen reported on initiatives from the Faculty Senate of Virginia (FSVA). He attended Higher Ed advocacy day in Richmond on January 9 and was impressed by Brian Turner of Randolph-Macon and VCU's work to organize this day. No additional salary money was slated for higher education, but legislator Guzman agreed to write a bill (pending House Bill 30) for a 4.7% salary increase for higher education. Higher education needs to do a better job of advocating for itself. Consider contacting your representative. The Airbnb policy issue was raised with local delegates. Apparently, there was no precipitating cause for the bill, and legislators expressed a willingness to reconsider it. More faculty from JMU than any other institution applied for the FSVA lottery.

- B. Academic Policies—Committee member Michael Kirkpatrick reported that the Honor Code test is in a state of confusion. The original goal was to make sure every incoming student has read the honor code. Registration holds were put on the accounts of noncompliers. Other approaches are being

discussed: Could the test be incorporated as part of orientation, included as part of the midterm grade report, as a Component of GenEd Critical Thinking?

- C. Adjunct Affairs—Chair Leslie Harlacker reported that the committee met electronically this month. Under discussion is ownership of the adjunct survey (first administered this past spring). The plan is to include questions related to the checklist for AUHes. The Adjunct Task Force is meeting on the last day of January. Ideas under consideration include putting together an adjunct faculty orientation guide, exploring health insurance access for adjuncts, and recognizing longer-serving adjuncts with better pay. Professional development grants applications are now being accepted (about \$18,000 to award). Encourage adjuncts in your department to [apply](#). The deadline February 10, 2020. SGA passed a resolution calling on the university to encourage the university to better support adjuncts.
- D. Student Relations—Chair Hakseon Lee reported that the committee met two weeks ago to discuss the motion to enhance student diversity. The most recent data reveals that need-based scholarships (excluding athletic scholarships and university non-athletic grants) are 20% of overall non-athletic scholarships (including Foundation and departmental). Nine percent of in-state full-time undergraduate students received a non-athletic scholarship, and fourteen percent of out-of-state full-time undergraduate students received non-athletic scholarships (i.e., either need- or merit-based scholarships). Less than 2% of the student body received need-based scholarships (3% of out-of-state students). Thirty-three percent of in-state need-based non-athletic scholarships went to non-whites. Twenty-four percent of out-of-state need-based non-athletic scholarships went to non-whites. All of the above scholarship data excludes athletic scholarships and university non-athletic grants.
The selection process for the Madison Vision Teaching Awards begins in late February. The survey is done by mid-March. The interview process occurs in late March.
JMU has been invited to join UVA's effort on inclusivity. Student Relations will work with the Academic Policies committee.
Students against Sexual Violence will present to the committee.
- E. The Faculty Appeals Committee currently has no cases.
- F. Budget and Compensation—Committee Chair Steve Garren continues to press for more information about adjunct salaries (e.g., the number of students in each class since some sections are double or triple sections). This information is crucial to accurately analyze the data. Last year, Chair Garren issued a report about salaries across departments using the *Breeze's* database; however, the data through the website is no longer formatted as a spreadsheet. Expect a new report when he is able to access the data in a usable form. In response to a question about attaching demographic information to the salary data, Chair Garren explained that there could be confidentiality issues with such information, though perhaps he could provide aggregate data.
- G. Nominations & Elections—Marshal Steve Harper reminded senators to hold departmental elections if their two-year term is ending. Most of the officer positions are term limited to three years; thus, the marshal position is available. Let the marshal know if you're interested. Note that [mini-grant winner information](#) is on the FS website.
- H. Other Committees—The Faculty Handbook Committee is taking input. The language on standards for promotion and tenure is being revised.

VII. New business

- Motion on graduate student parking exception: acquire faculty parking access on a semester-by-semester basis.
- Bylaws change: CFI has in the past run the part-time senator elections. This motion puts that responsibility on the Nominations and Elections Committee. Since elections need to take place soon, the rules were suspended by the required 2/3 vote. Subsequently, the motion passed.

VIII. Unfinished business

- [The Motion to Amend the Computer Lottery Rules](#) was first amended and then passed.

- The Motion on Rescission of the Mandatory Blue Questions, which includes an expression of appreciation and a request for continuing cooperation with the administration, passed. Faculty values its ownership of the course evaluation process.
- The Motion to Enhance Student Diversity was discussed, including an amendment to focus the motion on students who have no resources (a more needy group) and to donate \$3,000 from the Faculty Senate's treasury to the JMU Foundation to issue the scholarship. An amendment was suggested to increase the amount to \$3,210 to cover the foundation's 7% fee. A vote passed to table the motion until the next meeting.

IX. Adjournment 5:05 p.m.