THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

THE VISITORS OF JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY

Volume LVII No. 4

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

The Visitors of James Madison University met on Friday, February 19, 2021 virtually through electronic means. Lara Major, Rector, called the meeting to order at 10:02 pm.

**PRESENT:**

Evans-Grevious, Vanessa

Falcon, Chris

Gadams, Buddy

Grass, Jeff

Gray, Matthew

Herod, Maribeth

Hutchinson, Lucy

Jankowski, Maria

Tompkins Johnson, Deborah, Vice Rector

Lynch, John

Major, Lara, Rector

Ragon, Maggie

Rothenberger, John

Warden, Kathy

Welburn, Craig

III Jones, Norman, Student Representative to the Board

Harper, Donna, Secretary

**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

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

Larsen, Val, Speaker, Faculty Senate

Knight, Jack, University Counsel

**CONSENT AGENDA**

On motion of Craig Welburn, seconded by Deborah Tompkins Johnson, the consent agenda was approved by roll call vote and included the minutes of the November 6, 2020 meeting and a resolution on Capital Construction Procurement.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Academic and Student Life**

Lucy Hutchinson, Chair, presented the report of the Academic and Student Life Committee. The minutes of the November 6, 2020 meeting were approved. (Attachment A)

Ms. Hutchinson reported on the following topics from the committee meeting:

1. Heard an update from Tim Miller, Vice President for Student Affairs:
2. Heard reports from Norman Jones, III, the student representative to the board and Dela Adedze, Student Government Association President;
3. Representatives from the University Career Center shared their mission to focus on the career development of the students and the employment of the graduates;
4. A panel of graduate students shared their experiences in their master and doctoral programs;
5. Heard a report from Val Larsen, speaker of the faculty senate; and
6. Mark L’Esperance, Dean and John Almarode, Executive Director for Teaching and Learning from the College of Education presented information on the proposed Lab School at JMU.

**Advancement Committee**

Buddy Gadams, Chair, presented the report of the Advancement Committee. The minutes of the November 6, 2020 meeting were approved. (Attachment B)

Mr. Gadams reported on the following topics from the committee meeting:

1. Mike Prior, Director of Athletics Annual Fund, reported on the current fundraising statistics for the Duke Club; Jeff Gilligan reported on fundraising efforts in Advancement;
2. Carrie Combs, Director of Alumni Relations and Robert Shoss, Managing Consultant for PEG, Ltd., presented information from the Alumni Attitude Survey;
3. Nick Langridge, Vice President for Advancement and Sheila Smith, Associate Vice President for Advancement Planning and Operations provided an update on the *Unleashed* campaign;
4. Gretchen Armentrout, Director of Annual Giving and Lisa Hajdasz, Assistant Director of Direct Response and Stewardship gave an update on Giving Day scheduled for March 23, 2021;
5. Chris Meyers, Director of Recruitment Marketing, gave an update on Virtual Choices and other innovative strategies for recruitment;
6. Discussion was held on the recommendation from the administration to rename three buildings. The recommendation was based on feedback from various committees and constituencies followed by review and deliberation by the President’s Cabinet. On motion by Buddy Gadams, seconded by John Lynch, the board approved by roll call vote the following:

* Rename Mountain Hall as Gabbin Hall, in honor of long-time, outstanding members of our faculty, Drs. Joanne V. & Alexander Gabbin;
* Rename Justice Studies Hall as Darcus Johnson Hall, in honor of Dr. Sheary Darcus Johnson (’70,’74Masters), our first Black student and graduate; and
* Rename Valley Hall as Harper Allen-Lee Hall, in honor of Doris Harper Allen (’19Honorary Doctorate) and Robert Walker Lee, dedicated staff members and unsung heroes in dining services and maintenance who were also active in the Harrisonburg and Rockingham County communities, respectively.

**Athletics Committee**

Vanessa Evans-Grevious, Chair, presented the report of the Athletics Committee. The minutes of the November 6, 2020 meeting were approved. (Attachment C)

Mrs. Evans-Grevious reported on the following topics from the committee meeting:

1. Jeff Bourne, Director of Athletics, provided a sports update including the impact of Covid-19 on athletics;
2. Mark Angel, Assistant Vice President for Finance, provided a summary of the recent APA Audit conducted on the athletic program;
3. Geoff Polglase, Deputy Director of Athletics, shared a summary of the judicial violations, sanctions and disciplinary actions for the 2019-20 student athletes; and
4. Cliff Wood, Senior Associate Athletics Director for Development, provided a fund-raising update.

