



## FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

Thursday, September 2, 2021

**In attendance:** Larsen (Speaker); Accounting: Briggs; Biology: May; Chemistry: Kokhan; Comm. Sci. and Disorders: Clinard; Comm. Studies: Woo; Computer Science: Kirkpatrick; Early ELED & Reading: Mathur; Economics: Doyle; Engineering: Harper; English: White Finance & Bus. Law: Parker; Foreign Languages: Lang-Rigal; Geol. & Environ. Science: McGary; Hart School of HSRM: Anaza; Health Professions: Goetschius; Health Sciences: Ott Walter; History: McCleary; IDLS: Chamberlin; Integrated Sciences: York; Justice Studies: Scheuerman; Kinesiology: McKay; Learning Tech. & LE: Wilcox; Libraries: Wilson (proxy); Management: C.K. Lee; Marketing: Ozcan; Math & Stats: Garren; Media Arts & Design: Mitchell; Mid, Second, & Math: Shoffner; Music: Peterson; Nursing: Leisen; Phil. & Rel.: Knorpp; Physics: Butner; Political Science: H. Lee; Psychology: Melchiori; Soc. & Anth.: Tracy; Social Work: Hunter; Strategic Leadership Studies: Vanhove; Theatre & Dance: Finkelstein; Writing Rhetoric & Tech Comm: Hickman; Part-time Faculty Reps: Harlacker, Janow, Stone; Guests—Coltman, Shackelford, Cole, and other observers

I. **Call to Order**—4:20 p.m.

II. **Provost's Report**—Dr. Heather Coltman

- The COVID dashboard is back up, tracking cases and vaccination record reports, including waivers. The information is still fluid, and there's a backlog. If you're informed that JMU doesn't have your records, please submit/resubmit.
- Faculty do not have to offer an online course version, except when previously agreed to (e.g., ODS accommodations). Still, flexibility is encouraged. Within reason, we want to make arrangements to help students succeed when they are ill or have to quarantine.
- If faculty are required to quarantine and move online, students do not have to be told why.
- Courses scheduled to be in person cannot be changed to virtual without the express permission of the AUH and clear notification to students. We have committed to offer courses in a particular modality, and students made their choices based on that information.
- Senior leadership is meeting two times a week and posting FAQs/responses at least once a day.
- In-person 2020 graduation ceremonies are on Friday, September 3 in the Atlantic Union Bank Center. Faculty may come but are not required to. Masks are required. Six to seven hundred students are planning to attend.
- The Climate Study is coming soon. JMU has never undertaken a survey of this magnitude. The administration is eager to hear what you have to say. Help spread the word. Faculty might consider allotting class time for students to take the survey (est. 20 mins.). Your support is appreciated.
- The provost answered the following questions:
  - Will the data from the climate survey be made available?
    - Not every piece of data will be made available to the general public. Rankin and Associates will gather and present the results in the most useful way.

- When will the data from the most recent COACHE survey be posted?
  - At the latest, by next Tuesday night.
- Do students report positive results to the UHC?
  - Yes, students need to report to the UHC.
- How are we supposed to accommodate our students when we can't record class sessions without advance notice and can't require participation even if we are able to send notice about recording?
  - The policies are guided by FERPA. It's not legally permissible to require students to participate when recording. It's complicated, but the policy is the university's effort to shield faculty from violating students' rights.
- Will the university provide rapid COVID tests?
  - This question will be looked into.
- With the complexity and difficulty of the current situation, how can there be more transparency?
  - Nuanced information is sent to the AUHs to disseminate because they have more context. Kristi Shackelford is working on providing succinct, time-based information online.
- Are students being informed of best practices as new information comes in?
  - Students are sent the Dukes Weekly, which is also on the Student Affairs website. All communications sent to students are archived on the Stop the Spread website.
- With full FDA approval for Pfizer, will any changes to the vaccination mandate be made?
  - This important question is being discussed.
- Is it possible for the passport to be provided for online attendance at campus events since not everyone feels comfortable attending in person?
  - A response is forthcoming.

