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

**Minutes of the Student Affairs Committee**

The Student Affairs Committee met on Thursday, February 13, 2025, in Ballroom B of the Festival Conference and Student Center at James Madison University. Terrie Edwards, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

**Present:**

Edwards, Terrie, Chair  
Eiland, Joanie  
Obenshain, Suzanne, Rector  
Rexrode, Dave  
Thacker, Nikki

**Absent:**

James, Kay Coles

**Others:**

Brenneman, Anne, Director of University Health Center  
Clevenger, Ritter, Associate Dean of Students  
Grossman Leopard, Jen, Director of Student Life  
Lacroix, Brielle, Student Government President  
Lonett, Carson, Executive Advisor to the Vice President for Student Affairs  
Lushbaugh, Wendy, Director of Office of Student Accountability and Restorative Practices  
Mast, Gloria, Associate Dean of Students  
Miller, Tim, Vice President for Student Affairs  
Onestak, David, Director of the Counseling Center  
Orem, Chris, Executive Director of Planning, Analytics and Institutional Research  
Saylor, Chad, Associate Director of Media Relations  
Stafford, Sydney, Student Representative to the Board of Visitors  
Walther, Annie, Associate University Counsel, Assistant Attorney General

**Approval of Minutes**

On the motion of Nikki Thacker and seconded by Dave Rexrode, the minutes of November 7, 2024, were approved.

Terrie provided recognition for three groups within Student Affairs:

- NASPA-VA recognized three individuals through their state-wide awards at the end of November. Gavin Wilkerson received Outstanding Graduate Student, Dr. Jonathan Stewart received Outstanding Professional, and Dr. Tim Miller received Outstanding Contribution statewide for his leadership in the Senior Student Affairs Officers weekly meetings.
- In the recent student incident, multiple members of the Student Affairs team went above and beyond: Hollie Hall, Gloria Mast, Ritter Clevenger, Eric Nickel, and Kathleen Campbell.
- A cross-divisional team for their national award for Excellence in Assessment from the ACPA Commission for Assessment and Evaluation. Congratulations to Sarah Finney, Autumn Wild, Kate Schaefer, and Dr. Jonathan Stewart. This was a division wide effort for Student Affairs, and we thank everyone for their contributions.



**JAMES MADISON**  
UNIVERSITY.

**Board of Visitors  
February 13, 2025**

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## **Student Affairs Charter**

The Student Affairs Charter provides reference to the governance committee. Dr. Miller recognized Terrie Edwards for her thorough review and consistent commitment to the charter. Terrie further shared and detailed the changes to the charter:

- Names of Student Affairs areas to represent the current organization chart
- Reordered the responsibilities
- Added the report from Student Representative to the Board of Visitors
- Word substitution of “hear” to “receive” regarding reports

On the motion of Dave Rexrode and seconded by Joanie Eiland, the Student Affairs Charter was approved.

## **Student Affairs Update**

Dr. Miller shared the state of the students including the 200 students joining in the spring semester and their welcome programming from Orientation and Transition, spring semester Student Organization Night attendance at 2,500 students, and great work of the Career Center with their 41% engagement of the student body in the Fall semester.

Dr. Miller then provided a presentation on Residence Life Differential Housing Rates. This presentation was being simultaneously presented in Finance and Physical Development Committee. Differential Housing Rates began in 2015 at JMU. Differential Housing Rates have been a common practice for the last 30 years in higher education and are happening at other universities in the Commonwealth. The Residence Life team presented that this change is projecting to be \$2.3 million to assist in off-setting debt and with ‘end-of-life’ building concerns. JMU remains to have one of the lowest housing rates and this will continue after the new rate.

Student Body President, Brielle Lacroix, affirmed this proposal and rates by stating it is very fair based on current experiences in the halls.

Dr. Miller then shared the updated Student Affairs Strategic Plan. This plan will be in place for five years and centers the Health and Well-being dimensions from the President’s Council on Health and Well-being. Dr. Miller thanked Dr. Kristina Blyer and her team’s work on the definition and dimensions that are now the framework at the university and for student affairs. He also added that the new plan (shown in a booklet to all board members) is a simpler version than the earlier one shared. He thanked Dr. Jonathan Stewart for his work and guidance through the strategic plan process. The next step for Student Affairs will be to establish baseline measures and to determine how progress on the plan will be visualize and shared.

