

Motion to Enhance Student Diversity

Faculty Senate of James Madison University

WHEREAS the James Madison University community has made diversity and inclusivity among its most important values, and

WHEREAS the JMU Faculty Senate wishes to encourage the university to further support qualified marginalized and underrepresented communities among the student body, and

WHEREAS need-based scholarships can be pivotal to encourage underrepresented students' applications for admission and their successful completion of degree programs at JMU, thus enhancing the diversity of the student body; and

WHEREAS bills pending in the Virginia General Assembly exempt from out-of-state tuition students who graduate from public or private high schools in the Commonwealth of Virginia, regardless of their citizenship or immigration status; and

WHEREAS Virginia high school graduates who are not citizens typically add to the linguistic and cultural diversity of the JMU student body; and

WHEREAS these students often come from low income families but are, nevertheless, ineligible to receive federal or state money appropriated to support low income students

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate recommends JMU senior administrators encourage the JMU Foundation to allocate more resources towards needs-based scholarships that benefit non-citizen graduates of Virginia high schools, as indicated in the following statement:

James Madison University is a community dedicated to diversity and inclusivity. We, the Faculty Senate, believe that needs-based scholarships are critically important for many prospective students in underrepresented groups and, particularly, for non-citizen graduates of Virginia high schools who are not eligible for federal or state student aid. Therefore, in order to enhance the diversity of the student body, we encourage the JMU Foundation to commit ~~more~~ resources towards needs-based scholarships for these non-citizen students.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate donates \$3,000 to the James Madison University Foundation with the request that it be used to provide needs-based scholarships to non-citizen graduates of Virginia high schools who are ineligible for federal or state student aid.