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

Minutes of the Student Affairs Committee

The Student Affairs Committee met on Thursday, September 14, 2023, in Ballroom B of the Festival Conference and Student Center at James Madison University. Terrie Edwards, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Present:

Edwards, Terrie
Lynch, John
Stoltzfus, Michael

Absent:

James, Kay Coles

Others:

Allen, Dirron, Associate Vice President for Student Life and Involvement
Blyer, Kristina, Associate Vice President for Health and Well-Being
Cannella, Abby, Student Representative to the Board of Visitors
Davidson, Kim, Director for Community Engagement and Volunteer Center
Grossman-Leopard, Jen, Director for Student Life
Hazen, Nate, President, Student Government Association
Hall, Hollie, Dean of Students
Miller, Tim, Vice President for Student Affairs
Onestak, David, Director for Counseling Center
Vass, Mary-Hope, Assistant Vice President for University Communications
Walther, Annie, Associate University Counsel

Approval of Minutes

On the motion of John Lynch and seconded by Michael Stoltzfus the minutes of April 20, 2023, were approved.

Opening Remarks

Terrie Edwards welcomed members and guests. She shared that she believes in the Student Affairs Committee and engaged the members about what their favorite class is/was in college.

Student Affairs Update

Dr. Miller welcomed the committee to the new year and shared about a successful Move-In and Weeks of Welcome experience after a record number of students applying and coming to JMU. He shared appreciation to the Residence Life staff for anticipating and planning for the triples in the Residence Halls. He shared about the recent opening of the new home for JMU VALOR, the space for over veterans and military-connected individuals on campus, which has already engaged 1,300 students. Additionally, there has been a large number of students who have joined Fraternity and Sorority Life as well as the other 350+ student organizations on campus. He concluded with an update on the Student Affairs Strategic Plan. He invited the committee to connect with the process through one or more of the established strategic themes: Learning, Belonging, Health and Well-being, Partnerships and Resource Allocation, and Being the Best Place to Work.



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Student Government Association Report

Nathan Hazen, the Student Government Association President, introduced himself and express how much he believes in JMU and the Student Affairs vision of 'Every Student Thrives'. He shared about his transition as a student and the opportunities he has gained from the JMU community. His mission is to use his gained knowledge and experience to make a positive impact on campus. SGA efforts are focused on providing opportunities for students to come together in a positive environment on campus, promote student efficacy and civic engagement, and play a supportive role to members of the SGA to help achieve their own missions and goals on this campus. Nate shared appreciation to leaders on campus for their support of SGA ideas and mentorship.

Student Representative to the Board of Visitors Report

Abigail Cannella, Student Representative to the Board of Visitors, introduced herself and shared appreciation to the Orientation and Transition staff for a successful Weeks of Welcome. She shared that she is dedicated to representing the entirety of the student body and providing them with ample opportunities to learn about the work of the Board of Visitors. To accomplish these goals, she will lead an initiative to unite student organization presidents and is working to attend weekly meetings of diverse student organizations to hear directly from students. She will be utilizing various social media platforms, including an emailed newsletter to ensure that students at JMU are well informed. She is excited to have had the opportunity to 'take over' the official JMU Instagram page today and share some updates and connect with new students and student orgs. Her future plans include hosting a retreat for club presidents based on their recommendation to get connected and share updates.

Dean of Students Office Spotlight

Dr. Hollie Hall expressed appreciation to the student leaders in the room and read a letter of thanks from a parent to the Dean of Students Office. She introduced the Dean of Students office, resources available to students, and the Dean of Students team. Dom Rodriguez shared about Madison Cares, which is a centralized program for staff, students, parents and community members to refer of consult about students experiencing obstacles. Referrals have tripled since the first year of Madison Cares (2019). Students seeking care are diverse in age/year and evenly distributed across academic careers and their top concerns are academic, mental health, general concerns, social/emotional concerns. Matthew Hunsberger shared about the Rebound Program, which helps to normalize setbacks and promote student resilience. He also shared about the Learning Success Strategies Program, which assists students with time management, goal setting, reading comprehension, test taking, note taking, and study strategies. Both programs support students navigating challenges in various areas of their college experience.

Dr. Hollie Hall:

- Applauded Nate and Abby for the work they've already done and will continue to do this year.
- Hollie shared a letter of thanks from a mother to the Dean of Students Office.
- Shared a video that introduces the Dean of Students office and the resources available to them and where it has been shared across campus.
- Shared an organization chart of the team including students working with the office.

Dom Rodriguez shared about Madison Cares "a centralized program for staff, students, parents and community members to refer of consult about students experiencing obstacles." Madison Cares notes shared;

- Year 1 had 306 referrals. Last year they had over 1,000 referrals. The vast majority of referrals come from faculty and staff. Increase over the last few years is mostly due to growing awareness of the program.
- Madison Care referrals are pretty evenly distributed across academic years.
- Top concerns in Madison Cares are academic, mental health, general concerns, social/emotional concerns.



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Dom also shared some testimonials for the work of the Dean of Student's Office and Madison Cares.

Matthew Hunsberger shared about two programs:

- The Rebound Program, which helps to normalize setbacks and promote student resilience
 - Invitation to the board members to share their own Rebound story to include as materials in the program.
 - Inside Higher ed published an article about the JMU Rebound program this year - <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/student-success/college-experience/2023/07/25/college-students-rebound-university-support>
 - Shared testimonials from parents and students about the positive impact of Rebound
- Learning Success Strategies
 - Students are coming to college with some significant gaps in areas of self-management including time management, study habits and strategies, test taking, etc.
 - Provides significant training and guidance to students to address these gaps and build skills for our students so they can be successful.
 - Information provided about personalized planners that the office creates for students that need support

Student Panel

Tara Pollnitz, Madison Cares Graduate Assistant, Clinical Mental Health Counseling Graduate Program

Kevin Cottrell, Student Assistant, Psychology Major & Honors Minor

Kyleigh Schlenker, LSS Graduate Assistant, Masters in Teaching Graduate Student

Jillian Lake, Rebound Class Participant, Business Management Major

- The student panel shared their experiences with the Dean of Students Office including a new peer-to-peer mental health support club and how their engagement with the office contributed to their choice to stay at JMU.

There being no further business, on the motion of Michael Stoltzfus and seconded by John Lynch the Student Affairs Committee meeting adjourned at 2:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Terrie Edwards, Chair

Donna Harper, Secretary to the Board