

Motion to Remove Names of Confederates on JMU Buildings Immediately

The James Madison University Faculty Senate

June 18, 2020

WHEREAS we observed the weeks-long global protests for racial justice in the wake of the public murder of George Floyd;

WHEREAS Jackson, Maury and Ashby Hall in the Quad names were chosen to honor insurrectionists who, in rebellion against the United States of America and in defense of the barbarous and dehumanizing institution and practice of slavery, waged an immoral civil war against their fellow citizens;

WHEREAS the buildings were named during the so-called “Lost Cause” movement, contrived by benighted Confederate sympathizers and apologists during the Jim Crow era;

WHEREAS the building names glorify the treasonous and hateful history of white supremacy;

WHEREAS the building names do nothing to achieve James Madison University’s mission to prepare “educated and enlightened citizens who lead productive and meaningful lives.”;

WHEREAS this resolution supports and affirms the Bill of Opinion written by JMU’s Student Government Association and the student-driven online petition, which both request the immediate removal of the names affixed to Jackson, Maury, and Ashby Halls;

WHEREAS in this extraordinary moment, when we are faced with what Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr called “the fierce urgency of now,” James Madison University should publicly and unequivocally reject these intolerable symbols of hatred and tyranny;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate calls for **immediately removing the names of the Confederates Jackson, Maury, and Ashby from campus buildings.**