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

**Minutes of the Student Affairs Committee**

The Student Affairs Committee met on Thursday, April 20, 2023, 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.

**Present:**

Edwards, Terrie                      Lynch, John  
Major, Lara                      Tompkins Johnson, Deborah, Chair

**Others:**

Alger, Jon, President, James Madison University  
Allen, Dirron, Associate Vice President Student Life and Involvement  
Bakhtiari, Shawdee, President, Student Government Association  
Brenneman, Anne, Director, University Health Center  
Davis, Mike, Chief of Staff, James Madison University  
Hall, Hollie, Dean of Students  
Knight, Jack, University Counsel, James Madison University  
Miller, Tim, Vice President for Student Affairs  
Surrett, Myles, Associate Vice President, Career, Experiential Learning and Transition  
Williams, Xavier, Student Representative to the Board of Visitors

**Approval of Minutes**

On the motion of Lara Major and seconded by John Lynch the minutes of February 9, 2023, were approved.

**Opening Remarks**

Deborah Tompkins Johnson welcomed members and guests.

**Student Affairs Update**

Dr. Miller thanked Ms. Deborah Thompkins Johnson for her service as board chair. He proposed a moment of silence for the recent student incident that occurred off campus. A moment of silence was held in support of the recent loss of life at JMU and recent worldwide events. He shared about how our community has experienced and can challenge hate, confrontation and violence and this summer will be looking at additional safety measures for students on and off campus. Finally, he concluded with celebrations and accomplishments of several campuswide groups and initiatives, as well as final student celebrations and events.

**Student Government Association Report**

Shawdee emphasized her central platform initiative, student outreach. She highlighted the work of student organizations around campus through social media efforts, such as her weekly series, Sundays with Shawdee. She has also continued to encourage and model attendance at club meetings and campus-wide events. She has supported and highlighted the work of Student Government Association initiatives for the betterment of the student body. She has also played a supportive role in the recruitment of new members of the Student Government Association for Fall 2023.

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

Xaiver Williams, Student Representative to the Board of Visitors, shared with the committee a summary of the accomplishments and work completed throughout his two years of leadership. He concluded his report by sharing final words for board members to consider as he prepares to complete his term and continue his support of the university as an alum. Xaiver formally introduced Abigail Cannella ('24) as the 2023-2024 Student Representative to the Board of Visitors and looks forward to assisting her as she transitions into her role with the board.

### **Career, Experiential Learning, and Transition Spotlight**

Myles Surrett, Steve Grande, Shana Meganck, Casey Ouren, and Libby Westley shared updates on the Career, Experiential Learning, and Transitions area within Student Affairs. Steve Grande shared about the nature of service-learning at JMU and its far-reaching impact in the local community. Shana Meganck, a faculty partner, provided examples of successful student experiences and collaboration. Casey Ouren talked about the sense of belonging JMU effectively cultivates during the orientation experience for new students and steps being taken to maximize that impact. Libby Westley highlighted the work being done to engage employers to optimize the internship and job prospects for JMU students. We concluded with a panel of students engaged in this work in each of the offices.

### **Student Panel**

Joi Johnson, Class of 2025, Communication Studies  
Hailey Duarte, Class of 2024, Health Sciences  
Jamisen Blythe, Class of 2023, Health Sciences

Students shared about how working with the departments and engaging in learning opportunities at JMU contributed to their belonging, career readiness, and commitment to service.

There being no further business, on the motion of Lara Major and seconded by John Lynch the Student Affairs Committee meeting adjourned at 2:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Deborah Tompkins Johnson, Chair

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Donna Harper, Secretary to the Board