## **Student Government Association Report**

Brielle Lacroix shared about recent trips to Richmond. She also shared the work SGA is doing with the Annual Giving Office in preparation for IHeartJMU. She reviewed the funding process for Front End Budgeted (FEB) organizations and groups on campus, including two new FEB groups.

The SGA will now offer two new ad hoc committees. One on NARCAN Accessibility and the other on Student Wellness and Mental Health. SGA has a few events coming up including providing support to the Big Event and Earth Day.

Brielle closed her report with a recap of resources on campus, including the Student Gateway which acts as a hub for many student resources on campus.



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### **Student Representative to the Board of Visitors**

Sydney Stafford began her update with a review of recent involvement in Richmond Lobby days, Virginia Student Representative to the BOV Conference, and the SCHEV Advisory Board Meeting. At the SGA visit to Richmond, members shared experiences and opportunities for college affordability, student health, and safety with legislators.

She highlighted two resources on campus. First, she shared about Office of Disability Services (ODS) and shared a testimony from a student. She highlighted three specific areas of support ODS provides students which were exam accommodation services, notetaking, and accessible media and technology.

Second, she shared about mental health services including highlights from the Counseling Center and their assistance to students in finding a clinician, TimelyCare, and individual counseling opportunities.

### **Office of Student Accountability and Restorative Practices (OSARP)**

Dr. Wendy Lushbaugh, Director of OSARP, started the presentation with an overview of OSARP's values and how they use those values to guide their work with students. OSARP is responsible for accountability processes for: Individual, Individual Interim Suspension, Title IX Sexual Harassment Adjudication, Sexual Misconduct, and Organization Conduct.

Cover Heishman shared statistics in the case load seen in OSARP including cases by major, demographic information, violation type, and sanction. There was a drop in caseload after 2022-2023 due to fewer referrals from campus partners. In addition, OSARP began handling failure to complete sanctions in a different way. Through all cases, OSARP has a 93% or higher for "being fair" for their outcome to action through accountability.

Robby Smith shared about the use of Restorative Practices in OSARP. Restorative Practices focuses on repairing harm and coming to resolution together with those who have harmed and those who have been harmed. JMU has been doing Restorative Practices since 2011 and is seen as an expert in our field. They have been consulting with other universities, including universities in the Commonwealth. Robby provided an example of how harm was repaired in a previous restorative process with local community individuals and our students. He shared that they have used restorative practices in sexual misconduct cases. He shared a reflection from a student who had been through this process and shared that the student was more aware of their actions and how they impact others.

Robby concluded with additional educational programming from OSARP which includes:

- Values in Actions: help student identify their values, define them, and then think through their values in decision-making
- Mentor experience: one-on-one pairing of a student with a staff member with intentional conversation topics for a set number of hours
- By the Numbers: Alcohol education program

All programming in OSARP has an extensive assessment process and reporting.

### **Student Panel**

Four students represented Fraternity and Sorority Life. Board members asked them questions and students provided reflection on their experiences on campus.

Anthony Connor served as president-elect and began serving as Inter-Fraternity Council president this semester. He is most proud of the work with the campus Food Fight which was a fundraiser for the JMU Food Pantry. He described academic challenges in his organization and shared creative strategies they have been using to lift the chapter GPA.

Victoria Marotta is a social work major and shared how her experience as president taught her how to set boundaries and how to conduct a room. She shared how each chapter has their own philanthropy, and she was proud of the donation



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recently to Circle of Sisterhood, which helps impoverished locations build schools. She has been encouraging members' academic success by hosting study hours and GPA incentives.

Kofi Asare shared about his journey to be a thriving man on campus. He hosted an anxiety workshop with men where they learned how to build a flower bouquet. He shared how he has learned presentation skills and that was important to him as a first-generation student.

Jocelyn Martinez shared that she did not intend to join Greek Life but learned about it from a friend and was glad she did. She talked about how her organization has been a retention tool and enjoyed the opportunities to collaborate with Panhellenic and IFC.

Terrie thanked the student panel members and asked the audience about their personal participation in Fraternity and Sorority Life.

There being no further business, on the motion of Terrie Edwards and seconded by Nikki Thacker, the Student Affairs Committee meeting adjourned at 2:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Terrie Edwards, Chair

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David Kirkpatrick, Secretary to the Board