



FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

Thursday, September 5, 2024 (meeting held via Zoom)

In attendance: Speaker: Ott Walter; Communications Director: McDonnell; Accounting: Briggs; Art, Design, and Art History: Brooks; Biology: L. Doyle; Chemistry: Kokhan; Comm. Sci. and Disorders: Harbick; Comm. Studies: Nelson; Computer Science: El-Khadi Rizvi; Early ELED & Reading: Mathur; Economics: J. Doyle; Edu. Found. & Exception: Wiley; Engineering: Harper; English: Gerber; Finance & Bus. Law: Parker; Foreign Languages: Galarreta; Geol. & Environ. Science: Pyle; Grad. Psych.: LeBlanc; Hart School of HSRM: Hallmon; Health Sciences: Lassiter; History: McCleary; IDLS: Schmitt-Harsh; Integrated Sciences: York; Justice Studies: Castle; Kinesiology: Wigglesworth; Libraries: Price; Management: Pattie; Marketing: Snyder; Math & Stats: C. Lubert; Media Arts. & Design: Mitchell; Mid, Second, & Math: Shoffner; Military Science: Eshelman; Music: Suggs; Nursing: Lewis; Phil. & Rel.: van Leeuwen; Physics: Butner; Political Science: H. Lubert; Psychology: Zinn; Social Work: Miller; Soc. & Anth.: Trouille; Strategic Leadership Studies: Selznick; Theatre & Dance: Zazzali; Writing Rhetoric & Tech Comm: Hickman; Part-time Faculty Reps: Harlacker; Janow; Guests—Kolvoord, Oldmixon, Shackelford, T. Miller, Moore, and others.

- I. **Call to Order**—3:55 p.m.
- II. The minutes from April were approved.
- III. **Provost's Report**—Dr. Bob Kolvoord
 - The interim provost reiterated the five key areas of focus for the academic year:
 1. Core Curriculum: Solicit proposals for revising the GenEd curriculum through a streamlined curriculum approval process. This process, developed by Linder and Blackstone, is ready to launch.
 2. AI Task Force: Engage with Libraries and CFI for insights and best practices in teaching and learning and for expectations of students. The task force has sought perspectives from faculty, staff, students, and alumni.
 3. Reengineering Madison: PeopleSoft will expire at the end of the decade. HR, Finance, and student systems need to be updated. The new system will work with the CRM and advising streams. Tambellini is the company overseeing the procurement process. DUO is being replaced. The password change interval is being extended. This change will occur right after spring break.
 4. Shared governance: An agreed-upon definition from all stakeholders is the first task of the task force.

5. R2 National University Status: Feedback from last year is being synthesized to devise an Academic Affairs statement and a short-term roadmap.

- Questions can be sent to provost@jmu.edu.

IV. **Speaker's Report**

- Guests Tim Miller and Towana Moore discussed changes to the policies that govern campus speech and protests. The changes sought to address questions such as “how would JMU handle protests if they occurred?” and “how can JMU develop policies that are consistent and content neutral?” “Fast-tracking” was about not releasing the policy changes over the summer (rather than being about “not being transparent”). The policies were also open for comment for an extended period because we knew it was important and that people would have much to say.
 - The Policies Committee found inconsistencies in Policy 3104 (about bulletin board postings).
 - A tent policy was put into place because there wasn't one.
 - The team is reviewing feedback received. The policy will be sent out again after being revised.
- The following questions/comments were addressed:
 - How will you close the loop on the feedback? There were good points in the feedback; however, there's also often conflicting feedback. A justification will not be offered for incorporating (or not incorporating) feedback.
 - “Unaffiliated” persons seem to have more rights than “affiliated” persons in the policy—is this a misunderstanding? This is not by design and will be clarified.
 - Is it possible to highlight where the changes occur when the revised policies are distributed? The cover sheet shows where the substantive changes occur.
- The speaker reviewed senators' responsibilities:
 - Different methods are used to communicate with department colleagues: a regular spot on the agenda for faculty meetings, surveys, or emails. Do what works best for your department.
 - Each senator is assigned to a subcommittee. Changes to committees can be made if specially requested; however, a balance among colleges is sought for each subcommittee, so the logistics are complex.
 - Collect \$5 in dues from each full-time faculty member for the donation/flower fund.
 - Publicize the Engagement Mini-Grants.
 - Senate terms last for two years. In the spring of your second year, your department needs to hold an election. There is no limit to the number of terms you can be elected for.
 - Meet with your college's dean and fellow senators.
 - Follow *Robert's Rules of Order* for meetings, unless otherwise stipulated in the Senate's bylaws.

