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

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting February 13, 2025

The Governance Committee of the James Madison University Board of Visitors met on Thursday, February 13, 2025 in the Festival Conference and Student Center at James Madison University. Jack White, chair, called the meeting to order at 12:00 pm.

PRESENT:

Bolander, Jeff	Obenshain, Suzanne
Fiorina, Carly	Rexrode, David
James, Kay Coles	White, Jack, Chair
Kirkpatrick, David, liaison	

ALSO PRESENT:

Allen, Dirron, Associate Vice President, Student Affairs
King, Charles, President
Knight, Jack, University Legal Counsel
Miller, Tim, Vice President for Student Affairs
Orem, Chris, Executive Director, Planning, Analytics, and Institutional Research

On motion by Carly Fiorina, seconded by Kay Coles James, the committee approved the minutes of the November 7, 2024 meeting.

The committee discussed the upcoming SWOT analysis.

The committee discussed the JMU board self-evaluation process.

The committee reviewed revisions and updates to the board manual. On motion by Jeff Bolander, seconded by Suzanne Obenshain, the committee approved the following revisions to the board manual:

Content Changes

p. 5 Added

1. of Virginia (Article IX. Rights and Powers)

p. 7 Added

5.a. and professional

p. 11 Added

E. changed 7 to seven days prior to any meeting

p. 12 Delete

The board shall ensure that the meeting minutes contain all of the information required by law.

p. 14 Added

A. Executive Committee

4. Appendix B

p. 14 Added
e. added and real estate acquisitions

p. 18 Added
4. Deleted between added among the board and faculty

7.a. and administrative and professional faculty

p. 23 Added
Composition and Independence
Deleted Faculty Senate Speaker and added Vice President for Academic Affairs

p. 25 Added
Support the Department of Athletics' mission (deleted Athletic Department's) mission

p. 26
Added board of visitors (deleted BOV)

p. 27
Added board of visitors (deleted BOV)

p. 29
Composition and Independence
Deleted Administrative Affairs and added The Vice President of Administration and Finance, or their designee, is expected to attend.

p. 32
C. Brief History of JMU
Deleted: As of fall, 2019 the university's current enrollment is approximately 22,000. The university has been cited repeatedly in national surveys as one of America's finest undergraduate universities.
Added: After decades of successful growth and transformation, JMU's Carnegie classification was elevated in 2022 to R2, establishing the university as a Doctoral University with High Research Activity. That same year, JMU joined the FBS-level Sun Belt Conference in Division I athletics. JMU has become a national model for high-impact learning practices, service learning, civic engagement, and promoting access with programs such as Valley Scholars, and it was ranked as the "top college in Virginia for getting a job."

The committee discussed their review of the student handbook, finding it in harmony with the Governance Committee charter and JMU's mission.

The committee briefly discussed details for the two-day, off-site retreat on June 5-6, 2025.

With no further business, the committee adjourned at 12:59 pm.

Jack White, Chair

David C. Kirkpatrick, Secretary to the Board