### III. Speaker's Report

- Speaker Val Larsen has drafted an oral report to the BOV clearly stating that the views expressed in the last oral report to the BOV did not represent the Faculty Senate.
- He spoke to Dean Linda Thomas about the Faculty Senate Diversity Initiative. She has pledged to cover tuition costs for promising underrepresented JMU students to recruit for graduate study in the effort to encourage them to become future JMU faculty. While tuition costs for the program can be covered by the Graduate School, funding from other sources is being sought to cover an \$8,500 assistantship for each student participant. The Speaker has raised this issue with the Provost (who has committed to help) and will raise it with the Board of Visitors at the BOV meeting in September.
- Fall semester meetings of the Faculty Senate will continue online instead of face to face. The meeting time next semester must accommodate a change to the spring schedule that adjusts the break between classes from 25 minutes to 20 minutes. Therefore, the Faculty Senate will meet from 3:55 to 5:25 p.m. Please note that this meeting time is a correction. As scheduling begins, talk to your AUH about leaving that time slot open. Spring semester meetings occur on the last Thursday of the

month. We'll vote again in December to determine whether the spring meetings will occur online or in person.

#### IV. Treasurer's Report

- Treasurer Cathy McKay—whose duties include maintaining dues, arranging memorials for family members of faculty, and conducting the computer lottery—announced that there is total of \$7,237.34 in the Senate accounts.
- The memorial flower/donation request form is on the main page of the Senate website. She's working on automating the form. For now, in the event of the passing of a colleague's family member, complete the form and send it to [mckayca@jmu.edu](mailto:mckayca@jmu.edu).
- Every full-time instructional faculty member is expected to pay Senate dues to be used for memorial requests and in other ways as determined by the Senate. Dues for this year are \$10, which includes last year's dues (postponed because of the circumstances). Senators should collect dues from department members and send as one lump sum to Cathy McKay at MSC 2302. Include your unit's name. Make checks payable to the JMU Faculty Senate. If you prefer to deliver the dues to Cathy in Godwin Hall, please contact her to arrange a drop-off. Do not send cash through campus mail or leave it unattended. Submit collected dues by the October meeting.
- Look for the computer lottery email in the next couple of weeks.

#### V. Committee Reports

- A. Budget & Compensation and Government Relations—Chair Tim Ozcan noted that historically JMU, compared to peer institutions, has been receiving the lowest support per student from the state. The committee will interview Charlie King and others to understand why this is the case, what strategy the administration has been following, and what the faculty can do to help.
- B. Faculty Concerns—Chair Kathy Ott Walter announced that the committee plans to meet next week (September 9) online during the 4:20 time slot. If you have concerns that the committee might address, send them her way.
- C. Academic Policies—Chair Smita Mathur welcomed new members to the committee and set the next meeting for September 16 online. The committee is discussing a past resolution with the hope of bringing it back for Senate consideration.
- D. Adjunct Affairs—Chair Leslie Harlacker will hold a committee meeting next Thursday (September 9) to distill action items from the results of the survey.
- E. Student Relations—Chair Hakseon Lee will contact committee members soon to arrange a meeting to discuss the student engagement minigrants. He met with Cindy Chiarello from University planning about how to organize the application and selection process. The Madison Teaching Award will be held again this year by the SGA.
- F. Nominations and Elections—Chair Steve Harper reviewed how meetings are conducted: Robert's Rules of Order are followed unless the Senate has formally adapted the rules. The aim is to facilitate group discussion and to preserve order. The rights of the organization supersede those of the individual. Members are allowed to speak twice for up to ten minutes at a time. Be concise. Have a coherent message. The person who introduces a motion speaks first. Use the hand-raise feature. During discussion, the speaker is supposed to be neutral and to alternate turns between

members with opposing views. Address comments and questions to the speaker. “Calling the question” closes discussion if a 2/3 vote is achieved; then, a vote on the motion under debate occurs immediately. If a matter has not been adequately discussed, and time is running short, any senator can move to table the issue to postpone it to the next meeting. An abstention does not count either way. Any faculty member can bring forward a resolution. Senators will not always be able to consult with their departments about motions. The expectation is that the department trusts the elected member to represent them and make sound judgments.

G. Faculty Appeals—Chair Talé Mitchell reported that one appeal wrapped up over the summer.

## **VI. New Business**

The following motions were brought forward for a first reading and will be eligible for a vote at the next meeting:

- Resolution for Speaker Rule Changes
- Resolution Creating Office of Senate Webmaster
- Senate Bylaws Robert’s Rules Modifications
- Motion to Recommend Strengthening DEI Education in General Education

## **VII. No Unfinished Business**

## **VIII. Open Discussion**

- Several departments are interested in hearing what can be done to better prepare the faculty for incidents when opposing forces show up (e.g., the recent response to the DEI training).
- There’s [guidance](#) available on the Faculty Senate website for new senators.

**IX. Adjournment:** 5:50 p.m.