



November 22, 2024

**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 (SenatorHashmi@senate.virginia.gov)**

Senator Ghazala Hashmi  
Chair of the Committee on Education and Health  
Senate of Virginia

**Via Email Only (DelSRasoul@house.virginia.gov)**

Delegate Sam Rasoul  
Vice Chair of the House Committee on Education  
Virginia House of Delegates

Dear Governor Youngkin, Senator Hashmi, and Delegate Rasoul:

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 recently went through the University’s review and revision process to ensure compliance with the First Amendment of the United States Constitution and other applicable law. The updated version of the policy contains robust protections of our community members’ rights to free expression and assembly while ensuring the safe and orderly operations of the University.

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 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 is hosting during the 2024-2025 academic year.

The series is comprised of five separate presentations related to different aspects of freedom of expression on campus and includes opportunities for the audience to ask questions of the presenters related to their First Amendment rights. Information on the series can be found here: [Freedom of Expression Information Series - JMU](#).

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, 2023, 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](mailto:knigh2jf@jmu.edu)

Respectfully,

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

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

C: reportdocs@dlas.virginia.gov