Well, I attended another Board of Trustees meeting (or part of it, another appointment meant that I could not stay for the entire meeting). I did get to hear the Academic Committee report to the full board. It started with a mention of how well the baseball team was doing, and it was pointed out that there were some recent losses, so that is not so positive. The first item was the adoption of the 2010 changes to the JSU strategic plan. The text of these changes were not mentioned or discussed, but they were approved. The second item was opening up a certain field for students to “tailgate” before football games. I am not certain how this is “academic.” It did generate a good 15 minutes of discuss about if the students would be allowed to drive cars on the field, and if the students would just play Frisbee or maybe picnic...

It was announced that the Masters of Fine Arts degree was approved by ACHE. The DSc in Emergency Management will be considered in the Fall. The tuition increases (8.6%) were read off by Dr. Meehan. He did not give a percentage number, just a LONG list of what things would cost next year (in state, out of state, undergraduate, graduate, traditional, distance learning, each dorm cost, meal plan costs, etc, etc.). The Board expressed some concern that there was no evidence of cost-cutting presented before this second increase in 1.5 years. However, in the end they approved the increase.

I had to leave the meeting as a presentation of the honors program was being made. Dean Wade is the force behind the honors program and the range of ACT scores of new freshmen honors students is 30 to 34. The program is starting out very successful. The Dean wants us all to encourage our strongest students to consider the program.

--Lou

Department News

No more Marathons!
The names of summer sessions at Jacksonville State University have been changed to better reflect the portion of the term in which they are held, according to the Office of Academic Advisement. In the past, JSU assigned summer sessions names such as Marathon A, Marathon B, etc. This could be confusing when sessions spanned more than one month. The new session names contain the month the session begins and the number of weeks that session runs. (Example: May 8 is an eight-week session that begins in May) [That is the official word. Unofficially they wanted to decrease the number of sessions that run during the summertime (there are 9 sessions!). However, we have grown accustomed to all these options and use all them for different courses. Unable to
affect a change, the administration decided that changing the names would be better than throwing up their hands and saying “I give up.”

**Summer Parts of Term 2010**

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<th>May 4</th>
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<td>May 3 - May 27</td>
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**Party Week**

On Tuesday, 11 May at 5:00 PM on the 11th Floor of the library, Dr. Turner will host the awards ceremony for the JSU faculty. This is followed by a great spread on the 12th floor of the library. On Thursday, 13 May, Dean Wade will host a smaller but similar event for the College of Arts and Sciences. Mark your calendars. More details will be sent in the next couple of weeks about the Arts and Sciences gathering.

**Head of Department**

Lou is in New Zealand for an Erskine Teaching Fellowship. Kelly Gregg will be acting Head.

**Parking Fines**

Occasionally the Dean will ask the Department Heads to ask certain individuals to pay their parking fines. This is only a request and there is no way that the Head could or would force someone to pay the fine(s). Well, JSU now has 5 car boots (or clamps – not to be confused with a car trunk) that they will use for individuals who refuse to pay the $25 parking ticket. This seems rather drastic to me, but be forewarned—I did see a car sporting a clamp last night just a couple of spaces down from my truck.

**Student News**

**Chemistry Lunch on Recognized 2010 Beschi Leadership Award Winners**

Winners of the 2010 Beschi Leadership Award at the ACS Lunch. Pictured from left to right are: Jacob W. Boydston, Ashely M. Abbot, Stephen A. Fordham, Jenninfer D. Brown, Chad L. Horton, Kristin D. Shirey and Jayne A. Lampley
Important Message Regarding JSU Tuition Assistance for Summer 2010

Any employee or qualified dependent who received Tuition Assistance during the Fall 2009 or Spring 2010 semester should send an email to Financial Aid at mweldon@jsu.edu. The email should include the total number of hours being taken for the entire May, June and July 2010 Semester. First time users must complete the Request for Tuition Assistance form found on the HR homepage and submit the completed form to the Registrars Office.

Distance Education Offers Blackboard Course Building Sessions for Faculty

The Office of Distance Education will be offering Blackboard Course Building Sessions for faculty on the below dates (all times CT):

* Tuesday, May 4 from 1-4 PM
* Wednesday, May 12 from 9 AM-Noon

Please send an email to DLHelp@jsu.edu no later than 12:00 pm CT the business day prior to the session you plan to attend. The registration email should include the attendee’s name and the date and time of the course building session.

Degenerate States

Random Acts of Lunacy

- A man who shoveled snow for an hour during a blizzard to clear a space for his car returned with his vehicle to find a woman had taken the space. Understandably, he shot her.
- After stopping for drinks at a bar, a bus driver found that the 20 psychiatric patients he had been transporting had disappeared. The driver went to a nearby bus stop and offered everyone a free ride. He then delivered the passengers to the hospital, telling the staff that the patients were very excitable and prone to bizarre fantasies. The deception wasn’t discovered for three days.
- A teenager was hospitalized for serious head wound. He later explained to police that he was simply trying to see how close he could get his head to a moving train.
- A mother took her daughter to the doctor because of a swollen abdomen. The doctor explained that the girl was pregnant. The mother furiously argued that her daughter would never compromise her reputation with a boy. When he doctor looked silently out the window the mother complained that the doctor wasn’t paying attention. “Yes, of course I am paying attention” said the doctor. “I’m just looking for a star to appear in the east and for three wise men to turn up.”
- When his 38-caliber revolver failed to fire at during a hold-up, the would-be robber peered down the barrel and tried again. This time it worked.
- A chef, having lost a finger in a meat-cutting machine, submitted a claim to his insurance company. The company, suspecting negligence, sent out an investigator. He tried the machine and lost a finger. The chef’s claim was approved.
- A passenger in a taxi tapped the driver on the shoulder to ask him something. The driver lost control, nearly hit a bus, drove up over the curb and stopped just inches from a large plate glass window. After a few moments, the driver said, "You scared the daylights out of me." The passenger apologized and said that he didn’t realize that a tap on the shoulder could frighten someone so much. The driver replied, "I’m sorry, it’s really not your fault. Today is my first day driving a taxi. I’ve been driving a hearse for the last 25 years."
Contact Details

If you have items of news or interest that you would like included in the Department of Physical and Earth Sciences newsletter, then contact Tracy Casey before noon on Thursdays at: tscasey@jsu.edu or phone (256) 782-5232.