THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

THE VISITORS OF JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY

Volume LVIII No. 3

**Minutes of the Meeting of February 18, 2022**

The Visitors of James Madison University met on Friday, February 18, 2022 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 8:32 a.m.

**PRESENT:**

Evans-Grevious, Vanessa

Falcon, Chris

Gadams, Frank

Grass, Jeff

Gray-Keeling, Matthew

Herod, Maribeth

Hutchinson, Lucy

Tompkins Johnson, Deborah, Vice Rector

Lynch, John

Major, Lara, Rector

Ragon, Maggie

Rothenberger, John

Warden, Kathy

Welburn, Craig

Williams, Xaiver, Student Representative to the Board of Visitors

Harper, Donna, Secretary

**ABSENT:**

Jankowski, Maria

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Alger, Jonathan, President

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

Langridge, Nick, Vice President for University Advancement

Miller, Tim, Vice President for Student Affairs and University Planning  
Moore, Towana, Interim Vice President for Administration & Finance

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

Larsen, Val, Speaker, Faculty Senate

Knight, Jack, University Counsel

**CONSENT AGENDA**

On motion of Vanessa Evans-Grevious, seconded by Maggie Ragon, the consent agenda was approved which included the minutes from the November 19, 2021 board meeting and the personnel action report.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Academic Excellence Committee**

Lucy Hutchinson, Chair, presented the report of the Academic Excellence Committee: (Attachment A)

* Divisional update from the Provost, Heather Coltman;
* Partnership school update from Mark L’Esperance, Dean of the College of Education;
* Curriculum and policy update from Sharon Lovell, Dean of the College of Health and Behavioral Studies;
* On motion from committee, the board approved the Master of Science in Applied Nutrition.
* Inclusive excellence in research and scholarship from several faculty members; and
* Faculty Senate Speaker’s report.

On motion of Ms. Hutchinson, seconded by Maggie Ragon, the Academics Excellence report was accepted.

**Advancement and Engagement Committee**

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

* Fundraising report;
* Divisional update from Nick Langridge, Vice President for Advancement;
* Campaign wrap up event plans;
* Reengineering Madison;
* Donor relations and stewardship reporting; and
* Institutional Advertising Campaign proposal.

On motion of Mr. Gadams, seconded by Kathy Warden, the Advancement and Engagement report was accepted.

**Athletics Committee**

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

* Athletics update from Jeff Bourne, Director Athletics;
* Intercollegiate Athletics Program Report;
* Student-Athlete Disciplinary Report;
* Fundraising update; and
* FBS Transition update.

On motion of Mrs. Evans-Grevious, seconded by Maribeth Herod, the Athletics report was accepted.

**Audit Committee**

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

* IT Security update from Robin Bryan, V Kagey and Matasha Owens;
* Management Action Plan Status report was reviewed;
* Internal Audit Work Plan Status report was reviewed;
* Approved Policy 1601, the Auditing Program Charter;
* Quality Assessment Report; and
* University Compliance Committee report.

On motion of Ms. 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)

* Quarterly Financial Review by Mark Angel, Assistant Vice President for Finance;
* An updated Statement of Investment Policies and Goals;
* On motion from committee, the board approved the Investment Policy.
* Governor’s 2022-24 Budget
* General Assembly Amendments
* Reengineering Madison update.

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

**Governance Committee**

Jeff Grass, Chair, presented the report of the Governance Committee:

* Board Self-Evaluation process;
* Nominating Committee recommendations;
* Executive Committee composition proposal;
* Qualification/competencies for board members;
* Professional development review; and
* Recommendation for the annual retreat to be held on April 23.

On motion of Mr. Grass, seconded by Maribeth Herod, the Governance report was accepted.

**Student Affairs Committee**

Deborah Tompkins Johnson, Chair, presented the report of the Student Affairs Committee: (Attachment F)

* Divisional update by Vice President for Student Affairs, Tim Miller;
* Student Representative to the Board report;
* Student Government Association President report;
* Student Life and Involvement presentation; and
* Student panel.

On motion from Ms. Tompkins Johnson, seconded by Chris Falcon, the Student Affairs report was accepted.

**PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

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

* An update was provided on Admissions to include first-year applicants are at 31,633 (44% increase), with early action applicants at 18,590 (41% increase);
* A new Center for First-Generation Students is being created, which will be located next to the Centennial Scholars Office;
* SCHEV surveyed undergraduates and received responses from more than 15,000 undergraduate alumni of Virginia public institutions, who graduated between 2007 and 2018. More than 900 JMU alumni responded with a high percentage being satisfied with several career and life outcomes;
* JMU has continued to support the Bridgewater College community following the tragedy on their campus and hosted the memorial services in AUBC;
* There has been a significant increase in resources to support the mental health of students and continue working on ways to fulfill this need;
* There are currently searches for the following leadership positions: Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion; Dean of the College of Science and Mathematics; and Dean for the Honors College;
* SCHEV approved a new Information Technology major that will begin in Fall 2022;
* JMU hosted Black female mayors from across the nation this week as part of the Madison Vision Series and the next speaker will be Farah Pandith, appointed as the first representative to Muslim Countries, on April 18 in Wilson Auditorium;
* Softball ranked #25 and their season begins this weekend, lacrosse ranked #13 and will join the AAC; and JMU will transition to FBS in 2022;
* Lauren K. Alleyne, professor of English and assistant director of the Furious Flower Poetry Center, and Erica Lewis, associate professor in the School of Nursing, were both awarded with the SCHEV Outstanding Faculty award;
* Several submissions were awarded with education digital marketing awards;
* A $2 million grant over the next four years was given to support the work of the Furious Flower Poetry Center, which is an important partnership between the College of Arts and Letters and JMU Libraries;
* The university was honored with the Guarasci Award for Institutional Transformation by Campus Compact to an institution that has “successfully implemented institution-wide efforts to address issues of public concern by aligning teaching, research, practice and values in service of the common good;” and
* JMU will transition to R2 Doctoral University with high research activity by the Carnegie Classification.

**NATIONAL UNIVERSITY**

President Alger and Heather Coltman, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, shared the news that the university has officially been recognized as an R-2 National University.

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY UPDATE (**Attachment H)

Caitlyn Reed, Director of Government Relations shared the information related to budget amendments and current legislation in the General Assembly.

**COVID-19 UPDATE** (Attachment I)

Tim Miller, Vice President for Student Affairs, shared the current statistics on student cases and the considerations for the mask policy.

**QUALITY ENHANCEMENT PLAN** (Attachment J)

Paul Mabrey, Communications Center Coordinator, gave an overview of the Quality Enhancement Plan associated with the institutions upcoming SACSCOC accreditation.

**RACIAL EQUITY UPDATE AND DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION**(Attachment K)

Jennifer PeeksMease, Associate Professor for Communication Studies, explained the recommendation process and the themes for the narrative from the task force. Art Dean, Executive Director for Access and Inclusion, gave an update on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion activities.

The Rector announced the Nominating Committee: Kathy Warden, Chair; Vanessa Evans-Grevious, and Jeff Grass.

**ADJOURNMENT**  
There being no further business, on motion of Maggie Ragon, seconded by John Rothenberger, the Board voted to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 11:16 a.m.

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Lara Major, Rector

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Donna L. Harper, Secretary