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

Volume LX No. 6

**Minutes of the Meeting of April 19, 2024**

The Visitors of James Madison University met on Friday, April 19, 2024 in the Festival Conference and Student Center Board Room on the campus of James Madison University. Maribeth Herod, Rector, called the meeting to order at 8:30 am.

**PRESENT:**

Bell, Dickie	Major, Lara
Bolander, Jeff	Obenshain, Suzanne
Edwards, Terri	Rothenberger, John
Falcon, Chris, Vice Rector	Smith, Steve
Herod, Maribeth, Rector	Stoltzfus, Michael
James, Kay Coles	White, Jack
Lynch, John	Wood, Nicole Palya

Cannella, Abby Student Representative to the Board, 2023-24  
Harper, Donna, Secretary

**ABSENT:**

Fiorina, Carly

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Alger, Jonathan, President  
Carter-Hoyt, Malika, Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion  
Coltman, Heather, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs  
Langridge, Nick, Vice President for University Advancement  
Miller, Tim, Vice President for Student Affairs  
Moore, Towana, Vice President for Administration and Finance  
Tongen, Anthony, Vice President for Research, Economic Development, and Innovation

Vass, Mary-Hope, Executive Director of Communications  
Ott-Walter, Kathy, Speaker, Faculty Senate  
Knight, Jack, University Counsel

The Rector recognized the outgoing Student Government Association President, Nate Hazen and welcomed Brielle LaCroix, the new SGA president. The Rector recognized the outgoing Student Representative to the Board of Visitors, Abby Canella and welcomed Sydney Stafford . The Rector recognized the Faculty Senate representative, Kathy Ott Walter and thanked all of them for their service to the university.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

On motion of Lara Major, seconded by Chris Falcon, the Consent Agenda was approved which included the minutes of the February 16, 2024 board meeting and the Public Comment Meeting held on April 3, 2024.

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## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Academic Excellence

Lara Major, Chair, presented the report of the Academic Excellence Committee. The minutes of the February 15, 2024 meeting were approved. (Attachment A)

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

- 1) Divisional update from the Provost, Heather Coltman;
- 2) Area Spotlight on the Graduate School;
- 3) Curriculum updates from Paula Maxwell, Associate Vice Provost for curriculum;
  - a. On motion from committee, approved the discontinuance of the Bachelor of Science in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL).
- 4) Faculty Handbook 2024-25 Updates;
  - a. On motion from committee, approved the proposed changes to the Faculty Handbook.
- 5) Report from the Faculty Senate Speaker, Kathy Ott Walter; and
- 6) Topics of Interest were shared to consider holding one joint meeting with the Student Affairs Committee.

On motion of Ms. Major, seconded by Chris Falcon, the report of the Academic Excellence Committee was accepted.

### Advancement and Engagement Committee

Michael Stoltzfus, Chair, presented the report of the Advancement and Engagement Committee. The minutes of the February 15, 2024 meeting were approved. (Attachment B)

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

- 1) Fundraising Report from the Duke Club Annual Fund and Advancement;
- 2) Vice President Update from Nick Langridge;
- 3) Giving Day Wrap-Up report;
- 4) Carrier Library Renovation and Expansion from Bethany Nowvickie, Dean of Libraries and Sheila Smith and Jeff Gilligan on fundraising efforts; and
- 5) Enrollment Marketing update.

On motion of Mr. Stoltzfus, seconded by Nicole Palya Wood, the Advancement and Engagement report was accepted.

### Athletics Committee

John Lynch, Chair, presented the report of the Athletics Committee. The minutes of the February 15, 2024 meeting were approved. (Attachment C)

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

- 1) Sports Update;
- 2) Title IX Participation Report;
- 3) Name, Image, Likeness (NIL) Update;
- 4) Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) Update; and
- 5) Development Update.

On motion of Mr. Lynch, seconded by Steve Smith, the Athletics report was accepted.

### Audit, Risk and Compliance Committee

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Chris Falcon, Chair, presented the report of the Audit, Risk and Compliance Committee. The minutes of the February 15, 2024 meeting were approved. (Attachment D)

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

- 1) JMU Financial Audit – the preliminary results were shared by Megan Richard, Auditor of Public Accounts;
- 2) WMRA Financial Review – Matt Bingay, WRMA Station Manager, shared the PB Mares, CPA unmodified opinion on the stations’ finances;
- 3) Students from ACTG 677, Advanced Assurance and Analysis and their instructor, Nicole Wright, Associate Professor of Accounting, shared the analysis of their project on business continuity planning; and
- 4) Becky Holmes, Director of Audit and Management Services, presented the draft 2024-25 audit plan and reviewed mandatory disclosures.

