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

Volume LIX No. 3

Minutes of the Meeting of February 10, 2023

The Visitors of James Madison University met on Friday, February 10, 2023 in the Festival Conference and Student Center Board Room on the campus of James Madison University. Maribeth Herod, Rector, called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m.

PRESENT:

Bell, Dickie
Edwards, Terrie
Falcon, Chris, Vice Rector
Grass, Jeff
Gray-Keeling, Matthew
Herod, Maribeth, Rector
Jankowski, Maria
Lynch, John

Major, Lara
Obenshain, Suzanne
Rothenberger, John
Stoltzfus, Michael
Tompkins Johnson, Deborah
Welburn, Craig
White, Jack

Williams, Xaiver, Student Representative to the Board, 2022-23
Harper, Donna, Secretary

ALSO PRESENT:

Alger, Jonathan, President
Carter-Hoyt, Malika, Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
Coltman, Heather, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs
Langridge, Nick, Vice President for University Advancement
Miller, Tim, Vice President for Student Affairs
Moore, Towana, Vice President for Administration and Finance

Vass, Mary-Hope, Executive Director of Communications
Ott-Walter, Kathy, Speaker, Faculty Senate
Knight, Jack, University Counsel

The Rector acknowledged the tragic accident involving JMU students and held a moment of silence.

CONSENT AGENDA

On motion of Chris Falcon, seconded by Deborah Tompkins Johnson, the minutes of the November 18, 2022 meeting were approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Academic Excellence Committee

Matthew Gray-Keeling, Chair, presented the report of the Academic Excellence Committee. The minutes of the November 18, 2022 meeting were approved. (Attachment A)

Mr. Gray-Keeling reported on the following topics from the committee meeting:

- 1) Divisional update acknowledging the recent losses of the JMU community; an update on the committee on the status of the promotion and tenure process and the search for the executive director of the Center for Global Engagement; and establishment of the Joint Faculty Senate/Provost Academic Affairs Administrative and Professional Faculty Hiring Guidelines task force;
- 2) The College Spotlight was on the College of Business;
- 3) Faculty Senate Speaker report;
- 4) Curriculum update:
 - a. On motion from committee, approved the graduate certificate in Health Policy.
 - b. On motion from committee, approved the Master of Science in Computer Science with a concentration in Cybersecurity program.
- 5) Heard from a student in the Bridge to Madison program.

On motion of Mr. Gray-Keeling, seconded by John Rothenberger, the report of the Academic Excellence Committee was accepted.

Advancement and Engagement Committee

Craig Welburn, Chair, presented the report of the Advancement and Engagement Committee. The minutes of the November 18, 2022 meeting were approved. (Attachment B)

Mr. Welburn reported on the following topics from the committee meeting:

- 1) Fund-raising report;
- 2) Vice President's update including recognition of two former Valley Scholars now attending JMU;
- 3) Customer Relationship Management (CRM) update;
- 4) Reaching New Heights; and
- 5) Crisis Communication update.

On motion of Mr. Welburn, seconded by Lara Major, the report of the Advancement and Engagement Committee was accepted.

Athletics Committee

John Lynch, Chair, presented the report of the Athletics Committee. The minutes of the November 18, 2022 meeting were approved. (Attachment C)

Mr. Lynch reported on the following topics from the committee meeting:

- 1) NCAA, Sun Belt Conference and Athletics update;
- 2) Intercollegiate Athletics Program Report (APA Audit);
- 3) Student Discipline report;

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- 4) Mental Health update for student athletes;
 - 5) Fund-raising update; and
 - 6) Missed class policy discussion.

On motion of Mr. Lynch, seconded by Jeff Grass, the Athletics Committee report was accepted.

Audit, Risk and Compliance Committee

Chris Falcon, Chair, presented the report of the Audit Committee. The minutes of the November 18, 2022 meeting were approved. (Attachment D)

Mr. Falcon reported on the following topics from the committee meeting:

- 1) Held a moment of silence for the student lives lost;
- 2) Review of compliance requirements for university policies; and
- 3) Reviewed the Internal Audit Work Plan Status Report.

