
THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
THE VISITORS OF JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY

Volume LI No. 2

Minutes of the Meeting of September 18, 2020

The Visitors of James Madison University met on Friday, September 18, 2020 in the Festival Conference and Student Center on the campus of James Madison University. Lara Major, Rector, called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

PRESENT:

Evans-Grevious, Vanessa
Falcon, Chris
Gadams, Frank
Grass, Jeff
Gray-Keeling, Matthew
Herod, Maribeth
Hutchinson, Lucy
Jankowski, Maria

Tompkins Johnson, Deborah, Vice Rector
Lynch, John
Major, Lara, Rector
Ragon, Maggie
Rothenberger, John
Warden, Kathy
Welburn, Craig

Harper, Donna, Secretary

ABSENT:

III Jones, Norman, Student Representative to the Board, 2020-21

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

Read, Caitlyn, Director of Communications & University Spokesperson
Larsen, Val, Speaker, Faculty Senate
Knight, Jack, University Counsel

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

On motion of Deborah Tompkins Johnson, seconded by John Rothenberger, the consent agenda was approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Academics and Student Life Committee

Lucy Hutchinson, Chair, presented the report of the Academics and Student Life Committee. The minutes from the February 7, 2020 meeting were approved. (Attachment A)

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

- Divisional updates from Academic Affairs and Student Affairs;
- Heard reports from the Student Representative to the Board; the Student Government Association President; and the Faculty Senate Speaker;
- Tim Miller, Vice President for Student Affairs shared information on historical information on the diversity of the student body;
- Heather Coltman, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, and Cynthia Bauerle, Interim Vice Provost for Faculty and Curriculum shared information on the diversity of the faculty; and
- A panel of faculty members shared their experience in their role as professors.

On motion of Lucy Hutchinson, seconded by Maribeth Herod, the Academics and Student Life report was accepted.

Advancement Committee

Buddy Gadams, Chair, presented the report of the Advancement Committee. The minutes of the February 7, 2020 meeting were approved. (Attachment B)

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

- Brad Burgess, Athletic Development Officer, shared the athletics fundraising summary;
- Jeff Gilligan, Associate Vice President for Development, shared the end-of-year report for the *Unleashed* campaign, annual giving, individual major gifts, organizational major gifts, realized planned gifts and conditional pledges.
- Andy Perrine, Associate Vice President for Communications and Marketing, and Caitlyn Read, University Spokesperson, explained the university's emergency communications during the pandemic;
- Sheila Smith, Associate Vice President for Campaign Management, shared plans on the shift to regional online campaign events;
- Chris Meyers, Director of Recruitment Marketing, reported on the changes for open houses and Summer Springboard to online events;
- Gretchen Armentrout, Director of Annual Giving, reported on the month-long Madison for Keeps scholarship campaign; and

- Nick Langridge, Vice President for Advancement, reviewed the renaming of campus buildings process and the work of the Campus History Committee.

On motion of Buddy Gadams, seconded by Deborah Tompkins Johnson, the Advancement report was accepted.

Athletics Committee

Vanessa Evans-Grevious, Chair, presented the report of the Athletics Committee. The minutes of the February 7, 2020 meeting were approved. (Attachment C)

Mrs. Evans-Grevious reported on the following topics from the committee meeting:

- Jeff Bourne, Director of Athletics, provided a sports update;
- Geoff Polglase, Deputy Director of Athletics, summarized the 2019-20 Strategic Plan Accountability Measures;
- Stephen LaPorta, Assistant Athletic Director for compliance, outlined the relief to be provided to student-athletes due to the cancellation of the 2019 winter and 2020 spring championships and the postponement of the 2020 fall sports due to the pandemic; and
- Cliff Wood, Senior Associate Athletics Director for Development, shared the fundraising and ticket update.

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

Audit Committee

Maggie Ragon, Chair, presented the report of the Audit Committee. The minutes of the February 7, 2020 meeting were approved. (Attachment D)

Mrs. Ragon reported on the following topics from the committee meeting:

- Becky Holmes, Director of Audit and Management Services, presented the annual report;
- The revised audit committee charter was reviewed; and
- The 2020-21 budget and updated audit plan were presented.

