

Resolution in support of a more thorough decision analysis before making a final decision on JMU's Football Program's future (Presented by Steven Harper)

Whereas rational decision making and decisional analysis are a strong cornerstone for successful national organizations, and,

Whereas, James Madison University vision is to be a national model, engaged with ideas and the world, and,

Whereas, a analysis of the case for James Madison University's Football program shifting a BCS league has been performed, and,

Whereas, this range of choices for the future of the Football program at James Madison University is broader than this one analyzed BCS transition case,

Be it resolved that the Faculty Senate of James Madison University request that the Athletics Department and Administration of the University expand the decision space for the future of the Football program to include the following options:

(1) do nothing; stay in the current conference (do nothing should always be a consideration) – there seems to be some indication from the Athletics Director t that this is an untenable position – these should be documented as well as the level of certainty of these events happening, financial implications, etc.

(2) move to a FBS league – much work has already been done here by the Intercollegiate Athletics Department, while there are still some questions about the results, this is a sound start. Again, more thought on the level of certainty, effects on academics, etc. should be explored.

(3) cancel the football program – although this will be an unpopular decision by many (if not most), this possibility does seem to have the most certainty. Running the financial number here, the effects on academics, athletics, etc. should be done to set a baseline for the other decisions. This may turn out to be unaffordable, but until we investigate, we are doing ourselves a disservice by excluding it from the solution space.

These three choices seem to cover were JMU Football is, and covers the range of possibilities of where it could possible go. There are possible choices between these two extremes and if one of these intermediate positions is chosen, then due diligence with each (e.g., consider financial, academic, athletic, reputation, uncertainty and risk, and sustainability implications) should be done before a decision is made.