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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, February 15, 2024, 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, Chair  
James, Kay Coles  
Lynch, John  
Stoltzfus, Michael

**Others:**

Blyer, Kristina, Associate Vice President for Health and Well-Being  
Brenneman, Anne, Director of University Health Center  
Cannella, Abigail, Student Representative to the Board of Visitors  
Carter-Hoyt, Malika, Vice President, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion  
Grossman Leopard, Jen, Director of Student Life  
Hall, Hollie, Dean of Students  
Hazen, Nate, President, Student Government Association  
Mann, Tia, Director of Health Promotion  
Miller, Tim, Vice President for Student Affairs  
Onestak, David, Director of Counseling Center

**Approval of Minutes**

On the motion of Michael Stoltzfus and seconded by John Lynch the minutes of Nov. 9, 2023, were approved.

**Opening Remarks**

Terrie Edwards welcomed members and guests. She thanked Dr. Miller and his team for their work on the Student Affairs Strategic Plan.

**Student Affairs Update**

Dr. Miller began his update with appreciation of University Career Center staff for successful Career Fairs, opportunities to bring students to Richmond, and to the Student Affairs Team for the start of a great semester.

He provided an update on the Student Affairs Strategic Plan which centers four themes that align with the University's Priorities. The Student Affairs themes are Student Learning and Development; Belonging; Health and Well-being; and Being the Best Place to Work.

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He reviewed each theme and how Student Affairs has created objectives and opportunities for each theme. He provided an example from the University Health Center to describe the next step of the process. Each Student Affairs department will map their strategies and provide measures for these objectives for the first meeting in the Fall.

### **Student Government Association Report**

Nate Hazen, Student Government Association President, reviewed his three campus goals and how these aligned with the Student Affairs Strategic Plan.

He shared the SGA's contingency fund opportunities and how this is an avenue for SGA to connect with clubs and organizations. Organizations have the opportunity to share their goals, objectives, and ideas, and ask for internal funds from SGA. The SGA appreciates the opportunity to learn about the missions of organizations on campus and ability to support them.

He then spoke about upcoming bills within SGA around the topics of sustainability in Gen Ed curriculum and Narcan with student officers.

Nate shared about his experiences this semester in Richmond and how he is working to seize every opportunity as a student leader. He concluded with sharing successes around recent SGA events, such as the University Quad Lighting.

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

Abigail Cannella, Student Representative to the Board of Visitors, welcomed back the Board to Harrisonburg and reflected on how JMU's campus has become the home for so many. She recognized those who graduated in December and how JMU welcomed over 200 new students for the spring semester.

She talked about the Student Affairs themes of Belonging and Student Learning and Development and how they connect to her work with the Presidents' Council. She then shared about discussions within the recent Presidents' Council meetings and shared the upcoming agenda for the final meetings of the semester. This will include a meeting with President Alger in April.

Abby shared about her experience in Richmond for SGA Advocacy Day and appreciated the opportunity to discuss campus safety and campus health and looks forward to another trip to Richmond with Dr. Miller and other students.

Finally, she concluded with her plan to recruit, support, and transition the new Student Representative to the Board of Visitors.

Terrie Edwards and Tim Miller shared that the next meeting Nate and Abby would be bringing their successors and introducing them.

### **Accessibility and Belonging Spotlight**

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Tim Miller began with appreciation to the staff members within the Accessibility and Belonging area and asked them to stand and be recognized. He shared an overview of the Accessibility and Belonging area which included the overview of all areas within it: Religious Life, JMU VALOR, Center for Multicultural Student Services, Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, and Expression, and Office of Disability Services. He shared data points from each area and how these teams support students so they can be successful at JMU and in their future.

Dr. Miller also shared that Student Affairs will be creating a full time position to oversee JMU VALOR starting this summer. This is due to efficiencies within Student Affairs and sharing an executive assistant between Administration and Finance and Student Affairs, thus freeing up salary money to help pay for this position.

Then, he welcomed five students to serve on a student panel:

- Chandler Bagwell, Senior, Media Arts, representing Center for Multicultural Student Services
- Luci Gallegos, Senior, Political Science, representing JMU VALOR
- Kofi Karikari, Graduate Student, representing Office of Disability Services
- Gavin Wilkerson, Graduate Student, representing Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, and Expression
- Noa Amar, First Year, Exploratory Major, representing Religious Life

The students reflected on how staff members have shown them care and support through personal and professional hurdles. They illustrated their unique experiences on finding their place through programming, personal interactions and community time. They also shared how experiences in each of these areas have positively contributed to their career goals and aspirations.

Tim concluded the Accessibility and Belonging Spotlight with an overview of signature programs from each department and new initiatives that are in motion. He shared that the next committee meeting will include an update on the Student Affairs Strategic Plan and a spotlight on financial efficiencies within Student Affairs and an overview of Student Affairs Communication and Marketing.

There being no further business, on the motion of John Lynch and seconded by Kay Coles James the Student Affairs Committee meeting adjourned at 2:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Terrie Edwards, Chair

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Donna Harper, Secretary to the Board