THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

THE VISITORS OF JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY

Volume LVIII No. 1

**Minutes of the Meeting of September 24, 2021**

The Visitors of James Madison University met on Friday, September 24, 2021 in the Festival Conference and Student Center Board Room on the campus of James Madison University. Lara Major, Rector, called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m.

**PRESENT**:

Evans-Grevious, Vanessa

Gadams, Frank

Grass, Jeff

Gray-Keeling, Matthew

Herod, Maribeth

Hutchinson, Lucy

Jankowski, Maria

Tompkins Johnson, Deborah, Vice Rector

Major, Lara, Rector

Ragon, Maggie

Rothenberger, John

Warden, Kathy

Welburn, Craig

Williams, Xaiver, Student Representative to the Board of Visitors

Harper, Donna, Secretary

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Alger, Jonathan, President

Coltman, Heather, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

King, Charles, Senior Vice President for Administration and Finance

Langridge, Nick, Vice President for University Advancement

Miller, Tim, Vice President for Student Affairs

Vass, Mary-Hope, Director of Communications & University Spokesperson

Larsen, Val, Speaker, Faculty Senate

Knight, Jack, University Counsel

The Rector recognized students from the MGT 490 class who were attending as part of their class experience.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**On motion by Vanessa Evans-Grevious, seconded by Maribeth Herod, the minutes of the June 23-24, 2021 retreat, the Ad Hoc Governance Committee meeting on August 24, 2021 and the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting on September 7, 2021 were approved.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Academic and Student Life Committee**

Lucy Hutchinson, Chair, presented the report of the Academic and Student Life Committee: (Attachment A)

* Student Affairs divisional update;
* Student Affairs DEI update;
* Academic Affairs divisional update;
* Changing three Art majors to Art degrees:
  + On motion from committee, approved three art majors: Architectural Design, Industrial Design, and Graphic Design, move to stand-along degrees.
* Report from the Senate faculty speaker;
* Report from the Student Representative to the Board of Visitors; and
* Student Government Association President’s report.

On motion by Ms. Hutchinson, seconded by Maggie Ragon, the Academic and Student Life report was accepted.

**Advancement Committee**

Buddy Gadams, presented the report of the Advancement Committee: (Attachment B)

* Fund-raising report from Athletics and Development;
* Recruitment Marketing for the National Key Goal;
* Update on the Women for Madison Amethyst Circle;
* Warden Challenge Update;
* Plans for the sixth annual Giving Day; and
* Principal Development Relationship Succession.

On motion by Mr. Gadams, seconded by Vanessa Evans-Grevious, the Advancement report was accepted.

**Athletics Committee**

Vanessa Evans-Grevious, Chair, presented the report of the Athletics Committee: (Attachment C)

* Athletic sports update;
* Strategic Plan Accountability Measures report;
* Name, Image and Likeness legislation; and
* Duke Club Fund-raising report.

On motion by Mrs. Evans-Grevious, seconded by John Rothenberger, the Athletics report was accepted.

**Audit Committee**

Maggie Ragon, Chair, presented the report of the Audit Committee: (Attachment D)

* Annual report for Audit and Management Services was reviewed;
* Internal Audit Budge for 2021-22 was approved; and
* Revised 2021-22 Internal Audit Plan was approved.

On motion by Mrs. Ragon, seconded by Chris Falcon, the Audit report was accepted.

#### Finance and Physical Development Committee

John Rothenberger, Chair, presented the report of the Finance and Physical Development Committee: (Attachment E)

* Financial Review;
* 2020-21 Receivables Write-off report;
* Workforce Planning and Development report;
* General Assembly Special Session;
* 2022-24 Biennial Operating Budget Requests; and
* Capital Project update.

On motion by Mr. Rothenberger, seconded by Vanessa Evans-Grevious, the Finance and Physical Development report was accepted.

**Ad Hoc Governance Committee**

Jeff Grass, Chair, presented the report of the Ad Hoc Governance Committee: (Attachment F)

* Possible responsibilities of the Governance Committee and the Executive Committee;
* Developing and documenting processes associated with the board’s responsibilities; and
* Created timetable for proposal to the board.

On motion by Mr. Grass, seconded by Maribeth Herod, the Ad Hoc Governance Committee report was accepted.

**Executive Committee**

Lara Major, Chair, presented the report of the Executive Committee: (Attachment G)

* Proposal for the Governance Committee and bylaws revisions.

On motion by Mrs. Deborah Tompkins Johnson, seconded by John Rothenberger, the Executive Committee report was accepted.

**PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

Mr. Alger presented information on the following: (Attachment H)