On motion of Mr. Falcon, seconded by Deborah Tompkins Johnson, the Audit, Risk and Compliance Committee report was accepted.

Finance and Physical Development Committee

John Rothenberger, Chair, presented the report of the Finance and Physical Development Committee. The minutes from the November 18, 2022 meeting were approved. (Attachment E)

Mr. Rothenberger reported on the following from the committee meeting:

- 1) Divisional update introducing Craig Short, Assistant Vice President for Business Services;
- 2) Financial Review;
- 3) Annual Investment review;
- 4) Governor's Budget; and
- 5) Customer Relationship Management (CRM) update.

On motion of Mr. Rothenberger, seconded by Maria Jankowski, the Finance and Physical Development report was accepted.

Governance Committee

Jeff Grass, Chair, presented the report of the Governance Committee. The minutes of the November 18, 2022 meeting were approved. (Attachment F)

Mr. Grass reported on the following from the committee meeting:

- 1) On motion from committee approved that officers of the board transition to assume office on July 1;
- 2) On motion from committee approved the Affiliation Agreement (MOU) with the JMU Foundation; and

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- 3) Board Retreat scheduled for April 22, 2023.

On motion of Mr. Grass, seconded by Chris Falcon, the Governance Committee report was accepted.

Student Affairs Committee

Deborah Tompkins Johnson, Chair, presented the report of Student Affairs Committee. The minutes from the November 18, 2022 meeting were approved. (Attachment G)

Ms. Tompkins Johnson reported on the following topics from the committee meeting:

- 1) Moment of silence to honor the loss of life and recent worldwide events;
- 2) Student Affairs update including recognizing the recent events and the staff who supported the students;
- 3) Report from the Student Government Association President;
- 4) Report from the Student Representative to the Board of Visitors;
- 5) Student Life and Involvement Spotlight was an overview of JMU's housing plan; and
- 6) Student panel of residence life student staff.

On motion of Ms. Tompkins Johnson, seconded by John Rothenberger, the Student Affairs Committee report was accepted.

Xaiver Williams, Student Representative to the Board of Visitors, "took over" the student Instagram account. He shared he had 184,344 views.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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

- An admissions update was provided with the following information: there are 36,912 first-year applicants, which is a 16% increase over 2022 and 68% increase over 2021; first-year applicant demographics are 59% female, 46% out of state, 21% first generation, 34% underrepresented minorities (102% increase in two years), 524 international applicants, applicants represent 53 states and U.S. territories and 111 countries;
- Winter Commencement was held on December 17 in the Atlantic Union Bank Center with 1,080 total graduates (857 undergraduates and 223 graduate students) and Charles May ('83) served as the commencement speaker;
- The Reddix Center for First Generation Students will be officially dedicated at a ceremony on February 25 at 11 a.m.;
- David Kirkpatrick, Madison Center for Civic Engagement, joined several university presidents at Stanford University to discuss "civic engagement" and will return in May to continue the conversation. In addition, JMU will host the Institute of Civic Studies and Learning Day for Democracy;
- Rebecca Brannon, Associate Professor in History, was awarded a National Endowment for Humanities Fellowship for her project "Old Age in the Wake of the American Revolution" and this is one of only 70 grants each year;

