

## James Madison University Staff Emeriti Association Minutes

March 25, 2025 (10:30 AM, Wine Price Conference Room 3030)

**Attendees:** Tina Updike, Donna Burch, Alma Hale-Cooper, Judy Powell, Kathy Sarver, Paula See, Louise White.

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes from the meeting on November 19, 2024, were unanimously approved. These will be posted to the SEA website.

### Business

- **Membership Update:** We have added thirteen total new members in 2025, and 2 members deceased. The total membership is 333.
- **Annual Report:** Is later this year and will be posted soon.
- **Okta Verify:** Contacting our Staff Emeriti membership after the new Okta Verify update may not be greatly impacted. After updating to Okta Verify and changing our password to 16 characters, the password will only need to be changed once a year.
- **SEA Website:** The website now has the updated photo, featuring SEA members who served at the afternoon shift of the Retirement Fair. Tina is working with HR to have a new welcome message on the website soon.
- **Madison Magazine:** A new SEA article has been submitted and it will be published in the spring/summer issue.
- **Volunteer Activity:**
  - We are continuing our adoption of The JMU Food Pantry project, and we will continue to collect checks at each SEA event. Since 2023, we have donated \$6,030 to The Pantry. Updated figures will be announced at the May 28 luncheon where VP Towana Moore will speak. Tina will contact Jeremy Hawkins from The Pantry to see if he could briefly speak just before the meal at the luncheon regarding how our donations have impacted their mission.
  - On the Student Success Tour, we learned about the very organized clothes closet at JMU at the University Career Center that is maintained for JMU students who need career and interview attire. They welcome our donations of these types of clothing, as well as shoes, belts, scarves, etc. They are happy to come out to your car to pick them up. For information, contact Michael Dondzila, Career Data and Operations Specialist: email [dondzimir@jmu.edu](mailto:dondzimir@jmu.edu); phone 540-568-7379.
- **Membership Development:**

- December 4 CrossKeys Vineyards luncheon – 41 members and 10 guests. 12 RSVP'd no, so it was a very good response.
- February 18 lunch at Ledo's – 26 members and 2 guests. 21 RSVP'd no for both the 11<sup>th</sup> and the 18<sup>th</sup>, so a good response for the “snow date.”
- March 18 Student Success Tour and lunch at Taste of Thai – 10 members and 5 guests on tour, and 18 members and 6 guests at meal. 15 RSVP'd no.
- **Spring Events:**
  - April – Lunch at Casa Gallardo Fajita Factory Mexican Restaurant in the Mall. Donna will call and check on the following dates for our group of about 25-30 people to come for lunch. Date possibilities are April 16, April 17, April 23, and April 24.
  - May 28 – SEA Luncheon with Vice President Towana Moore. This will be a plated lunch for approximately 60 attendees with a meet and greet in the lobby prior to the meal. Tina will work with Catering to plan the menu. Amanda stated that HR may be able to approve a bit more than per diem.
    - Committee members need to be there at 10:45 to help decorate and meet and greet.
- **Events for Next Year:**
  - Milla Sue may do a survey to collect info from SEA members regarding their interests and suggestions for the coming year. Ideas discussed for the survey included:
    - Willingness to pay for an event
    - Occasionally meeting on a Saturday
    - JMU tours; i.e., Art/Lisenby Gallery, Forbes Center, UREC, Carrier Library, Rose Library, Arboretum, Duke Hall Gallery, Planetarium
    - Local tours: i.e., Melrose Caverns, Wildlife Center of VA, Downtown Harrisonburg, Rockingham Park, Buc-ee's
    - Ideas and suggestions?
  - Suggestions for a tentative lineup for events in 2025-26
    - September - Luncheon
    - October - campus activity during fall break or community tour/talk
    - November – maybe skip
    - December – Holiday luncheon
    - January – skip (avoid bad weather)
    - February – luncheon

- March – campus activity during spring break or community tour/talk
- April – luncheon
- May – yearly State of the Union luncheon
- **Committee Members:** There are 3 members leaving the committee at the end of this term: Alma Hale-Cooper, Louise White, and Judy Powell. Members were asked for their suggestions and help in recruiting new committee members for a two-year commitment to serve starting in August 2025.

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, August 12, 10:30 am in Wine Price 3030. This will be the first meeting for the new members to attend.