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

Volume LX No. 2

Minutes of the Meeting of November 10, 2023

The Visitors of James Madison University met on Friday, November 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 8:30 pm.

PRESENT:

Bell, Dickie	Major, Lara
Bolander, Jeff	Obenshain, Suzanne
Edwards, Terrie	Rothenberger, John
Falcon, Chris, Vice Rector	Smith, Steve
Herod, Maribeth, Rector	Stoltzfus, Michael
James, Kay Coles	White, Jack
Lynch, John	Wood, Nicole Palya

Cannella, Abby Student Representative to the Board, 2023-24
Harper, Donna, Secretary

ABSENT:

Fiorina, Carly

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, Assistant Vice President for Communications
Ott-Walter, Kathy, Speaker, Faculty Senate
Knight, Jack, University Counsel

CONSENT AGENDA

On motion of John Rothenberger, seconded by Terrie Edwards, the Consent Agenda was approved which included the minutes of the September 15, 2023 meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Academic Excellence

Lara Major, Chair, presented the report of the Academic Excellence Committee. The minutes of the September 14, 2023 meeting were approved. (Attachment A)

Ms. Major reported on the following topics from the committee meeting:

- 1) Recognized the attendees representing the Impact leadership program;
- 2) Heard from the Provost, Heather Coltman, on divisional updates;
- 3) The area spotlight was on the Libraries;
- 4) A panel of students shared their research experience;
- 5) On motion from committee, approved the discontinuation of the Bachelor of Science in Community Health Education and the Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science in Speech Pathology, contingent on the approval of the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia on proposals for new degree programs;
- 6) On motion from committee, approved the Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Earth Science;
- 7) On motion from committee, approved the name change from the Department of Foreign Languages, Literatures and Cultures to Department of World Languages and Cultures; and
- 8) Heard the Faculty Senate Speaker report.

On motion of Ms. Major, seconded by Jack White, the report of the Academic Excellence Committee was accepted.

Advancement and Engagement Committee

Michael Stoltzfus, Chair, presented the report of the Advancement and Engagement Committee. The minutes of the September 14, 2023 meeting were approved. (Attachment B)

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

- 1) Fundraising report from athletics and advancement;
- 2) Heard from the Vice President of Advancement, Nick Langridge, on divisional updates;
- 3) Update on the College of Health and Behavioral Studies expansion and nursing proposal;
- 4) Inaugural International Alumni Engagement; and
- 5) Telling Our Story with Digital Content.

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

Athletics Committee

John Lynch, Chair, presented the report of the Athletics Committee. The minutes of the September 14, 2023 meeting were approved. (Attachment C)

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

- 1) Sports update;
- 2) 2022-23 Academic Report including the university receiving the Sun Belt Conference's top academic honor with the Student-Athlete Graduation Rate Award;
- 3) Convocation Center and Student Athlete Advisory Committee update; and
- 4) Duke Club fund-raising update.

On motion of Mr. Lynch, seconded by Kay Coles James, the Athletics report was accepted.

Audit, Risk and Compliance Committee

Chris Falcon, Chair, presented the report of the Audit Committee. The minutes of the September 14, 2023 meeting were approved. (Attachment D)

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

- 1) IT update;
- 2) Compliance with the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act;
- 3) Contingency management efforts with IT functions; and
- 4) Review of the Management Action Plan Status report.

On motion of Mr. Falcon, seconded by Suzanne Obenshain, the Audit, Risk and Compliance 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 September 14, 2023 meeting were approved. (Attachment E)

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

- 1) Financial Review;
- 2) University Debt review;
- 3) On motion from committee, approved the bond resolution for Phase 1 of the Village Housing project;
- 4) Efficiency Committee Review update;
- 5) University Police update; and
- 6) Capital Projects update

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

Governance Committee

Jack White, Chair, presented the report of the Governance Committee. The minutes of the September 14, 2023 meeting were approved. (Attachment F)

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

- 1) On motion from committee approved the following revisions:
Article VII. Terms of Appointment

The non-voting student representative serves a term of one year. The student representative may be ~~appointed~~ *elected* to a second one-year term but is not eligible to serve for more than two successive one-year terms. *The term of office shall be from the date of the May graduation to the following May graduation.*

Article IX. Rights and Powers

4. The board has the authority to make all needful rules and regulations concerning the university, including the following:

~~d. The bylaws of the Faculty Senate are subject to approval by the board.~~

Article X. Officers

ADD: C. Secretary, Powers and Duties

9. *The president shall recommend a university employee to the Nominating Committee to serve as Secretary to the Board of Visitors.*

2) Board retreat on April 20 2024.

On motion of Mr. White, seconded by Terrie Edwards, the Governance report was accepted.

