**THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA**

**THE VISITORS OF JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY**

#### Minutes of the Student Affairs Committee

The Student Affairs Committee met on Thursday, November 17, 2022, in Ballroom B of the Festival Conference and Student Center at James Madison University. Deborah Tompkins Johnson, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

# Present:

Lynch, John Lara Major   
 Tompkins Johnson, Deborah, Chair

**Absent:**

Edwards, Terrie

**Others:**

Alger, Jonathan, President, James Madison University

Alston, Alexis, Sophomore, DEIA Advisory Board & Center for Multicultural Student Services

Bakhtiari, Shawdee, President, Student Government Association

Dyer, Lee, Director of Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity & Expression

Ghant, Valarie, Director, Center for Multicultural Student Services

Kunowsky, Emily, Graduate Student-School Counseling-Office of Disability Services

Lewis, Brent, Associate Vice President, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Accessibility

Miller, Tim, Vice President for Student Affairs

Norton, Jay, Senior, Public Policy, Center for Multicultural Student

Rouzer, Nerissa, Associate University Counsel

Schoolcraft, Valerie, Director of Disability Services

Vassar, Lynn, Junior, Psychology, Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity & Expression

Williams, Xaiver, Student Representative to the Board of Visitors

**Approval of Minutes**

On the motion of Lara Major and seconded by John Lynch the minutes of September 15, 2022, were approved.

**Opening Remarks**

Deborah Tompkins Johnson welcomed attendees and held a moment of silence in support of UVA.

**Student Affairs Update**

Dr. Miller gave a brief update of the last few months on campus including information on JMU’s telehealth initiative, campus events, and student well-being.

**Student Government Association Report**

Shawdee Bakhtiari, Student Government Association President, has made it her goal to increase outreach to the student body as well as support the needs of the Student Government Association initiatives to welcome new student advocates. She is actively in support of Student Government Association work in student and academic life; including, helping establish the role of academic senators as well as spreading the word about the American Sign Language (ASL) bill of opinion to increase accessibility and volume of ASL classes on campus. In addition, she is using her platform to bolster the presence of other student organizations on campus. She is implementing social media initiatives on her personal social media as well as the SGA social media. In addition to this, she is participating in various events and campaigns on campus to promote school spirit and celebrate JMU students!

**Student Representative to the Board of Visitors Report**

Xaiver Williams, Student Representative to the Board of Visitors, shared with the committee updates regarding an event he was able to offer to faculty, staff, and students in October, Halftime on the Quad. He also shared information about meetings he was able to join in Africa, his continued focus on mental health, and focus for the Spring semester.

**Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility (DEIA) Spotlight**

Brent Lewis, Valarie Ghant, Lee Dyer and Valerie Schoolcraft provided updates for the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility departments in Student Affairs. The DEIA unit in Student Affairs works to provide programs, services, resources, and advocacy that empowers and celebrates diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility.  The area includes three distinct departments with missions that align with the overall unit. DEIA is comprised of the Center for Multicultural Student Services (CMSS), the Office of Disability Services (ODS), and Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, & Expression (SOGIE).  We continue working to identify the most impactful ways to engage our students' post-pandemic.  The DEIA staff creates opportunities for students to connect to campus and their peers through programs, dialogues, trainings and departmental services.  We continue to evaluate the effectiveness of our work, build relationships across Student Affairs and the JMU campus community, while striving to create inclusive, accessible, and welcoming spaces at JMU.

**Student Panel**

Alexis Alston, Sophomore, DEIA Advisory Board & Center for Multicultural Student Services

Emily Kunowsky, Graduate Student-School Counseling-Office of Disability Services

Jay Norton, Senior, Public Policy, Center for Multicultural Student

Lynn Vassar, Junior, Psychology, Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity & Expression

The students shared how working with departments and using services provided by JMU has made them feel supported and grounded all while providing them with a sense of belonging.

There being no further business, on the motion of Lara Major ­­­­and seconded by John Lynch the Student Affairs Committee meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Deborah Tompkins Johnson, Chair

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Donna Harper, Secretary to the Board