On motion of Mr. Falcon, seconded by Suzanne Obenshain, the Audit, Risk and Compliance report was accepted.

### **Finance and Physical Development Committee**

John Rothenberger, Chair, presented the report of the Finance and Physical Development Committee. The minutes from the February 15, 2024 meeting were approved. (Attachment E)

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

- 1) Financial Review;
- 2) Audit Review for 2022-23 with an unmodified opinion on the financial statements;
- 3) General Assembly Update from Caitlyn Reed, Assistant Vice President for State Government Relations;
- 4) 2024-25 Tuition and Fees were presented by Towana Moore, Vice President for Administration and Finance; and
- 5) 2024-25 Proposed Budget was presented by Towana Moore, Vice President for Administration and Finance.

On motion of Mr. Rothenberger, seconded by Terrie Edwards, the Finance and Physical Development report was accepted.

### **Governance Committee**

Jack White, Chair, presented the report of the Governance Committee. The minutes of the February 15, 2024 meeting were approved. (Attachment F)

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

- 1) 2025 Board Retreat – June 5-6, 2025; and
- 2) The Board Manual will be reviewed and updated as appropriate for consideration at the September meeting.

On motion of Mr. White, seconded by Chris Falcon, the Governance report was accepted.

### **Student Life Affairs Committee**

Terrie Edwards, Chair, presented the report of the Education and Student Life Committee. The minutes from the February 15, 2024 meeting were approved. (Attachment G)

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

- 1) Student Affairs Update from Tim Miller, Vice President for Student Affairs;
- 2) Student Affairs Finance and Assessment Efficiencies from Jonathan Stewart, Director of Finance, IT, and Assessment;
- 3) Student Affairs Communication and Marketing report from Carson Lonett, Executive Advisor to the Vice President and Angela Ritchie, Associate Director for Communications and Marketing;
- 4) Student Government Report from Nate Hazen, President; and
- 5) Student Representative to the Board of Visitors Report from Abby Canella.

On motion of Ms. Edwards, seconded by Michael Stoltzfus, the Student Affairs report was accepted.

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

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

- Introductions of Matt Roan, director of athletics; Preston Spradlin, men's basketball coach; and Bob Chesney, football coach;
- The Career Fair will move from Festival Ballroom to AUBC due to an increase of 110.5% from 2021-2023. The total for all career fair attendance from 2023-2024 was 6,150, with 20.6% of the student population attending all career fairs in 2023;
- 75 students conducted sustained service with community partners using Federal Work Study or Madison Community Scholar funds. Those students provided service with 55 unique community partners and completed 9,901 hours with an average of 131 hours per student;
- JMU has partnered through Dr. Ken Rutherford, Fulbright Scholar with the University of Foreign Languages –Hue University (HUFLIS) in Spring 2024. The partnership creates new relationships and collaboration between JMU and HUFLIS, as well as Vietnam and the United States;
- The State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) formally approved the Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) degree program in Education, effective Spring 2025. The proposed program will require 60 credit hours, be delivered in a hybrid format and will not require additional state resources;
- The FY24 Appropriations Bill included a \$1 million congressionally directed spending award to JMU;
- The Early Healthcare Workforce Pipeline Development Project (PDP) is a partnership between JMU's AAAD, CHBS, Virginia public schools and medical districts, and African American communities. The PDP will offer community-based, experiential solutions to address disparities in representation in the profession and in health outcomes;
- The JMU Brass Band finished in first place in the Champions Section of the North American Brass Band Association Championships (NABBA). Many of their competitors included university faculty talent. The Massanutten Brass Band placed first in the second section of the competition;
- The JMU Speech Team finished 16th in the nation at the American Forensic Association's National Speech Tournament at the University of Wisconsin–Eau Claire. The 16<sup>th</sup> place finish marked their second highest placement since 2000 and their first time placing in the top 20 since 2011. For the first time ever, JMU students were named to the 16-person 2024 All-American Team, Lexie Burns and Arina Drovetskaya;
- In April, several Latino students from JMU and Harrisonburg High School visited the White House to screen "The Long Game" film, accompanied by CAL Assistant Dean, Karina Kline-Gabel. Students

met the cast and participated in a discussion at the White House event organized by Sol Ortega, the White House engagement senior advisor for public engagement;