On motion of Maggie Ragon, seconded by Jeff Grass, the Audit 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 February 7, 2020 meeting were approved. (Attachment E)

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

- Mark Angel, Assistant Vice President for Finance, reviewed the 2019-20 financial report;
- Mr. Angel presented the 2019-20 Receivable Write-Offs Report;
- Rick Larson, Assistant Vice President for Human Resources, Training, and Performance shared the 2020 Workforce Planning and Development Report;
- Charles King, Senior Vice President for Administration and Finance presented a request to grant four easements to the City of Harrisonburg and Verizon;
- Mr. King gave an update on the General Assembly Special Session; and
- Towana Moore, Associate Vice President for Business Services, gave a report on the University's capital facilities program.

On motion of John Rothenberger, seconded by Maggie Ragon , the Finance and Physical Development report was accepted.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- The university's institutional reputation has been recognized for best post-graduation outcomes in the state for the second consecutive year in a ranking using U.S. Department of Education Scorecard data and statewide job placement numbers 10 years after graduation. *U.S. News & World Report* ranked JMU as the No. 2 Top Public Schools-Regional Universities (South), No. 3 Regional Universities (South), No. 2 Most Innovative Schools-Regional Universities (South) and No. 4 Undergraduate Teaching-Regional Universities (South);
- Fall enrollment totals 21,239 students, 19,762 undergraduates and 1,477 graduate students;
- Professional & Continuing Education is demonstrating adaptability and flexibility through its Lifelong Learning Institute and Explore Youth Programs and is providing a model for future engagement on a broader scale;
- The Learning and Innovation Task Force is focusing on best practices, innovations and lessons learned that might be useful in a post-pandemic world and work will continue throughout the 2020-21 academic year;
- The Economic Development Council is focusing on bringing together higher education, business and governmental leaders to bolster the economic impact of partnerships;
- Timely curriculum examples include an interdisciplinary COVID-19 class that drew more than 60 students from every college and Hacking for Democracy courses related to voter participation and the 2020 census;
- The Madison Vision Series hosted four events last year and will host four events this year. The first, a virtual presentation by American Civil Liberties Union lawyer

Emerson Sykes, is scheduled for Sept. 30 and is sponsored in conjunction with Bridgewater College and Montpelier.

COVID-19 UPDATE

Jonathan Alger, President, provided a status update on the institution's approach to dealing with the pandemic based on the values of public health and the progress of our students in their academic work.

Tim Miller, Vice President for Student Affairs, shared information on the following topics: medical perspective (testing, hours at the health center, mandatory surveillance testing, quarantine/isolation process); student behavior and enforcement;

Towana Moore, Associate Vice President for Business Services, gave an update on the dining services changes (to-go options, checking LiveSafe app, adapted lines for popular dining options, delivery to isolation rooms);

Heather Coltman, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, shared that a group of "scientific experts" has been formed to provide guidance; reviewed all classroom space and equipped them for safety; training for faculty; limiting class size for in-person; adjustments to the academic calendar;

Nick Langridge, Vice President for Advancement and Andy Perrine, Associate Director for Communications and Marketing, summarized the university's approach to emergency communications.

RACIAL EQUITY UPDATE

The president opened the presentation with the rationale for the emphasis on racial equity at this time and shared what has already been happening on campus. Art Dean, Executive Director for Access and Inclusion, shared specific activities that occurred this summer and the structure and function of the Task Force on Racial Equity.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY SPECIAL SESSION/UNIVERSITY BUDGET STATUS

Charlie King, Senior Vice President for Administration and Finance, gave an update on the current special session of the General Assembly and the impact of COVID-19 on the university's budget.

It was moved by Vanessa Evans-Grevious, seconded by Buddy Gadams, to approve the Personnel Action Report.

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 2) pursuant to Section 2.2-3711-A-3 of the Code of Virginia to discuss the acquisition/disposal of real property.”

The motion was seconded by John Rothenberger 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, Vice Rector
Lynch, John
Major, Lara, Rector
Ragon, Maggie
Rothenberger, John
Warden, Kathy
Welburn, Craig

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 5:35 pm.

Lara Major, Rector

Donna L. Harper, Secretary