

From: Office of the Provost

Sent: Thursday, April 2, 2020 2:58 PM

To: AA WAGE Staff (STAFF-WAGE-AA-L@LISTSERV.JMU.EDU); Staff Classified (Staff-Classified-AA-L@listserv.jmu.edu); FAC-RESPONSE-L@listserv.jmu.edu; pt-fac-response-l@listserv.jmu.edu

Subject: Provost Budget Update

Dear Colleagues,

I am writing today with updates related to our budget. We are receiving new details related to the COVID-19 pandemic and its repercussions on higher education daily, and I am working with the president and Senior Leadership Team to make decisions in the best interest of JMU. The rapidly changing landscape means we are responding as quickly and thoroughly as we can with the best information available. Still, I feel it is important to keep you updated on our progress.

Like all institutions, JMU will be dealing with a significant financial crisis brought on by this pandemic. Thanks to our previous good stewardship, our overall fiscal base is solid. Despite this, we are forced to make difficult decisions as we move forward. Our priority is maintaining our essential function to educate students, which means assuring undergraduate student progress in the core curriculum, majors and Honors, as well as graduate student support in all of our research and professional programs. As a community of teacher/scholars, it is also a priority to assure continuity of research, scholarship and creative endeavors. Current and future budget determinations will reflect our commitment to JMU's core purpose - academics. While the full implications of this financial crisis are not yet known, there will be budget cuts in the short and long term.

We do not yet know how severe these budget cuts will be. I am working closely with academic leadership to consider a variety of reduction scenarios so that we can be prepared to respond quickly. We are curtailing expenditures as much as possible as we wait for more clarity.

As a state institution, our budget is largely determined by the Virginia legislature. On April 11, the governor will submit his budget amendments to the legislature. At their meeting on April 22, legislators will vote on the state budget. These decisions will determine our plans for moving forward, and I will provide you with more details at that time. The JMU Board of Visitors will meet on May 15 to approve tuition for the upcoming year; after this point, our budget will be established. You can expect to hear from me with any additional modifications then.

This is a difficult time for all of us – faculty, staff, students and our institution. You have seen firsthand that it is essential to communicate as much as we can as frequently as possible, and I am grateful for the effort you have put into adapting to our circumstances. I will continue to communicate openly with you and keep you aware of decisions as they are made.

Sincerely,

Heather

Heather J. Coltman, D.M.A.

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