* Students were greeted with a warm, in-person welcome at the Block Party in the ‘Burg. This is the largest first year class ever with 4,765 students and there are currently 65 Valley Scholars now enrolled at JMU;
* The Class of 2020 was celebrated at the Atlantic Union Bank Center on September 3 with in-person ceremonies;
* Suzanne Bergmeister has joined JMU as the executive director of the Gilliam Center for Entrepreneurship;
* With a strong record of focusing on diversity, equity and inclusion issues, Melinda Wood has been named associate vice president of Access and Enrollment Management and Director of Admissions;
* A ’95 graduate and retired major from the Fairfax County Police Department, Anthony Matos was recently appointed as JMU’s police chief;
* Mary Ramsey was selected to join JMU as an American Council on Education fellow;
* The university’s Economic Development Council is leading the Regional Economic Recovery series and also worked with the Shenandoah Valley Regional Airport to initiate a new partnership;
* JMU continues to lead efforts nationally on the civic role of higher education with a new collaboration with Partnership for American Democracy and by co-hosting a town hall for presidents in October with AAC&U;
* Reengineering Madison is a new initiative to explore integrating university systems and making sharing of information more streamlined;
* The Office of Research and Scholarship has expanded the team to include Besi Muhonja as associate vice provost for Scholarship, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion and Keith Holland as associate vice provost for Research and Innovation;
* JMU was named one of America’s Top Colleges by Forbes, which takes into account low-income student outcomes, graduate earnings, student debt, academic success and national leadership positions;
* JMU has also been recently recognized as the following: “Best Maker School” by Newsweek and Make Magazine; 3rd most innovative school in the South by US News and World report; best college for getting a job in Virginia; #2 most recommended university in the nation; Money Magazine’s list of “Best Colleges for the Money;” HEED award from Insight on Diversity for the 2nd time in four years; and received the Judge’s Choice Award from the University Economic Development Association;
* US News and World Report named JMU Engineering one of the top 25 undergraduate engineering programs in the nation;
* Madison Magazine was selected as the 2021 winner by the Content Marketing Institute; the “Stop the Spread” campaign won the Grand Gold Award; two other awards were earned from the Council for Advancement and Support of Education;
* Brad Barnett was selected as the National Chair-Elect for the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators and will serve as an important voice in financial aid administration nationwide;
* JMU Athletics earned national headlines as the JMU Softball Team was a national semifinalist with players Kate Gorton and Odicci Alexander being named to the All-Tournament Team; in addition, Head Coach Loren LaPorte and her colleagues were named as 2021 NFCA Division I National Coaching Staff of the Year;
* Having served at JMU since July 1, 1996, Charlie King will be retiring as the senior vice president of Administration and Finance; he will remain at JMU in a part-time government relations role through the next Virginia General Assembly;
* Towana Moore will serve as the interim vice president for Administration and Finance upon Mr. King’s retirement;
* Some upcoming events were highlighted to include: the Forbes Center schedule that was recently released, Oct. 29 Via Mineral Museum grand opening, Nov. 5 Hartman Hall grand opening, and the Madison Vision Series;
* This afternoon, three buildings (Darcus Johnson Hall, Gabbin Hall, and Harper Allen-Lee Hall) will be rededicated with tours starting at 3 p.m. and the ceremony to follow at 4 p.m.

**COVID-19 UPDATE**

Tim Miller, Vice President for Student Affairs shared current information on the vaccination and testing for students and employees and Rubén Graciani, Dean for the College of Visual and Performing Arts, shared strategies utilized in the college with regard to COVID-19 measures. (Attachment I)

**SIX-YEAR PLAN**

(Attachment J)

Brian Charette, Special Assistant to the President; Donna Harper, Vice President for Access and Enrollment Management; Heather Coltman, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs; and Charlie King, Senior Vice President for Administration and Finance presented the proposed Six Year Plan.

On motion by John Lynch, seconded by Craig Welburn, approved the Six-Year Plan.

**GRADUATE SCHOOL UPDATE**

Linda Thomas, Dean of The Graduate School, shared the vision and plans for The Graduate School in the future. (Attachment K)

**RACIAL EQUITY UPDATE AND DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION**

Cynthia Bauerle, Vice Provost, provided information on strategies and programs implemented to strengthen the university’s diversity, equity and inclusion efforts and explained the recommendation process for the Task Force on Racial Equity. (Attachment L)

**DASHBOARD**

Brian Charette, Special Assistant to the President and Chris Orem, Director of Institutional Research, shared examples of the new dashboard that will be shared on the Board of Visitors website.

Rector Major then called for the board to move into Closed Session. Deborah Tompkins Johnson made the following motion:

“I move the Board go into closed session to discuss the following matters: 1) pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711 A-1, to discuss personnel matters involving promotions, retirements, hiring, resignations, salary adjustments, and status changes of various faculty members, administrators and appointees, as well as the award of tenure to faculty members; and matters related to the employment of the President, including performance, compensation and other terms; and 2) pursuant to Section 2.2-3711-A-3 of the Code of Virginia to discuss the acquisition/disposal of real property located in Harrisonburg, Virginia.”

The motion was seconded by Vanessa Evans-Grevious and the Board moved into closed session.

Following the closed session, Mrs. Major then stated the following:

**During the closed session, the board discussed only matters lawfully**

**exempted from open meeting requirements and only those types of matters**

**identified in the motion for the closed session.**

**RECORDED VOTE: the following is an affirmative recorded, member by**

**member vote:**

Evans-Grevious, Vanessa

Falcon, Chris

Gadams, Frank

Grass, Jeff

Gray-Keeling, Matthew

Herod, Maribeth

Hutchinson, Lucy

Jankowski, Maria

Tompkins Johnson, Deborah

Lynch, John

Ragon, Maggie

Rothenberger, John

Warden, Kathy

Welburn, Craig

Mrs. Major then asked if there were any motions to come forward.

On motion of Vanessa Evans-Grevious, seconded by Maria Jankowski, approved the personnel   
action report.

On motion of John Rothenberger; seconded by Chris Falcon, approved the following real estate purchases:

* 1621 South Main Street at a purchase price of $325,000;
* 453 Cardinal Drive at a purchase price of $245,000; and
* 460 Eastover Drive at a purchase price of $290,000.

On motion of Vanessa Evans-Grevious, seconded by Maggie Ragon, approved the recommendation of the Executive Committee to renew President Alger’s contract for a term of 5 years under the terms and conditions proposed.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, on motion of Deborah Tompkins Johnson, seconded by Vanessa Evans-Grevious, the Board voted to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 12:59 pm.

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Lara Major, Rector

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Donna L. Harper, Secretary