

Motion to Respond to Sexism

Noting the importance of freedom of speech in a democratic society, and being dedicated to the protection of free political expression, we must recognize that toxic, salacious, and violent messages and behaviors betray our purpose as an educational institution. Last October, across Harrisonburg, some members of the James Madison University community displayed misogynistic, homophobic, obscene, and otherwise intolerant and demeaning banners and signs. The JMU Faculty Senate calls on the JMU community to take steps to create and maintain a shared culture of respect and inclusion, especially in light of the national cultural #MeToo movement that is raising awareness of sexual assault and harassment. Misogyny, homophobia, racism, and all forms of intolerance, indecency, and disrespect should be countered by a community-wide commitment to the value and dignity of all students, alumni, and faculty and staff members who call JMU home.