
**THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
THE VISITORS OF JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY**

Minutes of the Academic Excellence Committee

The Academic Excellence Committee met on Thursday, September 15, 2022 in the Highlands Room of the Festival Conference and Student Center at James Madison University. Matthew Gray-Keeling, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1 p.m. The chair asked the new committee members to introduce themselves and asked each of the deans to stand and identify their college.

Present:

Bell, Dickie	Falcon, Chris
Gray-Keeling, Matthew	Welburn, Craig
White, Jack	

Others:

Adams, Melinda, Associate Dean, Arts and Letters
Aguirre, Robert, Dean, College of Arts and Letters
Alger, Jonathan R., President, James Madison University
Coltman, Heather, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs
Gordon, Grace, Class of 2022, Applied Public History and Archaeology
L'Esperance, Mark, Dean, College of Education
Lewis, Jolie, Associate Director of Transfer Student Success, University Advising
McGee, Marquis, Director, University Advising
Miller, Laura, Executive Director, The Learning Centers
Molina, Rudy, Vice Provost, Student Academic Success and Enrollment Management
Oldmixon, Elizabeth, Vice Provost, Faculty Affairs and Curriculum
Ott Walter, Kathy, Speaker, Faculty Senate

Approval of Minutes

On motion by Chris Falcon and seconded by Craig Welburn, the Academic Excellence Committee minutes of April 21, 2022 were approved.

Academic Affairs Divisional Update

The Provost outlined three touchstones that will guide the division's priorities this year: the Academic Affairs Strategic Plan, the Climate Study report, and responding to 15 recommendations from the Task Force on Racial Equity. She updated the committee on several projects and their progress over the summer. They included a revision to instructional faculty hiring guidelines, driven by the work of a joint administration/faculty task force. This joint task force model, including representatives selected by the Provost's Office and by Faculty Senate, will be implemented for several initiatives this fall.

Faculty Senate Speaker Report

Dr. Kathy Ott Walter, Faculty Senate Speaker, shared that the senate is excited to move forward working with the administration on deepening shared governance, creating processes for more transparency in decision-making, and defining workload in a way that supports/creates a healthy work environment. She highlighted research, project planning, and service learning work of faculty in the Anthropology and Health Sciences departments.

College of Education: Grown Your Own and Lab School for Innovation and Career Exploration

An update on the Grow Your Own pilot program and the Lab School for Innovation and Career Exploration initiative was provided by Dr. Mark L'Esperance, Dean of the College of Education. The state budget allocated \$4.2 million to implement the Grow Your Own Teaching Fellows pilot program. Additionally, the federal government has allocated \$620,000 to assist currently employed teacher assistants to achieve licensure. As the result of a bipartisan compromise in the General Assembly, \$100 million has been dedicated to the lab school initiative in the commonwealth. JMU will work with Rockingham County Schools to develop lab school communities in all four area high schools.

Faculty Hiring Update

Dr. Elizabeth Oldmixon, Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs and Curriculum, presented a faculty hiring update and shared how JMU's faculty are central to several of the Core Qualities identified in JMU's Strategic Plan, including the provision of outstanding academic programs; excellence in teaching and scholarship; the establishment of national prominence; and fostering an accessible, inclusive, and diverse university community. In the last academic year, Academic Affairs hired over 110 outstanding Instructional and Administrative & Professional faculty.

Student Academic Success and Enrollment Management

Dr. Rudy Molina, Vice Provost, outlined the programs and services of Student Academic Success and Enrollment Management (SASEM), which supports students in reaching their goals and making timely progress toward their degrees. The "Many Journeys, One JMU" presentation highlighted the impact that the Learning Centers, the new Advising Hub, Transfer Virginia, the Bridge to Madison Program, and the Quality Enhancement Plan have on students.

College Spotlight: Arts and Letters

Dr. Robert Aguirre, Dean, and Dr. Melinda Adams, Associate Dean, highlighted the breadth of faculty research in the college and recognized several Arts and Letters faculty who have received national awards. Research successes in the college create opportunities for students to apply classroom learning and build skills that prepare them for professional life after graduation. Grace Gordon, Class of 2022, shared the profound impact her experience engaging in research with faculty had on her throughout her undergraduate years on campus.

There being no further business, on the motion of Craig Welburn, the Academic Excellence Committee meeting adjourned at 2:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew Gray-Keeling, Chair

Donna Harper, Secretary to the Board