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- Gina MacDonald, Professor in Chemistry and Biochemistry was named as the 2022 American Association for the Advancement of Science Fellow;
 - JMU has been named a Fulbright Top Producer for the 4th year with eight recipients and four alternates;
 - U.S. News released their online rankings and JMU was named one of the best online programs in a variety of areas: MBA #19 (#1 in the Commonwealth), Veterans-MBA #35, and Graduate Computer Information Technology #34;
 - JMU is in discussion about a partnership with the Bringing Theory to Practice's Paradigm Project, which is a national effort focused on catalyzing systemic transformation in undergraduate education;
 - The Office of Research and Scholarship is expanding faculty and student scholarship support;
 - The College of Education is moving ahead with the planning of a lab school with Rockingham County Public Schools and is slated to open in the fall 2023. This will serve 100-150 public school students and provide opportunities for JMU students, faculty and staff;
 - An Innovation Center for Youth Justice will be launched as the nation's first center that is a partnership with Justice Studies and Social work at JMU and JMU alum John Tuell (Social Work, '79), with a goal to increase positive youth opportunities;
 - The upcoming Madison Vision Series events will be: Awadagin Pratt on Feb. 21 at the Forbes Center for Performing Arts and Dr. Anthony Fauci on April 3 with a fireside chat with Jim Acosta and a student; and
 - An update was provided on JMU Athletics as basketball is coming down the homestretch, Swimming and Diving was recognized by the College Swimming & Diving Coaches Association of America as a Scholar All-American Team; JMU Lacrosse ranked 12th in the pre-season coaches poll; an NCAA waiver is being discussed; and the educational benefits of athletics is being discussed by the Knight Commission.

STUDENT AID INDEX

Brad Barnett, Associate Vice President for Access and Enrollment/Director of Financial Aid and Scholarships shared information on this new calculation from the federal government to determine eligibility for financial aid (replacing the Estimated Family Contribution).

GENERAL ASSEMBLY UPDATE

Caitlyn Read, Director for State Government Relations, gave an update on the legislation and budget amendments progressing through the General Assembly.

FREE SPEECH SCENARIOS – Professional Development

Following an introduction and brief explanation of free speech by the President and Jack Knight, University Legal Counsel, the board members participated in a professional development activity discussing two scenarios in small groups. The board then reconvened and shared their insights and perceptions of dealing with free speech issues.

President Alger and Rector Herod recognized Maria Jankowski for her involvement with the Board as her term will expire in June.

Rector Herod then called for the board to move into Closed Session. Chris Falcon 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; 2) pursuant to Section 2.2-3711-A-3 of the Code of Virginia to discuss the acquisition/disposal of real property; 3) pursuant to Section 2.2-3711-A-11 of the Code of Virginia, for consideration of an honorary degree.”

The motion was seconded by John Rothenberger and the Board moved into closed session. Following the closed session, the Rector 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:

Bell, Dickie	Major, Lara
Edwards, Terrie	Obenshain, Suzanne
Falcon, Chris, Vice Rector	Rothenberger, John
Grass, Jeff	Stoltzfus, Michael
Gray-Keeling, Matthew	Tompkins Johnson, Deborah
Herod, Maribeth, Rector	Welburn, Craig
Jankowski, Maria	White, Jack
Lynch, John	

Ms. Herod then asked if there were any motions to come forward.

On motion from John Rothenberger, seconded by Jeff Grass, approved to convey to the City of Harrisonburg the following properties at no cost for the purpose of constructing the proposed University Boulevard extension:

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|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| ▪ 705 Oak Hill Drive | ▪ 705 Hickory Hill Drive |
| ▪ 1010 Forest Hill Road | ▪ 900 Forest Hill Road |
| ▪ 1001 Forest Hill Road | ▪ 708 Locust Hill Drive |
| ▪ 700 Hickory Hill Drive | ▪ 701 Locust Hill Drive |
| ▪ 702 Hickory Hill Drive | ▪ 705 Locust Hill Drive |
| ▪ 701 Hickory Hill Drive | |

On motion from Terrie Edwards, seconded by Maria Jankowski, approved the Personnel Action Report.

On motion from Matthew Gray-Keeling, seconded by Chris Falcon, approved a Doctorate of Humanities honorary degree.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on motion of John Rothenberger, seconded by Jeff Grass, the Board voted to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 pm.

Maribeth Herod, Rector

Donna L. Harper, Secretary