

**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 2021 the Board of Visitors held five meetings: February 18-19; April 15-16; June 24-25 (retreat); September 23-24; and November 18-19. This was the first year the board refigured the committees and full board schedule to meet over two days. In addition the Executive Committee met four times on March 11; May 19; September 9 and October 29. In addition, an Ad Hoc Governance Committee was established by the Rector to review the committee structure and charters.

The board also held a public comment session regarding the proposed tuition and fees on March 30, 2021.

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 career development strategies and success; the proposed lab school; student life; student affairs diversity, equity and inclusion; faculty hiring update; high-impact, experiential learning in the libraries; student health and well-being; campus history and renaming recommendations; alumni attitude survey; giving day; recruitment marketing; amethyst circle; key goal updates; national university status; prospect identification; digital alumni engagement strategies; the Warden Challenge; Strategic Plan Accountability Measures report (Athletics); Workforce Planning and Development report; 2022-24 Biennial Operating Budget Requests; Governance Committee proposal and bylaw revisions; dashboard proposal for strategic goals; high-impact, experiential learning in the libraries; emergency management department changes; recognition of Charlie King; update on admission strategies; and historical and current strategies of the JMU Foundation.

At the board retreat a consultant led the members in discussion on effective board governance and the board reviewed the strategic priorities for 2021-22 through small group discussions.

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; updates on the university's plans and implementation related to the Covid-19 pandemic; and updates on the work of the Task Force on Racial Equity.

The board voted and approved the following during the board meetings:

- Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies Major;
- Lab@JMU Proposal;
- Change Art Majors to Art Degrees;
- Six Year Capital Plan
- Faculty Handbook revisions
- Curricular changes to meet requirements of the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia
- Authorized the university to submit the plan to the Intercollegiate Athletic Review Committee to recommend changing from FCS to FBS
- Six Year Plan
- Several real estate properties
- Renewed the president's contract
- Revised board manual

In addition, at each board meeting the President provides an update on events, accomplishments, trends and issues and significant recognitions. The representative from the Faculty Senate, the student representative to the Board and the president of the Student Government Association also make reports at each Academic and Student Life committee meeting.

The Rector met with President Alger for the annual evaluation and then shared the evaluation with the full board.