Student Affairs Committee

Terrie Edwards, Chair, presented the report of the Student Affairs Committee. The minutes from the September 14, 2023 meeting were approved. (Attachment G)

Ms. Edwards reported on the following topics from the committee meeting:

- 1) Heard from Tim Miller, Vice President for Student Affairs, a divisional update;
- 2) Student Government Association report;
- 3) Student Representative to the Board report;
- 4) Student Life and Involvement spotlight; and
- 5) Student panel sharing work-based learning and career skills.

On motion of Ms. Edwards, seconded by Mike Stoltzfus, the Student Affairs report was accepted.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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

- An enrollment update was provided with the following information: the total enrollment is 22,760 (102% of target), new freshmen enrollment is 4,930, graduate students are 1,752, there are 15,338 and other degree-seeking undergraduates;
- The university has celebrated some recent major university events including Family Weekend, Homecoming Week and the Holland Yates dedication, which derived from the largest cash gift in JMU history;
- The professor-in-residence program was highlighted, which reaches students in underserved areas, and the Reddix Center has provided programming for first-generation students;
- JMU Research and Scholarship is now named Research, Economic Development and Innovation (REDI) as this properly reflects an expanded role by adding economic development and workforce development;
- In the spring, JMU opened the Innovation Center for Youth Justice, a collaboration to develop solutions for vulnerable youth;
- The College of Business sponsored a sales competition with 17 companies and 23 total competitors. Matthew Dunda, senior marketing major, brought First Place back to JMU;
- JMU was recognized at the annual Commonwealth of Virginia Innovative Technology Symposium (COVITS);
- An update about Reengineering Madison was provided to include: Phase One of My Madison Connect went live last month and the next phase is still in process and will expand access to all advisers, students and orientation;
- JMU Parking and Transportation was recognized at a silver level for being a Bicycle Friendly University by the League of American Bicyclists;
- JMU Dining continues to improve concessions, leading to a 56% increase in transactions and other dining facilities have received certification levels;

- JMU Police is in its 12th year as a Virginia Accredited Law Enforcement Agency and is currently working to elevate its prominence to earn national accreditation;
- JMU participated in the Democracy 360 Conference at the University of Virginia and the Madison Center for Civic Engagement is hosting traveling town halls, deliberative forums, Next Gen Service Corps and activities surrounding Election Day;
- A large cohort from JMU joined discussions about innovative collaborations with businesses and other higher education leaders from across the Commonwealth;
- The AI task force is in progress with working groups to focus on different areas with 74 participants from across different sectors of the university;
- The committee has been formed for the search for the university's next athletic director;
- JMU Athletics continue to gain momentum in the national arena. JMU is 9-0 and ranked in the top 25 for football; men's basketball had a historic win against Michigan State to open the season; women's soccer made the Sun Belt championship game and was selected for an at-large bid to the NCAA tournament; men's soccer defeated #1 UCF last week and volleyball will be one of the top seeds in the Sun Belt tournament;
- JMU received the only university-wide academic award this year for the graduation rate and over the past two years, JMU has won all four major university academic awards; and
- It was announced that Donna Harper, Vice President for Access and Enrollment Management, will retire at the end of the academic year. She was recognized for her 47 years of service to JMU.

INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE AND ATTRACTING THE STUDENTS OF TOMORROW

Jon Alger, President, reviewed the Strategic Priorities associated with inclusive excellence and attracting the students of tomorrow. Malika Carter-Hoyt, Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion presented information on the work of the university supporting belonging and inclusion. A panel of students shared their experience and advice. (Attachment I)

MEETING WORKFORCE NEEDS

Sharon Lovell, Dean of the College of Health and Behavioral Studies, presented information on the need and opportunity to enhance the nursing and physical assistant programs. A student shared their experience in the nursing program. (Attachment J)

Mark L'Esperance, Dean of the College of Education, shared information on the impact of the college's teacher education program in the Commonwealth. A student shared their experience as a student teacher.

STATE GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

Caitlyn Read, Assistant Vice President for State Government Relations, explained the General Assembly process and shared the university priorities for the upcoming session. (Attachment K)

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.7 to consult with legal counsel pertaining to actual or probable litigation; and 3) pursuant to Section 2.2-3711.A.8 of the Code of Virginia, to consult with legal counsel regarding legal advice by such counsel.”

The motion was seconded by John L and the Board moved into closed session. Following the closed session, Ms. Herod 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	Obenshain, Suzanne
Bolander, Jeff	Rothenberger, John
Edwards, Terrie	Smith, Steve
Falcon, Chris, Vice Rector	Stoltzfus, Michael
Herod, Maribeth, Rector	White, Jack
Lynch, John	

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

On motion from John Rothenberger, seconded by Terrie Edwards, approved the Personnel Action Report as amended.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on motion of Chris Falcon, seconded by John Lynch, the Board voted to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Maribeth Herod, Rector

Donna L. Harper, Secretary