- On March 20<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Richard Mitchell, commissioner of the Virginia Department for Blind and Vision Impaired (DBVI), was the keynote speaker at the JMU Diversity Conference highlighting access and inclusion. Appointed by Governor Youngkin, Dr. Mitchell emphasized the importance of tenacity and adaptability while encouraging the audience to partner with individuals who have disabilities;
- On April 9, Virginia Secretary of Education Aimee Guidera visited JMU for a conversation on bridging political divides and the importance of civic education. This conversation, which included audience Q&A, was facilitated by President Alger and Democracy Fellow Valeria Lopez-Postigo;
- Chief of Staff David Kirkpatrick joined a small group of higher ed leaders at Georgetown University to discuss national efforts at improving free speech and bridging divides on college campuses;
- The Madison Center celebrated Civics Education Week with a panel on equipping K-12 students as civic leaders, featuring HCPS board chair, RCPS and HCPS teachers, and the Director of Education from the Morven Park Center for Civic Impact;
- President Alger spoke at the Advancing Campus Pluralism conference in D.C. on intellectual diversity and JMU's national leadership on these themes.

The Rector thanked the search committee for the Athletic Director for their work in finding the right person to replace Jeff Bourne.

**AI TASK FORCE**

Robin Bryan, Associate Vice President for IT/CIO; David Kirkpatrick, Chief of Staff; Bob Kolvoord, Dean of the College of Integrated Science and Technology; and Bethany Nowviskie, Dean of the Libraries presented the findings of the AI Task Force and their recommendations. (Attachment I)

**CENTER FOR GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT**

Jiangyuan Zhou, Executive Director for the Center provided an overview of the role and programs of the Center for Global Engagement. Griffin Hullinger and Tingzhe Jack Zhao, international students, shared their experiences at JMU. (Attachment J)

**2024-25 PROPOSED TUITION AND FEES**

Towana Moore, Vice President for Administration and Finance, presented the proposed tuition and fees. She explained the considerations that impact the proposal. On motion from John Rothenberger, seconded by Nicole Palya Wood, the board approved the following: (Attachment K)

<b>VIRGINIA STUDENT</b>	
<b>Tuition &amp; Fees</b>	<b>8,150</b>
<b>Comprehensive Fee</b>	<b>5,816</b>
<b>TOTAL COMMUTER COSTS</b>	<b>\$ 13,966</b>
<b>Room &amp; Board</b>	<b>12,540</b>
<b>TOTAL ON-CAMPUS COSTS</b>	<b>\$ 26,506</b>

<b>NON-VIRGINIA STUDENT</b>	
<b>Tuition &amp; Fees</b>	<b>25,496</b>
<b>Comprehensive Fee</b>	<b>5,816</b>
<b>TOTAL COMMUTER COSTS</b>	<b>\$ 31,312</b>
<b>Room &amp; Board</b>	<b>12,540</b>
<b>TOTAL ON-CAMPUS COSTS</b>	<b>\$ 43,852</b>

<b>GRADUATE (Per Credit Hour)</b>	
<b>Virginia</b>	<b>\$ 561</b>
<b>Non-Virginia</b>	<b>\$ 1,291</b>

### Summer School 2025

<b>Tuition and Education &amp; General Fees (Per Credit Hour)</b>	
Virginia Undergraduate	\$420
Non-Virginia Undergraduate	\$1,000
Virginia Graduate	\$489
Non-Virginia Graduate	\$1,134
<b>Student Services Fee (Per Credit Hour)</b>	
Virginia Undergraduate	\$28
Non-Virginia Undergraduate	\$28
Virginia Graduate	\$28
Non-Virginia Graduate	\$28
<b>Room &amp; Board (Per Week)</b>	
Room	\$119
Board - 19 Meals No Dining Dollars	\$146

### 2024-25 PROPOSED BUDGET

Towana Moore, Vice President for Administration and Finance, presented the proposed 2024-25 budget. She explained the mandates and costs that must be taken into consideration. On motion from John Rothenberger, seconded by John Lynch, the board approved the following budget: (Attachment L)

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**2024-25 Budget Summary (Millions)**

Education & General		423.0
Auxiliary Enterprises		258.6
<u>Financial Aid</u>		<u>35.1</u>
E&G, F/A & Auxiliary	\$	716.7
Sponsored Programs	\$	<u>58.3</u>
<b>Total Operating*</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b><u><u>775.0</u></u></b>

\* Excludes Equipment Trust Fund

### INTERIM PRESIDENT

The Rector requested characteristics/qualities for consideration for the interim president from various constituencies. The Board reviewed and discussed those. On motion by Chris Falcon, seconded by Lara Major, the board approved the appointment of Charles King as Interim President to serve from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025 or until a new president is duly hired and in place.

### ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Lara Major, Chair of the Nominating Committee, shared the slate of officers for 2024-26. On motion from committee, the board approved the following slate with an abstention by Chris Falcon:

Rector-Suzanne Obenshain  
 Vice Rector-Terrie Edwards  
 Secretary-David Kirkpatrick

Maribeth Herod, Rector, then shared the following resolutions and presented the resolutions to the respective individuals:

WHEREAS, Jeffrey T. Bourne served faithfully and with great distinction as Athletics Director of James Madison University for the past 25 years, a run that put JMU on the national map; and  
 WHEREAS, AD Bourne led JMU to 3 NCAA National Championships, 77 Conference Team Championships, 60 Conference Regular Season Titles, 151 Teams Represented in the NCAA Postseason Competition, 181 All-Americans, 83 Conference Coaches of the Year, 15 Academic All-Americans and consistently the highest winning percentage across all sports in Virginia; and  
 WHEREAS, Bourne wisely navigated the turbulent waters of intercollegiate athletics during times of great uncertainty, successfully landing JMU at the Sun Belt Conference where success moving from FCS to FBS was immediate and unprecedented; and  
 WHEREAS, Bourne never took his eyes off the university's mission to prepare students to become educated and enlightened citizens, with JMU student athletes graduating at high rates and winning conference academic distinctions; and  
 WHEREAS, JMU athletic facilities blossomed during Bourne's tenure into world-class spaces for competition and top fan experiences that are the envy of programs across the country; and  
 WHEREAS, Bourne cultivated a culture of success aligned with care for the individual embedded in every aspect of the program, allowing JMU to succeed consistently despite turnover among coaches and student athletes, which will be his greatest legacy.  
 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Visitors of James Madison University, collectively and individually, express deepest thanks to Jeffrey T. Bourne for his loyal service to James Madison

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University and especially for his service as Athletic Director, and the Visitors further extend their best wishes to Mr. Bourne and hope for happiness in all he undertakes in the future.

WHEREAS, Donna L. Harper ('77, '81M, '86Ed.S.) served faithfully and with great distinction in countless positions at James Madison University for the past 47 years, most recently as the Vice President of Access and Enrollment and Secretary to the Board of Visitors; and

WHEREAS, Harper epitomized and proliferated the practice of challenging yet supporting students in her many roles in the Division of Student Affairs, which has become a foundation of JMU's distinct culture; and

WHEREAS, Harper helped lead the effort to move Sororities and Fraternities onto Greek Row, and was instrumental in building the policies and procedures foundational to Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life at JMU; and

WHEREAS, Harper successfully led the Health Center during an era of change when the importance of wellness came into clearer focus, transforming the unit from an infirmary to one offering a multitude of services improving the lives of the JMU student body; and

WHEREAS, Then President Linwood H. Rose, recognizing Harper's many talents, selected her to become his Executive Assistant and Secretary of the Board of Visitors; and

WHEREAS, Harper became Vice President of Access and Enrollment leading with distinction the Offices of Financial Aid, University Events and Admissions, most recently during a time when applications to JMU surged; and

WHEREAS, Harper broadened access to JMU through her leadership oversight of initiatives including Professors in Residence, Centennial Scholars, Valley Scholars and the new First-Generation Student Center, now named the Reddix Center; and

WHEREAS, a most ardent fan of JMU Athletics, Harper enthusiastically supported teams with her near ubiquitous attendance.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Visitors of James Madison University, collectively and individually, express deepest thanks to Donna L. Harper for her loyal service to James Madison University and especially for her service as Vice President of Access and Enrollment and Secretary of the Board of Visitors, and the Visitors further extend their best wishes to Ms. Harper and hope for happiness in all she undertakes in the future.

