



FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

Thursday, March 31, 2022

In attendance: Speaker: Larsen; Webmaster: Cole; Communications Director: McDonnell; Art, Design, & Art History: Phaup; Accounting: Briggs; Biology: May; Chemistry: Raston (proxy); Comm. Sci. and Disorders: Clinard; Comm. Studies: Woo; Comp. Inf. Systems & Bus Analytics: Tchommo; Computer Science: Sprague; Early ELED & Reading: Mathur; Economics: Doyle; Edu. Found. & Exception: Wiley; Engineering: Harper; Foreign Languages: Lang-Rigal; Geol. & Environ. Science: McGary; Grad. Psych: Kipps-Vaughan (proxy); 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: Clarke; Management: C.K. Lee; Marketing: Ozcan; Math & Stats: Garren; Mid, Second, & Math: Shoffner; Military Science: Turnboo; Music: Peterson; Nursing: Leisen; Phil. & Rel.: Knorpp; Physics: Butner; Political Science: H. Lee; Psychology: Melchiori; Social Work: Trull; Soc. & Anth.: Tracy; Theatre & Dance: Finkelstein; Writing Rhetoric & Tech Comm: Hickman; Part-time Faculty Reps: Harlacker, Janow; Guests—Coltman, Bauerle, Shackelford, and others.

- I. **Call to Order**—3:55 p.m.
- II. **Provost's Report**—Dr. Heather Coltman
 - There are exciting developments in the Online Virginia Network, including partnerships with ODU, GMU, and community colleges. JMU's division, overseen by Fletcher Linder, has received funding for experiential learning, IT upgrades, and market research to help expand the vision of the program. The Libraries are an important collaborator. They're working to upgrade Canvas. JMU Libraries has standing representation on key committees in the Virtual Library of Virginia. Dr. Linder (lindergf@jmu.edu) is the point person for questions.
 - April 4 is the date that the legislature will reconvene for budget reconciliation.
 - The pathway to promotion for lecturers is well underway. Twenty-five faculty will be invited to apply in the first phase. These faculty, all with at least ten years of experience, represent a range of departments. PACs are devising the process, which will be codified in the Faculty Handbook and finalized before the next promotion cycle.
 - JMU will be moving to the next COVID phase, which is optional mask-wearing throughout campus. The rules for clinical labs and student teaching will be location dependent. The provost expressed confidence that we are not going to need masks on campus. Campuses around the state are implementing similar policies. The provost expects word from Richmond lifting mask mandates around the state. Faculty with ADA accommodations can request to move classes online (the documented need must be on file with HR). Three N-95 masks will be provided for whoever needs them. The benchmarks established by the ad hoc Faculty Senate committee will have been met by 4/11 (e.g., low community transmission rates for more than four weeks, low number of cases at local

hospitals). Should the need arise, the option to return to requiring masks will remain on the table.

- The provost took the following questions:
 - The moratorium on ordering teaching and research supplies has put research programs in a difficult position, especially as summer—the busiest time for research projects—approaches. The moratorium threatens the kind of research needed to uphold the newly designated R2 status. Has JMU considered buying out of eVA like other institutions have?
 - The provost’s office will check into this situation.
 - Does Academic Affairs do any kind of training like what’s in the video from the August DEI training incident that was spotlighted in [the Breeze FOIA exposé](#)?
 - No, not as a division (only in training by HR).
 - Will JMU be offering vaccine on campus to those who are currently eligible for the next COVID booster?
 - There is not currently a plan to do so, but the authorization is very new.
 - Faculty cannot require masking in classrooms without an ADA request on file, but what if students have ADA accommodations?
 - The accommodations remain in effect, but if there were such accommodations, they would’ve already been specified in the documentation.

III. Speaker’s Report—Dr. Val Larsen forewent his report because of the full agenda.

IV. Treasurer’s Report

- Treasurer Cathy McKay reported a total of \$13,208.90 in the Senate’s accounts. There have been twenty-four bereavement requests this academic year.

V. Committee Reports

- A. Faculty Concerns—Chair Katherine Ott Walter reported that the committee met and worked with Academic Policies and Adjunct Affairs to create the workload resolution.
- B. Adjunct Affairs—Chair Leslie Harlacker reiterated that the committee participated in developing the workload resolution. The committee is also focusing on recommendations from the survey of adjuncts and the climate survey.
- C. Student Relations—Chair Hakseon Lee reported that the committee met before spring break with the student protestors who occupied Alumnae Hall. The focus of the discussion was attendance policies, recording class meetings, and course delivery modes (students want F2F and online versions). In addition, the SGA contacted him about visiting their meeting to strengthen the ties between faculty and students. If you are interested in participating and are available late on Tuesdays, contact Dr. Lee (leehx@jmu.edu).
- D. Budget & Compensation and Government Relations—Chair Harold Butner shared the latest report from the Compensation Advisory Council (CAC). His committee is putting

forward a resolution for the Senate to become more involved in determining JMU's new peer institutions. The CAC report mentions childcare. Information about this issue is posted on the [provost's website](#). (You'll need to use your eID and password to log in.)

E. Faculty Appeals—No report.

F. Nominations and Elections—Chair Steve Harper and the committee are building a slate of officers for the April elections. Open positions include Marshal and Speaker Pro Tempore. Contact Steve (harpe2sr@jmu.edu) or anyone on the Nominations & Elections Committee to express your interest. The election of part-time senators is in process. There are currently three nominees, which is the minimum. Only one of the current part-time reps has contacted Steve so far. If your two-year senate term is up, your department needs to hold an election ASAP and subsequently notify Steve of the results. New senators are invited to the April meeting.

VI. New Business—The following items are up for a first reading:

- Motion on Campus Mental Well-Being
- Motion to Transition to Department Head Model of Leadership
- Resolution Regarding DEI Training Pause
- Motion to Uphold Academic Freedom
- Motion to Set up a Task Force to Define an Appropriate R2 Peer Group for JMU
- Workload Resolution

VII. Unfinished Business

- The Resolution on Administrative Transparency, Shared Governance, and Faculty Hiring passed.
- The Motion to Revise the Faculty Hiring Resolution passed.
- After an amendment was approved, the Motion to Require Diversity and Inclusivity Statement on Syllabi passed in a very tight vote with eight abstentions.

VIII. Open Discussion

The speaker initiated a discussion of how to prioritize items of unfinished business in the busy final meeting of the academic year. The group resolved to organize items based on how time sensitive they are. The group was reminded that if debate runs too long, an item of business can be tabled and returned to at a future meeting.

IX. Adjournment: 5:25 p.m.