



FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

Thursday, December 3, 2020

In attendance: Larsen (Speaker); Accounting: Briggs; Art, Design, and Art Hist.: Phaup; Chemistry: Hughey; Comm. Sci. and Disorders: Clinard; Comm. Studies: Woo; Comp. Inf. Sci. & Bus Analytics: Tchommo; Computer Science: Kirkpatrick; Early ELED & Reading: Mathur; Economics: Cavusoglu; Ed. Found. & Exceptionalities: Wiley; Engineering: Harper; English: Lo; Finance & Bus. Law: Parker; Foreign Languages: Lang-Rigal; Grad. Psych: Critchfield; Hart School of HSRM: Anaza; Health Professions: Skelly; Health Sciences: Ott Walter; History: McCleary; IDLS: Chamberlin; Integrated Sciences: McGraw; Justice Studies: De Fazio; Kinesiology: McKay; Learning Tech. & LE: Beverly; Libraries: Wilson; Management: Yankey; Marketing: Ozcan; Math & Stats: Garren; Media Arts & Design: Mitchell; Mid, Second, & Math: Shoffner; Military Science: Turnboo; Music: Stringham; Nursing: Lam; Phil. & Rel.: Knorpp; Physics: Butner; Political Science: Lee; Psychology: Melchiori; Soc. & Anth.: Tanaka; Social Work: Trull; Strategic Leadership Studies: Vanhove; Theatre & Dance: Finkelstein; Writing Rhetoric & Tech Comm: McDonnell; Part-time Faculty Reps: Harlacker, Janow, Munier; Guests—Coltman (Provost), Bauerle (Interim Vice Provost)

Call to Order—4:05 p.m.

I. Provost's Report—Heather Coltman

- Work on the climate study project formally begins next week.
 - Sue Rankin and associates will meet with various campus teams and the climate study working group, which includes about thirty people.
 - They'll outline the scope of this significant project, which is expected to last through spring of 2022.
 - They'll be building a survey and sending it out.
- The search for a new graduate school dean is launching.
 - Dean Robert Aguirre will chair the search committee.
 - The committee includes representatives from each college.
 - They'll be considering how the national status shift will support growth in graduate programming.
 - The job ad should be posted before winter break
- The search committee for a new dean of the College of Visual and Performing Arts will launch in January and will be chaired by Dean Bob Kolvoord.
- Classes are all online at this point. Keep abreast of emails for information about health updates, wrapping up the fall semester, plans for the spring, etc.
- We're doing well at containing the virus and are hopeful about the spring semester.
- In response to a question about holding committee meetings on the break days scheduled for the spring semester (see relevant 12/3/20 email), the provost noted that her preference is that the days should be considered days off for faculty, but that committee meetings can be held at faculty's and departments' discretion.

II. Speaker's Report—Val Larsen

- At the Board of Visitors meeting, the speaker shared recent work of the Faculty Senate and emphasized the importance of free speech, ideological diversity, and tolerance (even of intemperate remarks). BOV member Craig Welburn expressed enthusiasm for the Faculty Diversity Initiative, which is a work in progress.
- The speaker is seeking the budget priorities list for the entire university, which he plans to share.

- The Faculty Senate of Virginia (FSVA) is working on involving faculty throughout the state in a letter-writing campaign to thank Virginia legislators for passing a budget that was supportive of higher education.

III. Treasurer's Report—Treasurer Nevin Cavusoglu reported that the Senate account has \$8,072.54 after a couple of bereavement requests.

IV. Committee Reports

- A. Faculty Concerns—Chair Steve Harper is soliciting comments about the proposed Center for African, African-American, and Diaspora Studies. Send feedback to him (harpe2sr@jmu.edu) within the next two weeks.
- B. Academic Policies—Chair Smita Mathur announced that the next committee meeting will be held Thursday, December 10.
- C. Adjunct Affairs—Chair Leslie Harlacker reported that the committee is finalizing the adjunct survey and revising the language for lobbying about health insurance for adjuncts.
- D. Student Relations—Chair Cheri Beverly seeks feedback on the faculty hiring diversity initiative. The committee revised the DACA proposal, which is now ready for a first reading.
- E. The Faculty Appeals Committee, chaired by David McGraw, currently has no cases.
- F. Budget and Compensation—Chair Kimiko Tanaka (tanakakx@jmu.edu) seeks feedback by Monday, December 7, for changes/additions to the student resources list (to be made available online for faculty to include in syllabi). The committee also reviewed the draft of the thank-you letter for state legislators, and investigated which legislators supported the budget bill.
- G. Nominations & Elections—Chair Steve Garren announced that well-known photographer (and fellow Faculty Senator) Richard Finkelstein will produce this year's group photo by editing last year's picture. If you're already in last year's photo and your status has not changed, you don't need to take any action. Otherwise, upload your image to Canvas (see 12/3/20 email for instructions). Cell phone photos can work, but make sure that the image is straight on and at least waist up. The deadline is New Year's Day.
- H. Other committees: Faculty Handbook Committee—Steve Harper encouraged senators to consult the 12/3/20 email about submitting Faculty Handbook suggestions. Ideas for topics such as promotion and tenure and hiring are better suited to the handbook than to senate motions.

Faculty Diversity Committee—Cheri Beverly reported that the committee is working on improving the process for recruiting, hiring, supporting, and retaining diverse faculty.

V. New Business

Three motions were introduced (sponsor in parenthesis) for a first reading:

- Motion in Response to the FSVA Resolution on In-State Tuition (the DACA Resolution) (Val Larsen)
- Resolution on Faculty Senate Dues (Nevin Cavusoglu)
- Resolution on Academic Freedom, Free Expression, and Social Media Support and Resources for JMU Faculty (Tom Adajian, AAUP chapter)

VI. Old Business

- Opposition expressed about the Resolution on Standing Committee Minutes prevented it from being put to a vote.

- After four successful amendments, the Motion Regarding Negative Impact of Pandemic on Mother-Scholars, Parent-Scholars, and Scholar-Caregivers passed.

VII. Open Discussion

- Some concerns about the Faculty Diversity Initiative were raised:
 - Language (e.g., “they” and “qualified” people of color)
 - How to formalize the necessary partnerships with other institutions
 - R1s don’t recruit their own graduates

Send written comments to Val Larsen (larsenwv@jmu.edu) and copy Cheri Beverly (beverlcl@jmu.edu).

Adjournment 5:35 p.m.