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

Minutes of the Academic Excellence Committee

The Academic Excellence Committee met on Thursday, February 13, 2025, in the Highlands Room of the Festival Conference and Student Center at James Madison University. Nicole Palya Wood, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:07 p.m.

Present:

Bell, Dickie
Bolander, Jeff
Galati, Tom

White, Jack
Wood, Nicole Palya

Others:

Anderson, Robin, Academic Unit Head, Graduate Psychology
Apple, Kevin, Associate Dean, College of Health and Behavioral Studies
Bartley, JoLynne, Associate Director of Children and Youth Services, IIHHS
Bonham, Julie, Program Director, Occupational Therapy
Choshi, Modjadji, Associate Professor, Nursing
Cook, Caroline, Speech-Language Pathology MS program
Decker, Alyssa, Clinical and School Psychology PsyD program
Eckstein, Samantha, Psychological Sciences MA program
Kolvoord, Bob, Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
Lovell, Sharon, Dean, College of Health and Behavioral Studies
Maxwell, Paula, Associate Vice Provost for Curriculum
Plitt Donaldson, Linda, Associate Dean of CHBS and Director for IIHHS
Secrist, Julianne, Assistant Professor, Nursing

Approval of Minutes

On motion by Jeff Bolander and seconded by Tom Galati, the Academic Excellence Committee minutes of November 7, 2024, were approved.

Academic Affairs Divisional Update

Provost Bob Kolvoord began his remarks by recognizing the recent passing of Communication Sciences and Disorders faculty member Dr. Chris Clinard. The provost reported progress made on the five Academic Affairs priorities for the year. The anticipated deliverables for three of the five priorities were achieved, and work continues as planned for reform of the core curriculum and implementation of Reengineering Madison.

College of Health and Behavioral Studies

Sharon Lovell, Dean of the College of Health and Behavioral Studies, gave brief remarks then introduced three speakers to highlight different aspects of the college's initiatives. Associate Dean and Director of the Institute for Innovation in Health and Human Services, Linda Plitt Donaldson, provided an overview of the institute, its worth to

the community, and its local use of grant funding. A faculty panel described IIHHS's outreach and engagement locally and throughout the commonwealth. Robin Anderson, Graduate Psychology Academic Unit Head, highlighted the value of work-based learning in health and behavioral clinics for students and future practitioners, the community, and the commonwealth. A panel of graduate students shared their clinic experiences and the benefits of these programs. Associate Dean Kevin Apple shared the college's initiative to promote student success through a course for students facing academic suspension and its success in initial offerings.

Curriculum Proposals

Paula Maxwell, Associate Vice Provost for Curriculum, presented two curriculum proposals for board approval. A new graduate degree program, the Master of Arts in Physical and Health Education Teacher Education (PHETE), would target already licensed K-12 teachers who want to switch their content area to PHETE. There is no equivalent program in Virginia. The curriculum would add one new course to currently existing courses and would require no new funding. SCHEV is offering expedited approval for this type of program because education is a critical need area, and the degree would be effective Summer 2025.

On motion by Tom Galati and seconded by Jeff Bolander, the committee unanimously approved the new Master of Arts in Physical and Health Education Teacher Education.

The second proposal would elevate the existing major in Dance to a standalone degree and allow JMU to offer both a Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance. No new funding is required as both degrees can be offered with existing staffing and minor course adjustments to current classes. The program change would be effective in Fall 2025.

On a motion by Jeff Bolander and seconded by Jack White, the committee unanimously approved the new Bachelor of Arts in Dance and Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance.

Committee Charter Changes

The committee discussed proposed changes to their charter, most significantly the addition of research to AEC's responsibilities.

On a motion by Jeff Bolander and seconded by Tom Galati, the committee unanimously approved the proposed changes to their charter.

There being no further business, on the motion of Tom Galati and seconded by Jack White, the Academic Excellence Committee meeting adjourned at 2:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole Palya Wood, Chair

David C. Kirkpatrick, Secretary to the Board



**Board of Visitors
February 13, 2025**