



November 21, 2025

Via Email Only (gillian.aiken@governor.virginia.gov)

The Honorable Glenn A. Youngkin
Governor of Virginia
c/o Gillian "Gigi" Aiken
Confidential Executive Assistant to the Governor

Via Email Only (SenatorHashmi@senate.virginia.gov)

Senator Ghazala Hashmi
Chair of the Committee on Education and Health
Senate of Virginia

Via Email Only (DelSRasoul@house.virginia.gov)

Delegate Sam Rasoul
Vice Chair of the House Committee on Education
Virginia House of Delegates

Dear Governor Youngkin, Senator Hashmi, and Delegate Rasoul:

Pursuant to Virginia Code § 23.1-401.1, James Madison University ("JMU") submits this report to you regarding its compliance with that statute.

JMU's policy on freedom of expression on campus, as well as the process to report incidents of disruption of constitutionally protected speech may be viewed at: <https://www.jmu.edu/jmu-policy/policies/pdfs/1121.pdf>. This policy is available within the University's manual of policies and procedures and is available for anyone interested to review. I would note that last year this policy went through the University's review and revision process to ensure compliance with the First Amendment of the United States Constitution and other applicable law. The updated version of the policy, effective January 2025, contains robust protections of our community members' rights to free expression and assembly while ensuring the safe and orderly operations of the University.

For your information, my office maintains a freedom of speech resources page (<https://www.jmu.edu/universitycounsel/freedom-of-speech.shtml>) and as noted in previous reports, JMU's Faculty Handbook and Student Handbook contain strong statements affirming the right of free expression on campus, and freedom of expression on campus is specifically addressed during new student orientation. In addition, the JMU's Center for Civic Engagement has created a free speech resources website which can be found here: <https://www.jmu.edu/civic/free-speech.shtml>.

Of particular interest is the Center's Common Good in the Commonwealth speaker series which has hosted guests such as Senators Scott Surovell and Ryan McDougle, as well as the Honorable Aimee Guidera, Secretary of Education.

Finally, I would also like to certify that the University is not aware of any complaint that has been filed in a court of law since December 1, 2024, to initiate a lawsuit against JMU or an employee of JMU in their official capacity for an alleged violation of the First Amendment to the United States Constitution.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have at 540-568-5242 or via email at knigh2jf@jmu.edu

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J.F. Knight', with a stylized flourish at the end.

John F. ("Jack") Knight
University Counsel/
Senior Assistant Attorney General

C: reportdocs@dlas.virginia.gov