THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

THE VISITORS OF JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY

**GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

**Minutes of the Meeting September 18, 2025**

The Governance Committee of the James Madison University Board of Visitors met on Thursday, September 18, 2025 in Meeting Room 1 of the Festival Conference and Student Center. Jack White, Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

 **PRESENT:**

Bolander, Jeff

Fiorina, Carly

Kirkpatrick, David, Liaison

James, Kay Coles

Obenshain, Suzanne, Rector

Rexrode, Dave

White, Jack, Chair

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Schmidt, James, President

Knight, Jack, University Legal Counsel

Orem, Chris, Executive Director, Planning, Analytics, and Institutional Research

On motion by Carly Fiorina, seconded by Dave Rexrode, the committee approved the minutes of the April 10, 2025 meeting.

The committee discussed the Board Retreat, that was held June 5 & 6, 2025. The committee discussed what went well and what should be improved for future retreats.

Chris Orem, Executive Director, Planning, Analysis and Institutional Research joined the committee to share a final summary of the campus-wide SWOT analysis. The committee discussed improvements and suggestions for future campus-wide studies and also discussed how the SWOT can better inform strategic planning.

The committee was then joined by a representative from the Association of Governing Boards (AGB), who shared a presentation and led discussion on best practices for board members, especially governance committees. The committee was encouraged that our practices are in line with national best practices and is positioned to lead the university well during this important season.

Jack White called for a motion to adjourn. On motion from Dave Rexrode, seconded by Jeff Bolander, the committee voted to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 12:52pm.

 Respectfully submitted,

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 Jack White, Chair

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David C. Kirkpatrick, Secretary to the Board