

**Document Title**

James Madison University Annual Executive Summary  
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**Author**

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**Executive Summary**

James Madison University was established in 1908 as the State Normal and Industrial School for Women at Harrisonburg and became James Madison University in 1977. The Board of Visitors was established in 1964 and currently has fifteen members who serve on the board. Mr. Jonathan R. Alger serves as the sixth president of the university. During 2020, the Board of Visitors held six meetings: February 7, April 24, May 15, July 7, September 18, and November 6. The board also held a public comment session regarding the proposed tuition and fees on April 28, 2020.

The Board has six committees that address key functions within the university: Academics and Student Life Committee, Advancement Committee, Athletic Committee, Audit Committee, Executive Committee and Finance and Physical Development Committee. All of these committees, with the exception of the Executive Committee, meet during the regular scheduled board meeting day. The committees hear reports from various staff regarding current issues, new initiatives, and compliance with requirements and/or regulations.

At their regular board meetings the board heard reports during their committee meetings and the full board meeting on the College of Education; goals and outcomes of University Recreation; heard from panels of students regarding their experience at JMU; toured the new mineral collection donated to the university; a summary of judicial violations, sanctions and disciplinary actions incurred by student athletes; a report from the University Compliance Committee; a presentation on Card Services; a presentation on the proposed strategic plan for 2020-25; information on the geographic science major; the rationale for the gift acceptance policy; recognized outgoing board members; on historical data on the diversity of faculty and students; heard from panels of faculty on their experience as professors; heard information on the emergency communications strategy; the changes made in recruitment marketing due to the pandemic; a summary of the 2019-20 Strategic Plan Accountability Measures in athletics; the relief for athletes due to the cancellation of sports; reviewed the 2019-20 financial report, the write-offs report, and the 2020 Workforce Planning and Development Report; an update on the university's capital facilities program; a racial equity update; on the Stop the Spread helpline; an update on the NCAA legislation; security measures for IT services; and access and enrollment strategies.

They also heard regular reports on fundraising activities for both athletics and the university; campaign updates; recognized post-season successes of athletic teams and coaches; general assembly updates; and updates on the university's plans and implementation related to the Covid-19 pandemic;

In addition, at each board meeting the President provides an update on events, accomplishments, trends and issues and significant recognitions.

The board approved banking resolutions; the emergency operations plan; the 2020-21 tuition and fees; the 2020-21 budget; the 2020-25 Strategic Plan; the graduate certificate in teacher leadership; the renaming of the Office of Professional and Continuing Education to the School of Professional and Continuing Education; easements; the removal of names for Jackson Hall, Ashby Hall and Maury Halls and authorized the university to provide temporary names; and a bond restructuring resolution.

The Rector met with President Alger for the annual evaluation and then shared the evaluation with the full board. The board also conducted a self-evaluation.