

Motion to Recommend Diversity and Inclusivity Statement on Syllabi

The James Madison University Faculty Senate

October 4, 2018

WHEREAS on March 13, 2018, the Student Senate of the JMU Student Government Association passed a resolution on campus inclusivity, which aims to show support for marginalized and underrepresented communities on the JMU campus;

WHEREAS the Student Government Association described the importance of referring to students by their correct names and corresponding gender pronouns, with the proper pronunciation;

WHEREAS names and pronouns are used frequently in the course of conversation and instruction in class meetings, office hours, and other communications;

WHEREAS using individuals' names and pronouns correctly can help establish a respectful learning environment,

WHEREAS faculty members at JMU emphasize a welcoming and inclusive campus environment,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate recommends that JMU's Academic Council add the following "Diversity and Inclusivity Statement" to the JMU syllabus website:

James Madison University is a community dedicated to diversity and inclusivity. As faculty, we believe that learning environments should support a diversity of thoughts, perspectives, experiences, and identities. For example, we intend for you to be addressed by the name you prefer and with gender pronouns that correspond to your identity. Please advise us of your name's proper pronunciation and of any names or pronouns that are not available in MyMadison. We invite you to share anything with us that might help create a more inclusive and welcoming learning environment.