

Resolution re. Division 1-A Football
(Political Science Proposal – Howard Lubert)

Whereas currently students pay more than \$25 million annually to subsidize athletics at JMU;

- and whereas the vast majority of that money subsidizes the JMU football team;
- and whereas the Carr report expressly states that if JMU moves to Division 1-A football those fees will increase;
- and whereas it's likely that such a move will lead to much higher travel, scholarship, and coaching budgets;
- and whereas *USA Today* reports that JMU revenue from ticket sales and alumni giving currently covers less than 10% of the annual expenses incurred by athletics;
- and whereas a 2010 study shows that the average Division 1-A football school spends nearly 7 times more money on each athlete than on each regular student;
- and whereas student attendance at home games is consistently under-capacity;
- and whereas an increase in the number of football scholarships may legally require that JMU eliminate other men's sports teams;
- and whereas we live in an era where *decreased* State support for higher education is the norm;
- and whereas decreased State support in conjunction with increased football expenses will place additional strains on the academic mission of the University;
- and especially whereas JMU faculty and students have only recently been made aware that JMU had hired a consulting firm to look into the possibility of moving to Division 1-A football, and thus have not had adequate time to consider the pros and cons of such a move;
- and whereas such a decision, which is certain to substantially raise costs, should not be made without input from all constituencies (past and future) at the University;
- and whereas the University just released an exhaustive strategic plan that makes no mention of moving to Division 1-A football;
- and whereas that same report expressly worries about finding the money to fund the priorities it does identify;
- and whereas such a momentous decision should not and need not be made hastily,

the Faculty Senate urges, in the strongest language possible, that the administration and the Board of Visitors forgo any decision to move, or not to move, to Division 1-A football during the Board of Visitors meeting in January, 2014.