# THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

**THE VISITORS OF JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY**

**Minutes of the Student Affairs Committee**

The Student Affairs Committee met on Thursday, April 21, 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 1:04 p.m.

Falcon, Chris Grass, Jeff

Major, Laura, Rector

# Present:

Warden, Kathy Welburn, Craig

Tompkins Johnson, Deborah, Chair

# Others:

Allen, Dirron, Associate Vice President Student Life and Involvement

Barrett, Arianna Freshman, Elementary Education, Federal Work Study Student at Big Brothers Big Sisters

Collier, Jessani, President, Student Government Association Douglas, Lindsey, Executive Director, Big Brothers Big Sisters

Elliott, Alex, Senior, Media Arts and Design, Media Student Assistant

Grande, Steve, Director, Community Service-Learning

Lewis, Brent, Associate Vice President Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Mays-Bernard, Marsha, Associate Health and Well-Being

Miller, Tim, Vice President for Student Affairs Ouren, Casey, Director, JMU Orientation

Pettus, Jasmyne, Senior, Health Science, Orientation Peer Advisor

Surrett, Myles, Associate Vice President - Career, Experiential Learning, and Transitions Westley, Libby, Director, University Career Center

Williams, Xaiver, Student Representative to the Board of Visitors

# Approval of Minutes

On the motion of Craig Welburn and seconded by Kathy Warden, the minutes of February 17, 2022, were approved.

# Opening Remarks

Deborah Tompkins Johnson welcomed members and guests.

# Student Affairs Update

Tim Miller reported that the end of the year programs and events are going well as we prepare to celebrate the Class of 2022 and welcome the Class of 2026 this summer. Also, we are in the final stages of the RFP for a

telehealth provider for counseling and our procurement team is in negotiations with one of the providers in partnership with VCU and VA Tech – we expect to have them in place and operating by the start of the Fall semester. We are actively reviewing the results of the Climate Study and will be spending the summer investigating each of the themes from the report and working collaboratively with campus partners and students to determine the appropriate next steps. Student Affairs is completing our first ever cohort hire for about ten positions in the Division and we are hopeful that we will fill all of these and bring in a talented cohort of new staff to the JMU community this summer. In addition, we are currently in the process of hiring a new Director of Residence Life as well as an Associate Vice President for Health and Well-Being.

# Student Government Association Report

The Student Government Association (SGA) is finishing the year off strong as they continue to advocate for racial equity, mental health resources, increased American Sign Language courses, and the overall integration of Diversity, equity, inclusion, justice and accessibility-based practices into both student and academic affairs. The SGA is also working closely with the Integrated Science and Technology department and other local organizations to develop strategies to curb JMU's greenhouse gas emissions. Major Student Body elections have occurred and the SGA is excited to announce Shawdee Bakhtiari as the incoming Student Body President for the 2022-2023 academic school year. We want to thank Jessani Collier for her year of service in that role and wish her well in her senior year.

# Student Representative to the Board of Visitors Report

Xaiver Williams, Student Representative to the Board of Visitors, provided the committee with an update on all of the work that has been done during his first year on the board. He shared with the committee his focus for next year which is “Moving Forward”. He hopes to accomplish this work through Innovation, Collaboration, and Determination.

# Associate Vice President (AVP) & Dean of Students Area Updates

Brent Lewis, AVP for Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DEI) updated the committee on new Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression (SOGIE) staff, E. Lee Dyer, Director and Cassidy Mechalske, Assistant Director. Many DEI events were held recently including the Yard Dedication, Grand Iftar, and Disability Awareness Week.

Dirron Allen, AVP for Student Life and Involvement shared that we have hosted our end of the year awards events to honor individuals and orgs for their great work. Greek Sing is returning, we have upgraded our systems for managing student organizations and JMU is participating in a national research pilot about hazing and hazardous drinking.

Marsha Mays-Bernard, AVP for Health and Well-Being updated the committee on COVID-19 testing and shared that all clinics are back to pre-COVID operations. The Counseling Center continues to have a high demand for services and staff work daily to meet the needs of as many students as possible. An update on telehealth was provided and University Recreation began a new program, Core and Connect, explores ways to support the mental health of students.

Tim Miller reported on behalf of the Dean of Students, Hollie Hall. He provided an overview of the Dean of Students office and updates were shared about the Suicide Risk Reduction Task Force, Rebound Program and

Madison Cares. Quotes referring to the Rebound Program and Madison Cares were also shared with the committee.

Dr. Miller thanked engagement fellow, Mandy Vitale, for her extraordinary work in Student Affairs and across the University this past year.

Dr. Miller announced that Marsha Mays-Bernard will be retiring in June of this year. She was honored by the committee and guests with a standing ovation for her over twenty-five years of service and leadership to James Madison University.

# Career, Experiential Learning and Transition Area Spotlight

The area of Career, Experiential Learning, and Transitions (CELT) serves students from their transition into JMU through meaningful engagement while on campus to a significant post-graduation outcome. CELT is comprised of three individual units: Orientation, the University Career Center, and Community Service- Learning (CS-L). The CELT leadership has worked to cultivate high impact practices vital to the student experience at JMU. Of particular note for this presentation is the Federal Work Study program in CS-L, which pairs students with community agencies. This year, Federal Work Study students have contributed over 6,000 hours of meaningful service to the local community. Additionally, the training of student leadership in the Office of Orientation is a significant investment on the part of the University into a holistic transition experience for its newest students. Finally, the University Career Center is actively promoting five keys for students to engage in during their JMU careers for career readiness.

# Student and Community Panel

Arianna Barrett, freshman, and Lindsey Douglas, Executive Director of Big Brothers Big Sisters shared the Federal Work Study program’s impact on the Harrisonburg community. Alex Elliott, Senior, shared how the work of the University Career Center has impacted the experiences of JMU students. Jasmyne Pettus, Senior, described her role in Orientation and how the experience has shaped her time at JMU.

There being no further business, on the motion Jeff Grass of and seconded by Kathy Warden, the Student Affairs Committee meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Tompkins Johnson, Chair

Donna Harper, Secretary to the Board