- The priorities for the Senate this year are shared governance, clear and consistent communication across campus, Academic Affairs Policy #2 (about AUHs), clarifying A&P position classifications, and updating the appeals and grievance policies outlined in the faculty handbook.
- The following questions/comments were responded to:
 - Will there be a universal policy? The hope is to start those conversations. There has been some discussion of a reporting/tracking system for grievances.
 - Will the search for a new provost occur next year? This depends on what the new president wants to do. The expectation is that faculty will be heavily involved in the search.
 - Retention—what do exit interviews reveal?
 - How do departments get professional advisors? (Is it based on number of majors?) There should be consistent classification (whether instructional or professional).
 - Any result following the summer resolution about the dearth of faculty on the presidential search committee? There has been no change in the membership of the committee, but the speaker will invite the one faculty member on the search committee to a Faculty Senate meeting.
- Volunteers are needed for the following committees external to the Senate: Campus History and Honorary Degree Nominations.
- Dr. Wendy Rippon, JMU Threat Assessment Analyst, is coming to the November meeting.
- The speaker meets with the president and the provost on a regular basis. They are committed to working constructively together.

V. **Treasurer's Report—Dr. Talé Mitchell**

- The role of the treasurer is to maintain the Senate's checking and savings accounts, collect dues, arrange bereavements, and run the computer lottery.
- Dues are due October 15. Collect \$5 from each full-time faculty member (in whatever way you prefer, e.g., Venmo, cash). You can send the money via Venmo to @talemitchphd, hand an envelope to the treasurer in Harrison 0236, or send one check through campus mail (payable to JMU Faculty Senate). See full details in the attached file.
- Bereavements are for faculty, or their immediate family members, who pass away. Remind your departments that the bereavement link is on [the Faculty Senate website](#). Four bereavement requests have been processed this academic year, eight since the last senate meeting.
- The combined bank accounts currently total \$3,254.
- Look for an email about the Faculty Senate Computer Lottery.

VI. **Committee Reports**

- A. Faculty Concerns—Chair Kristen McCleary encouraged anyone to feel free to communicate with her about concerns. The committee plans to discuss a change of meeting times, how resolutions are introduced (to encourage more discussion when first introduced), and models of appeals and grievance processes.

- B. Policies—Chair Smita Mathur announced that the committee plans to continue to work on Policy #2 (begun in 2020 with a resolution in 2021). Policy #2 proposals include a renewable five-year term for AUHs, a yearly evaluation by the PAC, a 360° evaluation in year four, and an early detection/early intervention process. Some units currently use a rotation practice, which can continue.
- C. Adjunct Affairs—Chair Leslie Harlacker noted that the committee handles issues that affect part-time faculty, which recently includes how best to inform adjuncts about raise information and other matters that need to be communicated.
- D. Teaching and Student Relations—Chair Anne van Leeuwen explained that the committee liaises with the SGA to address areas of concern between faculty and students. A representative from SGA joins the committee meetings. The committee also assists the SGA in running the Madison Vision Teaching Awards.
- E. Budget & Compensation and Government Relations—Chair Harold Butner announced that the committee will meet the next-to-last week in September.
- F. Faculty Appeals—no report.
- G. Research and Scholarship—Chair Melanie Shoffner solicited questions / concerns / issues to address when the committee meets with Anthony Tongen of REDI in October (email shoffme@jmu.edu). Collect matters from colleagues related to Research and Scholarship, and bring them to the committee.

Mini-grant proposals are due on October 3.

- H. Shared Governance—Chair Sasha Kokhan announced that the committee, which formed in December 2023, plans to focus on a no-confidence vote procedure. It's better to have it and not need it than vice versa. The committee also plans to consider how to operate complementarily with the Shared Governance Task Force.
- I. Other Committee Reports—Sarah Brooks, who co-chairs the Handbook Revision Committee, provided the following updates:
 - Faculty Senators appointed by the speaker to serve on the committee are Sarah Brooks (Art, Design, and Art History), Jill Lassiter (Health Sciences) and Kris Wiley (Educational Foundations & Exceptionalities). Sarah, Jill, and Kris are also representing their home colleges, CVPA, CHBS and COE (respectively). Eight additional faculty were recently elected to serve on the committee, representing the remaining colleges as well as adjunct, professional, and RTA faculty. Faculty constitute eleven of the fifteen voting members of the committee.
 - Administrators serving on the committee are Sam Prins (dean, CSM) and Ruben Graciani (dean, CVPA), Liz Edwards (AUH for Kinesiology, CHBS) and John Burgess (AVP for faculty and curriculum). There are three ex-officio (non-voting) members on the committee: Michael Klein (technical writer, IDLS), Michael O'Fallon (AVP who works with and brings knowledge from

the standing Faculty Handbook Committee), and Meg Sander (University Counsel).

- Early information on the work of the committee is found [here](#). The committee's first meeting is expected to take place in the last the week of September.
- Through September 30, faculty have a first opportunity to make direct suggestions on new content or edited content, or suggestions on handbook organization, for the revised Handbook. Please send suggestions to handbookrevision@jmu.edu.
- To date, suggestions have included expanding definitions of research and scholarship, including Public Intellectuality, Digital Projects, and Community Engagement; systematizing decisions about teaching modality; clarifying language on ethical behavior; and making joint appointments between departments and/or colleges.

VII. **No New Business**

VIII. **Unfinished Business**

- After the Resolution on Inclusion of Professional Faculty in Shared Governance was introduced and seconded, discussion ensued. Because time ran short, a motion to table the resolution until the next meeting was put forward, seconded, and passed with 97% of the vote.

IX. **Adjournment:** 5:30 p.m.