



FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

Thursday, October 5, 2023 (in-person meeting)

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; Economics: Elwood; Edu. Found. & Exception: Brown; Engineering: Morton; English: Lo; Finance & Bus. Law: Parker; Foreign Languages: Lang-Rigal; Grad. Psych.: LeBlanc; Hart School of HSRM: Hallmon; Health Professions: Ginnity (proxy); History: McCleary; IDLS: Schmitt-Harsh; Integrated Sciences: York; Justice Studies: Castle; Kinesiology: McKay; Learning Tech. & LE: Wiley; Libraries: Price; Marketing: Ozcan; Math & Stats: Garren (proxy); Media Arts. & Design: Mitchell; Mid, Second, & Math: Shoffner; Music: Suggs; Nursing: Lewis; Phil. & Rel.: van Leeuwen; Physics: Butner; Psychology: Melchiori; Social Work: Yeom; Soc. & Anth.: Trouille; Strategic Leadership Studies: Sloan (proxy); Writing Rhetoric & Tech Comm: Hickman; Part-time Faculty Reps: Harlacker Guests—Alger, Kirkpatrick, Coltman, Shackelford, Oldmixon, and others.

I. **Call to Order**—3:55 p.m.

II. **Address by President Alger**

- Interacting with students and parents at Family Weekend was powerful.
- At the BOV meetings, the Speaker's reports that highlight student work are impactful.
- The General Assembly finalized the budget a few weeks ago, including more money for financial aid, which is one of JMU's biggest priorities. The budget also includes a 2% raise for all faculty and staff and additional funding for nursing salaries to address the shortage of nursing faculty.
- JMU is deliberate about focusing on the relevance of a broad liberal arts and sciences education.
- HR and the Compensation Advisory Council are working to support the ALICE population. The base university rate has increased 23%.
- JMU received over 37,000 undergraduate applications—a 17% increase over last year, including a 46% increase in out-of-state applications. As many institutions are struggling with enrollment, JMU's entering class of 4,947 students exceeded the target.
- JMU's Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), part of the accreditation process, focuses on retaining students (e.g., through the Early Student Success System), identifying challenges and equity gaps early, and developing strategies to respond (e.g., microsurveys). JMU wants all students to succeed.
- JMU aims to prepare students for the world of work by encouraging job-ready skills (e.g., at least one work-based learning experience before graduation).

- To address teacher shortages, JMU has been working on nontraditional ways to attract people to teaching programs. To address the nursing shortage, JMU seeks to boost the number of qualified teaching faculty, lab spaces, and clinical placements.
- Data from the class of 2022 reveals that 96.1% of Bachelor's degree students and 97.2% of graduate degree recipients had career outcomes (working, continuing ed, military, or post-grad fellowships or internships). The College of Education had 100% career outcomes.
- JMU's Carnegie Classification as an R2 National Research University is a highlight. Six new centers are on the way. Research support has increased 400% in the last five years. Individual colleges and units are developing their R2 vision. Note that evaluation and tenure & promotion criteria are set by the units and haven't changed unless your unit has worked on them.
- Civic engagement is an area of distinctive strength and an absolute commitment for JMU going forward. The Faculty Fellows in Constructive Dialogue are an example of this commitment. JMU joined Stanford, Duke, and other institutions in the Campus Call for Free Expression. Please attend campus events such as Constitution Day (BOV member Carly Fiorina was this year's speaker) and Common Good in the Commonwealth (headlined by Senator Tim Kaine).
- On the matter of campus safety, specifically about the individual from the community whose actions recently made people nervous and upset, JMU as a public university has to respect the right of free expression and apply policies in a content-neutral way.
- The Shared Governance Task Force made a series of recommendations, and the implementation team is being formed.
- The Artificial Intelligence Task Force includes faculty, staff, students, and alumni to help us think about this potentially disruptive but also innovative technology.
- The call was issued to everyone on campus to generate Big Ideas (due spring 2024). What will be really transformational for JMU?

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

- The provost extended sympathy to colleagues, students, family, and friends of Dr. Edwin O'Shea, professor of Math & Statistics, who passed away last week. A moment of silence was held.
- The Shared Governance Implementation Team, cochaired by Elizabeth Oldmixon and Sasha Kokhan, will be taking shape. Seventeen names were put forward.
- Mark Piper will serve as acting faculty ombudsperson next semester when David McGraw is on leave.

IV. **Speaker's Report—Dr. Katherine Ott Walter**

- For the BOV dinner in November (11/9), consider nominating a student to bring whose work merits highlighting to board members.
- The speaker encourages faculty to respond to President Alger's Big Ideas call by proposing ideas with an academic focus.

VII. Treasurer's Report

- Treasurer Cathy McKay reported a total of \$2,830.49 in the senate's combined accounts.
- Six bereavement requests have been processed since the last meeting, totaling fifteen since May.
- Senate dues are due today.
- The computer lottery winners were notified last week. Out of 440 entries, 431 were eligible. If someone doesn't submit documentation in time, alternates will be notified.

V. Committee reports

- A. Faculty Concerns—Chair Kristen McCleary announced that the committee met last month and will meet next week. They will be prioritizing issues, and invite input. Many concerns are related to Academic Policies, so the committees will collaborate. About the incidences on campus, better policies and communication are needed. Policies related to course releases have come up. Discussions about the AUH-to-chair model are happening. The committee is working on a statement of support for WVU faculty. ODS improvements are being made, but there are still challenges.
- B. Academic Policies—no report.
- C. Adjunct Affairs—Chair Leslie Harlacker reported that the committee met once. They're working on facilitating communication with constituents. They advocate for adjunct voices on the various committees and task forces currently being formed.
- D. Student Relations—no report
- E. Budget & Compensation and Government Relations—no report
- F. Faculty Appeals—no report
- G. Nominations and Elections—Chair Melanie Shoffner invites applications for the mini-grants, which are due October 23, 2023. Encourage your faculty to [apply](#).
- H. Other Committee Reports—Jennifer Lang-Rigal announced that October 16, 2023, is the deadline for proposals to be considered for the 2024-25 Faculty Handbook. Remind your department. Emails can be sent to any member of the committee or to facultyhandbook@jmu.edu. Please include the exact part of the handbook being referenced. Proposals are accepted year round, but October 16 is the cutoff date for next year's edition.

VI. No New Business

VII. Unfinished Business

Each of the seven proposed bylaws changes passed by the required 2/3 vote.

VIII. Adjournment: 5:10 p.m.