

Resolution on Elected Faculty Representation to the JMU Presidential Search Committee June 2024

Whereas the JMU Board of Visitors (BOV) is conducting a search for the seventh president of James Madison University;

Whereas the Faculty Senate of James Madison University recognizes that the Board of Visitors' Rights and Powers (Article IX, Section A.2, Section A.2.a, and Section A.2.c) include the Board's appointment of the president as the university's chief executive officer;

Whereas Suzanne Obenshain, Rector-Elect of the Board of Visitors, wrote in correspondence to the JMU community on May 17, 2024, that "selecting the university's next president is one of the most important tasks an institution will undertake";

Whereas the Association of Governing Boards in a retreat in April recommended to the BOV that faculty be well represented on the presidential search committee;

Whereas the faculty are an important and enduring constituency of the institution, working in tandem with the president to embody the mission, vision, and values of JMU;

Whereas [JMU's stated values](#) establish that the university is dedicated to "exemplary learning experiences because they are the essence of our mission," which positions the faculty as central to this institution of higher education;

Whereas the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges lays out the following expectation in "[Presidential Search: An Overview for Board Members](#)": "The committee should...be broadly representative of an institution's major constituencies, and therefore include representatives from the faculty and, in smaller numbers, perhaps administrators, alumni, students, or members of the broader community";

Whereas the American Association of University Professors' [statement on presidential searches](#) emphasizes the importance of having faculty representation on such search committees;

Whereas faculty representation is only possible through deep, meaningful, and direct inclusion in the search;

Whereas other public institutions in Virginia had far greater faculty representation in proportion to Board of Visitors members on recent presidential search committees (e.g., Virginia Tech [45% faculty/18% BOV], UVA [23% faculty/50% BOV] and W&M [25% faculty/55% BOV]) than does JMU currently (8% faculty/67% BOV)

Whereas the [last presidential search committee](#) at JMU had 3 faculty members, 1 current BOV member, and 2 former BOV members;

Whereas the current composition of the presidential search committee includes only one [faculty member](#) not selected by the faculty;

Whereas the Faculty Senate is constituted by members who are elected by colleagues into their positions and who have selected a speaker through a vote,

Therefore, be it resolved that the Speaker of the Faculty Senate serve on the Presidential Search Committee;

Be it further resolved that, in accordance with the Association of Governing Boards' recommendation (cited above) that faculty be "well represented" on the presidential search committee, additional representatives *elected by the faculty* be added to the search committee.