



## FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

Thursday, January 28, 2021

**In attendance:** Larsen (Speaker); Accounting: Briggs; Biology: May; 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; Finance & Bus. Law: Parker; Foreign Languages: Lang-Rigal; Geol. & Environ. Science: McGary; 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: C.K. Lee; Marketing: Ozcan; Math & Stats: Garren; Media Arts & Design: Mitchell; Mid, Second, & Math: Shoffner; Military Science: Turnboo; Music: Stringham; Phil. & Rel.: Knorpp; Physics: Butner; Political Science: H. 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), Molina (Vice Provost for Student Academic Success and Enrollment Management)

**Call to Order**—4:05 p.m.

### I. Speaker's Report—Val Larsen

- The speaker recognized Dennis Lo and Thomas Adajian for their recent work through the Faculty Senate to accomplish important goals using the Senate's resolution process. Their efforts have resulted in a successful motion about caregivers and one about faculty budget consultations within the various colleges (respectively).
- When resolutions are passed, it is the responsibility of senators to ensure that your department knows about the resolution and to do what you can to implement it within your department.
- Please see the attached budget document, which outlines how shortfalls would be addressed. (Feedback sought.)
- The work with the Faculty Senate of Virginia (FSVA) has been a step forward in shared governance at JMU (e.g., longer tenure for some FSVA reps and more representation).
- Consider participating in the email initiative to thank legislators for higher ed funding. If you didn't receive the relevant message, contact Carey Cole (colec@jmu.edu). Gratitude was expressed to Doe Polanz, who was instrumental in acquiring names and email addresses of faculty across the state.
- The FSVA is building the infrastructure to provide higher ed advocacy in Virginia.
- The speaker thanked those who offered feedback on the faculty diversity proposal. He will meet with Student Relations to try to come up with a resolution.

**II. Treasurer's Report**—Treasurer Nevin Cavusoglu reported that the Senate account currently has \$7,834.78. A blast email about the technology lottery is forthcoming.

### III. Committee Reports

- A. Faculty Concerns—Chair Steve Harper will soon meet with his committee. They are working to develop the best method for ensuring action on passed Senate resolutions.
- B. Academic Policies—Chair Smita Mathur announced that two resolutions are being developed: one on the Latin Honors designation for nontraditional and transfer students and one on addressing the long-term impact of the pandemic on faculty. On February 11, the committee will meet with Melissa Lubin, Dean of Professional and Continuing Education.

- C. Adjunct Affairs—Chair Leslie Harlacker promised that the committee will soon distribute the adjunct survey. They are meeting next week. The Adjunct Task Force is drafting a midyear report. A major goal is access to health insurance for adjuncts. Virginia Higher Education Advocacy Day was virtual this year. They were able to meet with Creigh Deeds to discuss allocating funds for higher ed and strengthening the role of faculty reps on Boards of Visitors. They also pushed for legislation to prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability.
- D. Student Relations—Chair Cheri Beverly is gathering feedback from faculty about the hiring diversity initiative. The committee revised the DACA proposal, which is now ready for a Senate vote.
- E. The Faculty Appeals Committee, chaired by David McGraw, currently has no cases.
- F. Budget and Compensation—Chair Kimiko Tanaka thanked her committee members for their hard work. She pointed out that faculty's expertise can help local legislators understand issues that come before them. The committee will next meet at 3 p.m. on February 4.
- G. Nominations & Elections—Chair Steve Garren reminded senators that photos are due by February 2. When there is news about the mini-grants, the application process will operate on an accelerated timeline.
- H. Other committees: GenEd Council—Bill Knorpp announced that JMU plans to maintain some of the synchronous hybrid and asynchronous strategies that have been successfully developed during the pandemic. Danielle Janow encouraged senators to keep an open mind about this prospect, noting that higher education is going to have to adapt to the changing demographics (e.g., nontraditional students seeking certifications).

Task Force on Racial Equity—Hakseon Lee reported that this task force, which formed in response to last summer's racial justice protests across the country, comprises eleven working groups. They are collecting recommendations to change the culture of racial discrimination and are making some progress toward that goal.

#### **IV. Provost's Report—Heather Coltman**

- The Provost noted that these are extraordinarily challenging times, and she appreciates everyone's commitment.
- COVID updates:
  - While the Convocation Center will be used as a vaccination site, the UHC will not offer vaccines at this time.
  - JMU is actively partnering with VDH.
  - There is not currently a mandate to be vaccinated.
- About the concern that faculty voices are not being considered, the Provost pointed out that faculty are very well represented in decision-making; however, during this volatile time, not everyone can be in every room where deliberations are taking place. For example, the start of the semester was delayed because of the virus, based on the most up-to-date guidance about the post-holiday spike in cases.
- The delivery mode promised to students when they registered for classes must be adhered to. When changes are made, there can be a cascade of impacts. Exceptions are made on an individual basis in conjunction with the AUH.
- Hiring:
  - CAL is doing a cohort hire. Across six departments, 420 applications have been submitted. Of those, 184 are from underrepresented groups.
  - There have been 40 applications for the dean of the graduate school. Campus visits will occur in March. The schedule will be publicized.
  - Over 60 people applied for the CVPA dean position. Virtual interviews will occur at the end of March.
- The Provost has allocated \$60,000 for Faculty Senate Mini-Grants!

**V. No New Business****VI. Old Business**

- The Resolution on Faculty Senate Dues passed, postponing until the fall the collection of \$5 for this academic year (40 yes, 0 no, 2 abstentions).
- The Motion in Response to the FSVA Resolution on In-State Tuition (a.k.a., the “DACA Resolution”) passed (36 yes, 0 no, 4 abstentions).
- The Resolution on Academic Freedom, Free Expression, and Social Media Support and Resources for JMU Faculty (18 yes, 7 no, 19 abstentions).

**VII. Open Discussion**

- Some concerns were raised about the high number of abstentions on the previous vote. The point was made that perhaps the online format limits robust discussion. Senators should keep in mind that tabling is a viable option when they don’t feel prepared to vote on a motion.
- Provost Coltman emphasized that JMU is primarily an in-person residential campus. Although we will take the best lessons learned from our pandemic experience, JMU plans to maintain its identity.
- The Provost will discuss with Anthony Tongen the suggestion made to advocate for faculty to receive higher vaccination priority, for JMU to sponsor an employer-driven vaccination clinic, and to consider becoming part of the Virginia Medical Reserve Corps.
- In response to a comment about how nervous faculty are about going back to face-to-face teaching as of February 1, the Provost noted that there’s no evidence of classroom COVID transmission.

**Adjournment 5:26 p.m.**