**Audit Committee**

Maggie Ragon, Chair, presented the report of the Audit Committee. The minutes of the November 6, 2020 meeting were approved. (Attachment D)

Mrs. Ragon reported on the following topics from the committee meeting:

1. Becky Holmes, Director of Audit and Management Services, reported on the work of the University Compliance Committee;
2. Ms. Holmes presented the revised Policy 1601, Auditing Program Charter, for approval; and
3. Two audit reports were reviewed.

#### Finance and Physical Development Committee

John Rothenberger, Chair, presented the report of the Finance and Physical Development Committee. The minutes from the November 6, 2020 meeting were approved. (Attachment E)

Mr. Rothenberger reported on the following from the committee meeting:

1. Mark Angel, Assistant Vice President for Finance, reviewed the financial report;
2. Mr. Angel presented the University’s debt refinancing in response to the financial impact of Covid-19;
3. Towana Moore, Associate Vice President for Business Services, presented changes to the Capital Construction Procurement Approval Process;
4. Charlie King, Senior Vice President for Administration and Finance, shared two budget amendments that were submitted to the General Assembly; and
5. Mr. King gave an update on the status of the university budget.

On motion by John Rothenberger, seconded by Vanessa Evans-Grevious, by roll call vote, accepted all of the committee reports presented.

**PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

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

* The JMU community experienced the loss of Professor and Director of the Gandhi Center for Global Nonviolence, Terry Beitzel;
* Discussed spring enrollment and recruitment with new strategies focusing on the personal touch, and virtual CHOICES brought 1,500 in attendance;
* The update on the Graduate School included a report on the 188 spring doctoral students (21% increase), masters enrollment is 1,427 (above the high recorded in 2019), and new high of international graduate students enrolled at 57;
* A comparison in Honors College Data was provided from 2015-2020 to include the percentage of non-white students increased from 14% to 25.4%, admissions – increased yield from 34% to 47%, National Fellowships has increased and the completion rate has risen by 7.7% for incoming first-year students;
* Efforts are underway to prepare for the transition to a National Research University, new Carnegie classification and a key focus will be for JMU to build on its identity and strengths;
* An update from the Office of Research & Scholarship was given in that the current year (FY21) funding is 7% ahead over the same period in FY20;
* Kurt Paterson, professor of Engineering, has been named a Jefferson Science Fellow and will be placed at the U.S. State Department’s Office of Management Strategy and Solutions as a senior sustainability advisor;
* John Almarode, College of Education, was honored with the 2021 Outstanding Faculty Award by the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia and is one of 12 recipients statewide;
* Representing the College of Science and Mathematics, Heather Griscom, was named with the Cinquegrana Award;
* An update on the 2020-21 Fulbright Student Scholarships was provided, with 31 semi-finalists and JMU is #3 among Master’s institutions nationally;
* International collaborations were recently conducted with Covid lessons learned being exchanged with presidents of universities in Albania; and the JMU Supply Chain Club sent medical equipment and supplies to African hospitals dealing with the Ebola Crisis;
* Other recent recognitions are for Steven Davic, junior majoring in anthropology and intelligence analysis, being named a Newman Civic Fellow and Eric Nickel, director of University Recreation, being given the Honor Award by the National Intramural and Recreational Sports Association;
* An update on expanded technology use was provided in how JMU is incorporating lessons learned from the pandemic, including the innovative use of technology;
* JMU Athletics will be hosting the CAA Men’s basketball tournament this March, all sports begin in the next month and football begins tomorrow;
* Student Affairs DEI update includes the hire of Dr. Brent Lewis, who shares goals to elevate the essential work of the Center for Multicultural Student Services, Sexual Orientation Gender Identity and Expression and the Office of Disability Services; and
* The next Madison Vision Series event will be presented virtually on Feb. 24 from 7-8:30 p.m. with audience Q&A to follow. This will feature five Black JMU Alumni to discuss the ways JMU has prepared them for future success.

**UNIVERSITY BUDGET AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY UPDATE**

Charlie King, Senior Vice President for Administration and Finance shared information on the impact of Covid-19 on the institution’s budget and provided an update on the budget and legislative activity of the General Assembly. (Attachment G)

**COVID-19 UPDATE**

Tim Miller, Vice President for Student Affairs; Heather Coltman, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs; and Nick Langridge, Vice President for Advancement shared updates on student life, academics, and communicationwith respect to our response and support related to Covid-19.

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

Rudy Molina, Vice Provost for Student Academic Success, shared information on the recommendation process for the task force and gave an update on the progress of the task force.

(Attachment H)

**PERSONNEL REPORT**

On motion by John Rothenberger , seconded by Jeff Grass, approved by roll call vote, the personnel action report.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, on motion of Deborah Tompkins Johnson, seconded by Maria Jankowski, the Board adjourned at 12:55 pm.

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Lara Major, Rector

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Donna L. Harper, Secretary