

## **Minutes, JMU Staff Emeriti Association Luncheon, June 24, 2014**

Nineteen attended the meeting at the Wood Grill.

Tina Updike introduced the planning committee members and Steve Smith from the Office of Constituent Relations. She presented information including a summary of the events leading to the proposal for the formation of a Staff Emeriti Association.

### **Background information presented included:**

- \* JMU is fairly unique in having a staff emeriti designation.
- \* After a meeting with the Employee Advisory Committee in May 2013, a task force was formed and a survey was distributed to determine interest in a Staff Emeriti Association. About 50 percent of the surveys were returned.
- \* The EAC forwarded the survey results along with a recommendation that the organization be established and supported at JMU to Maggie Evans, executive assistant to President Alger, and the Senior Leadership Team in January 2014. A Staff Emeriti Association proposal was created and sent to Evans in April 2014.
- \* There is an Association of Retirement Organizations in Higher Education that helps groups form and works with institutions. Tina will apply for a free trial membership.
- \* The JMU Faculty Emeriti Association is willing to assist the Staff Emeriti Association in its formation. An annual holiday event with both organizations may be scheduled.

### **Items discussed by the attendees:**

**Why form an association?** Many feel JMU is family. Retirees feel disconnected since retirement. The attendees were in agreement to form the association.

**Growth of organization:** It was noted that only a few staff members are granted emeritus status each year.

**Next meeting:** A luncheon meeting was scheduled for Thursday, Aug. 14, with the site TBA. It was suggested that a survey be prepared to distribute at the meeting listing possible events (luncheons, bus trips, JMU facilities tour, JMU update, evening socials, etc.) with members able to prioritize what interests them.

Steve Smith recommended that the organization create a fun atmosphere that entices people to join and to attend events, and that members not get frustrated if it doesn't move quickly.