

Rwanda Task Force

Midyear Report – Fall 2021

Membership

Chairs: Mike Davis, Neil Marrin

Members: Felix Wang, Besi Muhonja, Lisa McGuire, Rory Depaolis, Cara Meixner, Paul Mabrey, Renee Jorgenson, Clemence Mbabazi, Nelson Girinshuti, Lynnquell Gardiner

Charge: The committee is charged with supporting and coordinating the efforts to expand JMU partnerships with governmental and higher education institutions in Rwanda by focusing on identifying, growing, and maintaining university partnerships. These efforts include faculty development and exchanges, student study abroad experiences and internships, and institution-to-institution collaborations.

Summary of Current Semester Activity

- Much of our current semester work has been to restart partnerships and initiatives that were put on hold because of the pandemic.
- We have added new members to the committee to expand a diverse representation.
- Our committee has been working to develop goals for the coming year and expects to have those in place early in the spring semester.
- Mike Davis has continued to serve as a member of the iDebate Rwanda Board of Directors
- A contingent visited the Rwandan Embassy in Washington, DC to meet with the Rwandan Ambassador to the United States and the Rwandan Minister of Innovation.

Future Work Planned

The committee is planning a trip to Rwanda this spring which will involve members of the committee and members of the College of Education (leadership and faculty). The goal is to establish partnerships in education, sport and recreation management and hospitality management that could lead to international internship opportunities for our students, faculty exchanges, student exchanges and possible agreements to offer remote JMU outreach education to colleges and universities in Rwanda. We also look forward to continuing work with our partner organization, iDebate Rwanda, the Rwandan Olympic Committee and the Ministers of Education and Sports.