WHEREAS, Jonathan R. Alger served faithfully and with great distinction as sixth President of James Madison University for the past 12 years, an era of great flourishing at JMU; and

WHEREAS, President Alger thoughtfully and inclusively developed and executed The Madison Plan, realizing the strategic plan's vision to become a national model of the engaged university; and

WHEREAS, hundreds of local middle and high school students who might not otherwise have imagined attending college received the opportunity through the Valley Scholars program established by President Alger shortly after his arrival at JMU; and

WHEREAS, President Alger elevated and consolidated JMU's national reputation by sitting on numerous national higher education boards, committees and panels, and as an recognized leader in civic education and engagement, more solidly connected JMU's culture to the legacy of James Madison; and

WHEREAS, the Carnegie Commission on Higher Education changed JMU's classification from Master's level to Doctoral/High Research during his tenure; and

WHEREAS, JMU Intercollegiate Athletics joined the Sun Belt Conference and enjoyed unprecedented success on fields and in arenas of competition and academically; and



WHEREAS, Unleashed: The Campaign for James Madison University succeeded stunningly, raising a quarter-billion dollars from nearly 64,000 investors; and

WHEREAS, applications to JMU rose nearly 80 percent during the last three years at a time when many institutions are experiencing declines as student-aged populations decrease; and

WHEREAS, Mary Ann Alger served the institution faithfully in numerous roles including as a co-founder of Women for Madison, board member for the JMU Gilliam Center for Entrepreneurship and on several community organization boards.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Visitors of James Madison University, collectively and individually, express deepest thanks to Jonathan R. Alger for his loyal service to James Madison University and especially for his service as President, and the Visitors further extend their best wishes to Mr. and Mrs. Alger and hope for success and happiness in all their future undertakings.

### **RECOGNITION OF BOARD MEMBERS**

Jon Alger, President, recognized the board members that were completing their respective terms and presented them with a gift: Chris Falcon, John Lynch, John Rothenberger, Lara Major and Maribeth Herod.

Rector Herod then called for the board to move into Closed Session. Chris Falcon made the following motion:

“Pursuant to Section 2.2-3711.A.1 of the Code of Virginia, I move we go into closed session to discuss personnel matters involving promotions, performance, retirements, hiring, resignations, salary adjustments, and status changes of faculty members, university administrators and appointees; 2) pursuant to Section 2.2-3711.A.8 to consult with legal counsel for the provision of legal advice by such counsel; and 3) pursuant to Section 2.2-3711A.9 for discussion and consideration of matters relating to gifts, bequests and fund-raising activities.”

The motion was seconded by John Rothenberger and the Board moved into closed session. Following the closed session, Ms. Herod then stated the following:

**During the closed session, the board discussed only matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements and only those types of matters identified in the motion for the closed session.**

**RECORDED VOTE: the following is an affirmative recorded, member by member vote:**

Bell, Dickie	Major, Lara
Bolander, Jeff	Obenshain, Suzanne
Edwards, Terrie	Rothenberger, John
Falcon, Chris, Vice Rector	Smith, Steve
Herod, Maribeth, Rector	Stoltzfus, Michael
James, Kay Coles	White, Jack
Lynch, John	Wood, Nicole Palya

Ms. Herod then asked if there were any motions to come forward.

On motion from Suzanne Obenshain, seconded by Nicole Palya Wood, approved the Personnel Action Report.

On motion from the Advancement Committee the board approved the following naming opportunities: East Campus Drive be renamed Jeff Bourne Way in honor of Director of Athletics Jeffrey T. Bourne; the Greek Row pedestrian lane be named Donna Harper Lane in honor of Vice President for Enrollment Management Donna Harper; Spotswood Hall be renamed, upon its renovation and reopening as a civic learning community and the home for the Madison Center for Civic Engagement, as Alger Hall, in honor of President Jonathan R. Alger.

The board then recessed at Noon. The board reconvened at 1:00 pm to discuss the presidential search.

The Rector gave an overview of the topics for the meeting to include learning the best practices of presidential searches, understanding how the previous JMU presidential search was conducted, and the potential composition of the search committee.

Rod McDavis, from AGB Search, provided considerations for conducting a positive search.

Nick Langridge, Vice President for Advancement, shared the process used to select the last president.

Maribeth then shared the search process that George Mason University and Radford University used for their respective presidential search processes.

The board members then shared their recommendations for the constituencies to potentially be represented on the search committee for the new president with 12-15 members on the committee.

The Rector announced that Suzanne Obenshain, Jonathan Alger, Charlie King, Donna Harper and the Rector would meet to develop the search committee.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, on motion of Chris Falcon, seconded by John Rothenberger, the Board voted to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 pm.

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Maribeth Herod, Rector

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Donna L. Harper, Secretary