

Motion to Recommend Diversity and Inclusivity Statement on Syllabi

The James Madison University Faculty Senate

November 1, 2018 (amended December 6, 2018)

WHEREAS on March 13, 2018, the Student Senate of the JMU Student Government Association passed a resolution on campus inclusivity, which aims to show support for marginalized and underrepresented communities on the JMU campus;

WHEREAS the Student Government Association described the importance of referring to students by their correct names and corresponding gender pronouns, with the proper pronunciation;

WHEREAS names and pronouns are used frequently in the course of conversation and instruction in class meetings, office hours, and other communications;

WHEREAS using individuals' names and pronouns correctly can help establish a respectful learning environment,

WHEREAS faculty members at JMU emphasize a welcoming and inclusive campus environment,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate recommends that **JMU faculty add the following statement to their syllabi:**

James Madison University is a community dedicated to diversity and inclusivity. As faculty, we believe that learning environments should support a diversity of thoughts, perspectives, experiences, and identities. We invite you to share anything with us that might help create a more inclusive and welcoming learning environment.

Furthermore, be it resolved that the FS recommends that this statement be broadly interpreted, including that faculty are encouraged to respect students' preferred names and the gender pronouns that correspond to their identities.