

From: Office of the Provost
Sent: Wednesday, April 29, 2020 3:39 PM
To: FAC-AA-RESPONSE-L@listserv.jmu.edu
Subject: Communication with Faculty Through Canvas

Dear Colleagues,

I would like to thank the Faculty Senate for inviting me to use its [Canvas site](#) to streamline and focus our communications.

Even as we await budget updates from the Virginia legislature and guidance from SCHEV, I'm glad to have this space and opportunity to hear your concerns, share information, and continue to support shared governance at JMU.

Just so you are aware, I may not always be able to answer your questions: Many decisions within Academic Affairs are highly decentralized, and what is accurate in one college is not the same in another. Within the colleges, significant decisions are made at the academic unit level. I will frequently refer you first to your academic unit head and then to your dean as they are the ones with the details relevant to you and your circumstances.

What I will be able to address, however, are your general concerns about transparency and involvement. I plan to answer your questions as directly as I can and refer you to the appropriate source when needed. I may bring in others from the Academic Affairs leadership team with direct involvement in specific areas, so don't be surprised if Jason McClain answers your budget questions or Marilou Johnson weighs in on policy decisions.

While I don't have a set schedule for posting, I will be checking in and responding regularly. I'll also use this site, along with emails to you, to announce any significant changes as they occur. To make finding information on topics simple, my replies will be saved to the module Provost Response, allowing me to include links and other relevant information.

As a community, we've gone through significant upheaval this spring, with more to come over the summer and fall. I appreciate the dedication you've shown to your students and to the university, and I look forward to working with you as we move through our next phase.

Sincerely,
Heather

Heather J. Coltman, D.M.A.
Provost and Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs
James Madison University
(540) 568-3429
<https://www.facebook.com/provost4jmu/>