



December 1, 2023

Via Email Only (gillian.aiken@governor.virginia.gov)

The Honorable Glenn A. Youngkin
Governor of Virginia
c/o Gillian "Gigi" Aiken
Confidential Executive Assistant to the Governor

Via Email Only (district18@senate.virginia.gov)

Senator L. Louise Lucas
Chair of the Committee on Education and Health
Senate of Virginia

Via Email Only (DelJAvoli@house.virginia.gov)

Delegate John Avoli
Vice Chair of the House Committee on Education
Virginia House of Delegates

Dear Governor Youngkin, Senator Lucas, and Delegate Avoli:

Pursuant to Virginia Code § 23.1-401.1, James Madison University ("JMU") submits this report to you regarding its compliance with that statute.

JMU's policy on freedom of expression on campus, as well as the process to report incidents of disruption of constitutionally protected speech may be viewed at: <https://www.jmu.edu/jmu-policy/policies/pdfs/1121.pdf>. This policy is available within the University's manual of policies and procedures and is available for anyone interested to review. I would note that this policy is currently under review and revision to ensure compliance with the First Amendment of the United States Constitution and other applicable law. An updated version of the policy should be posted soon.

For your information, my office maintains a freedom of speech resources page (<https://www.jmu.edu/universitycounsel/freedom-of-speech.shtml>) and as noted in previous reports, JMU's Faculty Handbook and Student Handbook contain robust statements affirming the right of free expression on campus, and freedom of expression on campus is specifically addressed during new student orientation. In addition, the University's Center for Civic Engagement has created a new free speech resources website which can be found here: <https://www.jmu.edu/civic/free-speech.shtml>. Also worth noting is the Freedom of Expression series the University hosted in 2023. The series was comprised of 5 separate presentations related to different aspects of freedom of expression on campus and included opportunities for the audience to ask questions of the presenters related to their First Amendment rights.

Finally, I would also like to certify that the University is not aware of any complaint that has been filed in a court of law since December 1, 2022, to initiate a lawsuit against JMU or an employee of JMU in their official capacity for an alleged violation of the First Amendment to the United States Constitution.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have at 540-568-5242 or via email at knigh2jf@jmu.edu

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JF Knight', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

John F. ("Jack") Knight
University Counsel/
Senior Assistant Attorney General

C: reportdocs@dls.virginia.gov