

Motion - existing college governance bodies

Whereas the Faculty Handbook says (quoting **IV. Faculty Role in Governance, IV.A. College Governance**):

"Each college of the university shall determine the specific structure and membership of its governance bodies. The college faculty, college dean and the provost must approve this structure. The governance structure shall include elected faculty representatives from each academic unit of the college. *The governance bodies will have the function of advising the dean and making recommendations to the dean and other appropriate bodies on matters of curriculum, budget and planning, and personnel.*" (emphasis added) <https://www.jmu.edu/facultyhandbook/iv-role/a-college.shtml>

Whereas the Faculty Handbook says (quoting **IV.A.1. Curriculum**) says

"The responsibilities of college governance bodies in the area of curriculum include:

- **Overseeing curricular matters including the approval/deletion/revision of programs and courses within the college; and**
- **Communicating information, recommendations and decisions to the faculty of the college."**

Whereas the Faculty Handbook says (quoting **IV.A.2. Budget and Planning**) that

"In the areas of budget and planning, the **responsibilities of college governance bodies** include:

- **Advising the dean on matters relating to college organization, budget, facilities and planning;**
- **Reviewing enrollment trends and budget allocations; advising the dean on the general oversight, direction and priorities of the college;**
- Offering recommendations affecting the university beyond the college level;
- Passing any recommendations on to the appropriate university or Faculty Senate committee; and
- Communicating information, recommendations and decisions to the faculty of the college."

Whereas at least one college at JMU (CAL) appears to lack a governance body that functions in the way required by the Faculty Handbook . [i.e., it does not do a number of things mentioned in the previous 'whereas'; in particular it does not exercise meaningful budget oversight; moreover, some departments do not elect their representatives to this college governance body'] Others may as well

Whereas the absence of functional college governance bodies: violates the Faculty Handbook; deprives faculty of an important means by which to advise deans on "matters relating to college

organization, budget, facilities, and planning”; deprives deans of the badly-needed benefits of such advice and oversight; means that university and Faculty Senate committees are deprived of badly-needed faculty recommendations; and, in sum, contributes to a dysfunctional system of shared governance.

Whereas without the proper functioning of such bodies, university decision-making processes, including those related to Covid-19 decision-making processes, especially as they related to curriculum, fail to abide by principles of shared governance and faculty representation..

Be it resolved that: the Senate and Administration immediately:

(a) work to ensure the speedy repair of present situation by verifying that each college has a functioning faculty governance body, constituted as the Handbook requires and discharging the responsibilities described in the Handbook;

(b) where such college governance bodies do not function as the Handbook , communicate to college faculty and deans the urgent need that such college governance bodies be formed immediately;

(c) see to it that these governance bodies begin to meet now.