THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

THE VISITORS OF JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY

Volume LIII No. 2

**Minutes of the Meeting of November 19, 2021**

The Visitors of James Madison University met on Friday, November 19, 2021 in the Festival Conference and Student Center Board Room on the campus of James Madison University. Lara Major, Rector, called the meeting to order at 8:30 am.

**PRESENT:**

Evans-Grevious, Vanessa

Gadams, Frank (virtual)

Grass, Jeff

Gray-Keeling, Matthew

Herod, Maribeth

Hutchinson, Lucy

Jankowski, Maria

Tompkins Johnson, Deborah, Vice Rector

Major, Lara, Rector

Rothenberger, John

Warden, Kathy

Welburn, Craig

Williams, Xaiver, Student Representative to the Board of Visitors

Harper, Donna, Secretary

**ABSENT:**

Ragon, Maggie

ALSO PRESENT:

Alger, Jonathan, President

Coltman, Heather, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

King, Charles, Senior Vice President for Administration and Finance

Langridge, Nick, Vice President for University Advancement

Miller, Tim, Vice President for Student Affairs

Vass, Mary-Hope, Director of Communications & University Spokesperson

Larsen, Val, Speaker, Faculty Senate

Knight, Jack, University Counsel

The Rector welcomed the IMPACT participants who were attending the board meeting.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

On motion of Vanessa Evans-Grevious, seconded by Jeff Grass, the consent agenda was approved which included the minutes from the September 24, 2021 board meeting and the personnel action report.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Academic and Student Life Committee**

Lucy Hutchinson, Chair, presented the report of the Academic and Student Life Committee: (Attachment A)

* Divisional update from Academic Affairs;
* Heard a presentation on High-Impact, Experiential Learning in the Libraries;
* Report from the speaker of the Faculty Senate, Dr. Val Larsen;
* Divisional update from Student Affairs;
* Heard a presentation on Student Health and Well-Being;
* Report from the Student Representative to the Board of Visitors, Xaiver Williams; and
* Report from the Student Government Association President, Jessani Collier.

On motion of Ms. Hutchinson, seconded by Chris Falcon, the Academic and Student Life Committee report was accepted.

**Advancement Committee**

Deborah Tompkins Johnson, on behalf of Buddy Gadams, presented the report of the Advancement Committee: (Attachment B)

* Fundraising report;
* Building name recommendation;
* Heard a National University ranking presentation;
* The role of prospect identification; and
* Digital alumni engagement strategies.

On motion of Mrs. Tompkins Johnson, seconded by Vanessa Evans-Grevious, the Advancement Committee report was accepted.

**Athletics Committee**

Vanessa Evans-Grevious, Chair, presented the report of the Athletics Committee: (Attachment C)

* Athletics update on the fall sports;
* Academic update including multi-year graduation success;
* Facilities update; and
* Fund-raising update.

On motion of Mrs. Evans-Grevious, seconded by John Rothenberger, the Athletics Committee report was accepted.

There was no Audit Committee meeting.

**Ad Hoc Governance Committee**

Jeff Grass, Chair, presented the report of the Ad Hoc Governance Committee:

* Shared the background and context for the work on the Board Manual; and
* On motion from committee, approved the proposed changes to the board manual with an effective date of January 1, 2022.

On motion of Mr. Grass, seconded by Vanessa Evans-Grevious, the Ad Hoc Governance Committee report was accepted.

#### Finance and Physical Development Committee

John Rothenberger, Chair, presented the report of the Finance and Physical Development Committee: (Attachment D)

* Financial review on revenues and expenditures;
* University debt review;
* The 2021-22 government relations priorities;
* A request for proposal for bookstore services;
* Heard a report on the current status of the JMU police department;
* Heard an overview of the Emergency Management Department; and
* The chair recognized Charlie King for his contributions to the university.

On motion of Mr. Rothenberger, seconded by Vanessa Evans-Grevious, the Finance and Physical Development Committee report was accepted.

**PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

Mr. Alger presented information on the following: (Attachment E)

* Sami Nuristani, Triple Duke, was recognized for his work after graduation in the Office of the President of Afghanistan and for the work of JMU alumni, faculty and staff to coordinate his evacuation;
* JMU continues to lead in the area of civic engagement highlighting increases among campus voting, registration and yield rates, in addition to new partnerships being pursued across the state and nation;
* University partners have played a leading role in community engagement through the development of the Shenandoah Valley Collective Action Pact, which was recognized by Virginia Business for their collaboration;
* *Newsweek* named JMU as one of the top 150 schools in the country for online learning, with a ranking of 50th;
* JMU ranked #27 out of 422 colleges listed on The Princeton Review Guide to Green Colleges, which is the highest ranked university in the commonwealth;
* Ashleigh Baber was named a 2022 Rising Star by the Women Chemists Conference of the American Chemical Society; her research utilizes a home-built surface analysis chamber to run temperature programmed desorption and Auger electron spectrometry experiments;
* Numerous awards and scholarships were recognized from the Office of Fellowships and Awards;
* JMU reopened the Mineral Museum to showcase the recent gift of the Peter L. Via Mineral Collection, in addition to past gifts;
* Homecoming 2021 was an exciting time to include in-person and virtual events with great success;
* The College of Business hosted a grand reopening for the new Learning Complex and integration of Showker and Hartman Halls;
* In an update from Athletics, Football finishes the regular season tomorrow, the Atlantic Union Bank Center is an incredible experience for fans and players, JMU is excited about the future with the pending move to the Sun Belt, and an update was provided on the Knight Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics; and,
* 2021 December Commencement will take place on Dec. 18, where there will be a combined graduate and undergraduate ceremony, and Dr. Sheary Darcus Johnson will serve as commencement speaker.

**COVID-19 UPDATE**

Tim Miller, Vice President for Student Affairs, shared an update on current student numbers and testing kits available for students to take home over Thanksgiving break. Dr. Miller informed the board the University has been hosting vaccination and booster clinics. He also shared that the flu has hit the campus.

**ADMISSIONS UPDATE**

Melinda Wood, Associate Vice President for Access and Enrollment Management and Director of Admissions, shared data on applicants for the class of 2026 and the events and programs to support the recruitment process.

**JMU ENDOWMENT**

Nick Langridge, Vice President for Advancement, gave a historical perspective on the James Madison University Foundation and endowment. Warren Coleman, Executive Director for the JMU Foundation, explained how the foundation manages the funds in the endowment and how the funds are spent to support the university. Nick then shared an update on the Unleashed campaign.

**DASHBOARD UPDATE**

Brian Charette, Special Assistant to the President and Chris Orem, Director of Institutional Research, shared the updated dashboard that contains metrics associated with the strategic plan and key goals.

**RACIAL EQUITY UPDATE AND DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION**

Rudy Molina, Vice Provost, provided information on the One Virginia Plan, a partnership with Duke’s Center for Truth, Racial Healing and Transformation, the Racial Narrative Project, and an update on recommendations and curriculum related to DEI, as well as an introduction to the Early Alerts program for the Quality Enhancement Plan.

**BOARD RESOLUTION**

The Rector presented the following resolution to Charlie King:

**WHEREAS**, **Charlie King,** who has served James Madison University as senior vice president of Administration and Finance for the past 25 years, recently announced his December 2021 retirement; and

**WHEREAS,** his leadership and acumen have been instrumental in the university’s continued growth and rise in excellence and popularity; and

**WHEREAS,** during his tenure dozens of major capital projects advancing the university’s mission were successfully accomplished, including The Forbes Center for the Performing Arts, much of the East Campus, Veteran’s Memorial Park, Atlantic Union Bank Center and many others; and

**WHEREAS,** he served a critical role in running the university’s Government Relations operation working with legislators across the Commonwealth; and

**WHEREAS,** he oversaw Budget Management, Business Services, Finance, Human Resources, Information Technology, Intercollegiate Athletics and University Police; and

**WHEREAS,** JMU earned level three autonomy during his tenure – the highest level of management autonomy for public institutions of higher education in Virginia –

joining University of Virginia, Virginia Tech, William & Mary and VCU; and

**WHEREAS,** we the Board of Visitors of James Madison University acknowledge that the JMU experience has been significantly enhanced during Charlie King’s leadership as senior vice president of Administration and Finance;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Visitors of James Madison University sincerely thanks and commends **Charlie King** for his numerous accomplishments at James Madison University.

On motion from committee, approved the naming of ISAT/CS building to King Hall in honor of Charlie W. King.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, on motion of Vanessa Evans-Grevious, seconded by Lucy Hutchinson, the Board voted to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 am.

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Lara Major, Rector

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Donna L. Harper, Secretary