**THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA**

**THE VISITORS OF JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY**

#### Minutes of the Academic and Student Life Committee

The Academic and Student Life Committee met on Thursday, November 18, 2021, in the Highlands Room of the Festival Conference and Student Center at James Madison University. Lucy Hutchinson, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:16 p.m.

# Present

Falcon, Chris

Gray-Keeling, Matthew

Herod, Maribeth

Hutchinson, Lucy (chair)

Tompkins Johnson, Deborah

Warden, Kathy

Welburn, Craig

**Others:**

Blyer, Kristina, Director, University Health Center

Collier, Jessani, President, Student Government Association

Coltman, Heather, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

Larsen, Val, Speaker, Faculty Senate

Major, Lara, Rector, Board of Visitors

Mays-Bernard, Marsha, Associate Vice President, Health and Well-Being

Miller, Tim, Vice President for Student Affairs

Nickel, Eric, Director, University Recreation

Nowviskie, Bethany, Dean of Libraries and Sr. Academic Technology Officer,

Ogbor, Miracle, Graduate Student, Vocal Performance, Pedagogy, and Literature

Onestak, David, Director, Counseling Center

Price, Elizabeth, Business Librarian and Associate Professor of Libraries

Smith, Grace Class of 2023, Political Science and Sociology

Whitaker, Samantha Joy, Graduate Student, Vocal Performance and Pedagogy

Whitfield, Alanna, Graduate Student, Adult and Human Resource Development

Williams, Xaiver, Student Representative to the Board of Visitors

**Approval of Minutes**

On motion of Maribeth Herod and seconded by Deborah Tompkins Johnson, the minutes of September 23, 2021, were approved.

**Divisional Update: Academic Affairs**

Dr. Heather Coltman updated the committee on several changes in academic affairs leadership, which included naming a new Interim Director to the Center for Global Engagement and beginning a search for a new Associate Provost for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

She also thanked Dr. Linda Cabe Halpern, Vice Provost for University Programs, for her service to JMU. Dr. Halpern is retiring after 35 years at the university.

As everyone – students, faculty and staff - continue to feel the lingering effect of the pandemic, Dr. Coltman shared that she recently sent a note to students encouraging them to seek out the support and help we can provide, including a list of both academic resources and some of the excellent health and well-being resources provided by Student Affairs.

**High-Impact, Experiential Learning in the Libraries**

Dr. Bethany Nowviskie, Dean of the Libraries, introduced faculty members and students from the JMU Libraries, who spoke about the high-impact, experiential learning that happens “on the job.” The Libraries is the largest employer of student workers in Academic Affairs, serving as an important connector among Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and student life. The undergraduate and graduate student workers spoke about their contributions to various areas in Libraries, including research and information services, peer learning, educational technology, and instructional design, and the interconnections that are taking place as a part of their work. Student employees learn skills that benefit them at JMU and in their future careers. They also bring important perspectives to the work of the Libraries and provide feedback that helps the Libraries fine-tune its services to campus needs.

**Faculty Senate Speaker Report**

In his written report, Dr. Val Larsen, the Speaker of the Faculty Senate, presented information about five senators’ participation in the Faculty Senate of Virginia and highlighted recently passed resolutions from the JMU Faculty Senate that focused on modification of senate by-laws on the duties of the Speaker; creation of a new officer position; modification of meeting rules; support for faculty parking for graduate students who are instructors; strengthening of DEI instruction in the general education curriculum; and faculty hiring protocols. At the meeting, the Speaker highlighted the importance of tenure, faculty ownership of the curriculum, and faculty primacy in the hiring process.

**Divisional Update: Student Affairs**

Dr. Tim Miller reported that Student Affairs continues to manage many aspects of what has been a challenging return to in-person life for our students. Many members of our student body have forgotten or never had the opportunity to learn some of the skills and abilities they need for managing day-to-day life, handling time away from home, and finding success both in and out of the classroom.

Teams across Student Affairs continue to work incredibly hard to support our students as they transition into the university, as they experience successes and challenges throughout their student careers, and as they transition out of the university to their lives as engaged citizens.

**Student Health and Well-Being**

An update was provided on the Health and Well-Being area in Student Affairs, and members of leadership from the Counseling Center, University Health Center, and University Recreation presented information on their units.

Health and Well-Being is newly created through the realignment of departments in Student Affairs. The work of these departments focuses on the holistic well-being of our students. The past year and a half have been challenging as they have worked to deliver programs and services during the COVID-19 pandemic. The team shared details about clinics and services at the University Health Center and the UHC’s centrality to the university’s pandemic response; challenges the Counseling Center faces as it responds to the college student mental health crisis; and the continued popularity of UREC and its success in continuing to operate during the pandemic. Health and Well-Being looks forward to helping our students thrive and flourish through the synergy created from this realignment.

**Student Representative to the Board of Visitors Report**

Xaiver Williams, Student Representative to the Board of Visitors, shared updates regarding student mental health and provided an overview of meetings conducted with student clubs and organizations and with BOV student representatives from across the commonwealth. Moving forward, he hopes to advocate for a more student-focused process for evaluating the outcome of the Racial Equity Task Force and the Climate Survey. Xaiver will also be working with Towana Moore to inform and gather student feedback on the budget process and tuition and fees to increase transparency. The committee commended Xavier on his recent work with the Centennial Scholars program, the number of accomplishments reached in his first semester, and his outstanding job on his Instagram account.

**Student Government Association Report**

The entirety of the Student Government Association (SGA) is undergoing significant functional changes to create a collaborative and updated environment. Jessani Collier, Student Government Association President, shared that her initial leadership goals are progressing and highlighted SGA’s recent work with SCHEV, connections with Fraternity-Sorority Life, advocacy for environmental sustainability, and messaging of support for student athletes to the CAA.

There being no further business, on the motion of Maribeth Herod and seconded by Chris Falcon, the Academic and Student Life Committee meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Lucy Hutchinson, Chair

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Donna Harper, Secretary to the Board