

Motion to Require Diversity and Inclusivity Statement on Syllabi

The James Madison University Faculty Senate

March 31, 2022

WHEREAS in 2019, the Faculty Senate passed a motion to recommend a Diversity and Inclusivity Statement for faculty members to add to their syllabi;

WHEREAS over the past years, members of the JMU community have recognized the need for racial equity improvements to be infused into every aspect of our university;

WHEREAS as a public higher education institution, JMU can ensure students have access to learn in a diverse, equitable, and inclusive environment so that they help actualize the mission and vision of their university;

WHEREAS our endeavor to build a more diverse and inclusive environment should begin in the classroom, as this is where students engage most earnestly as members of the JMU community;

WHEREAS the 2019 statement passed by the Faculty Senate currently serves only as an optional recommendation for faculty to include in their syllabi;

WHEREAS it is time to take that measure a step further and require a statement in every faculty member's syllabus because this move will help the university in the pursuit of its vision "to be the national model for the engaged university: engaged with ideas and with the world";

WHEREAS requiring a statement to be included in all syllabi should help students understand the university's commitment to racial equity, which will ultimately contribute to goal of ensuring that the university cultivates a campus climate that is inclusive, equitable, and accessible;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate recommends that JMU faculty add the following statement to their syllabi:

James Madison University is a community dedicated to diversity and inclusivity. We invite you to share anything with us that might help create a more inclusive and welcoming learning environment.

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate recommends this statement be added to the syllabus website at <http://www.jmu.edu/syllabus/syllabus-requirements.shtml>