

Employee Advisory Committee | James Madison University

Moody Conference Room
March 6, 2019 1:00 – 3:00pm

MINUTES

Tisha McCoy- Ntiamoah, Wesley Howdysshell, Matt Lovesky, Kathleen Sensabaugh, Donna Crumpton, Susan Dean, Shelley Newman, Donna Marie McMillan, Rodney Lam, Shea Tusing, Gretchen Armentrout, Jennifer Lang-Rigal, Shelley Newman

Presenters:

- Jennifer Hart Barb – EAD Planning
 - Event is 9:00AM-3:30PM
 - Band of Faculty/Staff members will perform
 - Senior Management will do a welcome video
 - Food Drive in collaboration with Admin & Finance Division, collection will begin on April 15th
 - Evening Grafton Movie will be available for evening campus staff
 - Need Volunteers
- Dr. Tim Miller – Paul Jennings naming discussion
 - Provided overview of Name suggestion process
 - JMU will be working closely with the family on how to tell Paul Jennings story within the residence hall
 - Answered questions submitted by EAD

Questions posed to Dr. Miller:

- Can you share more about the intentions behind the naming? What is the impact JMU is hoping to have by naming the building after one of JM's slaves?
- In what ways will the university ensure that the historical context of Mr. Jennings' legacy is not lost on the JMU community? Are there plans that you can share regarding how his story will be told – in the building and throughout campus – and integrated into the university's story?
- Can you share more about the selection of this particular building? Feedback from EAC members expressed some concern that this building is not more central to campus and is not likely to be on the Admissions walking tours, thus not integrated into the passed down stories or culture that students share.
- Is there a significance to the timing of naming the building? It seems that the time from ideation to BOV has been swift, and the opportunity to gather feedback has been limited.
- In reading the proposal, it is clear that the proposal was shared with many constituent groups. However, it does not appear that feedback from alumni, specifically the Black Alumni Chapter, was included. Is there a reason their feedback was not included?
- Is there any possibility that the building could/would be renamed if a donor expressed interest in the future? Is the naming in perpetuity? The concern here is that a donor could come along and express interest in naming the building, and where that would leave Paul Jennings' name and legacy. Another point that surfaced is that Taylor Hall is apparently named for an African-American, though this is not widely known in the JMU community. Additionally, with the evolution of Madison Union, the Taylor Hall name has been lost/eliminated. Is it possible that this could also happen to the new residence hall years or decades in the future?

OUR MISSION:

As an advisory committee reporting to the President of James Madison University, the Employee Advisory Committee fosters open, honest and productive communication between employees and the university administration with an emphasis on matters of concern to all employees. The EAC fulfills its mission by assuming additional responsibility for the following activities:

- facilitating staff employee participation on University Committees and Commissions through publicizing University Commission & Committee Nominations,
- sponsoring the annual JM-U Appreciation celebration,
- maintaining the EAC website to communicate the committee's activities with the campus community.

Old Business:

- Mar. 6th meeting minutes Approved

New Business:

- Conference call with GMU Staff Senate Chair
 - Tisha and Kathleen will be on the call
 - Requested questions from EAC regarding GMU's Staff senate format
- Giving Day Mar. 21st
 - 38 Funds available online
 - Goal is 6,000 gifts
 - New this year is: Hourly Challenges

EAC Liaison Updates - UPC, UPT, CAC, Faculty Senate, EAD

- Compensation Advisory Council (CAC) – Chair: Rick Larson
 - Rick will be presenting at our May 1st meeting
- University Planning Team – Chair: Brian Charette
 - No Update
- Faculty Senate Updates
 - Motion to Recommend JMU Expand Child Care Facilities on Campus

Other/Announcements:

- Spread the word Employee Appreciation Day – Thursday, May 9, 2019 (2020: Thursday, May 14)
- Speakers scheduled for Spring 2019
 - Jeff Bourne – April 3, 2019
 - Rick Larson – May 1, 2019

Next Meetings: 2019 - April 3, May 1, late May luncheon with Pres. Alger (TBD)

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