

## **Resolution on Mandatory Blue Items**

Whereas the Faculty Senate Faculty Concerns Committee unanimously endorsed the following resolution and informed the Senate Steering Committee that it would be brought to the Senate for a first reading,

Whereas the duties of faculty in their courses vary greatly from program to program and course to course,

Whereas faculty within programs are best positioned to identify items that validly measure teaching performance in their program,

Whereas senators repeatedly expressed fear that a Blue mandate would be used to impose university-wide course assessment items on departments and expressed their opposition to any such imposition,

Whereas in its announcement of the Fall 2020 Blue mandate in the Senate's October 4, 2018 meeting the administration assured the Senate that there would be "no core questions across the university,"

Whereas without consulting the Faculty Senate, the administration has notified departments that all will be required to use three university-wide assessment items along with Blue beginning Fall 2020,

Whereas the Senate takes no position on the value of the three mandated items but strongly objects to the mandate that any or all departments use them,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT:

The Faculty Senate urges the administration to rescind the mandate that departments use these three items and, instead, merely notify departments that a university committee has recommended the adoption of the items.

Whereas upon being informed of this faculty concern, the Provost notified the Senate Steering Committee that the mandate for departments to use the course assessment items would, as requested, be rescinded,

Whereas this positive response to a Faculty Senate expression of concern is another instance of the cooperative spirit and openness to shared governance that has typified the relationship of Provosts Brown, Benson, and now Coltman with the Faculty Senate,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT:

The Senate sincerely thanks the Provost for her response to this specific expression of faculty concern. The Senate affirms its view that the shared governance facilitated by the traditional cooperative relationship between the Senate and the Provost is a core strength of James Madison University. And the Senate invites consultation between the Senate and Provost on any future initiative that will substantially affect the duties or evaluation of faculty.