



REPORT OF THE W&M STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE SEPTEMBER 2023

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BOARD OF VISITORS, STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

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BOARD OF VISITORS, COMMITTEE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

September in Williamsburg is always filled with excitement from our community members. With the start of a new academic year comes new opportunities for students, both new and returning, to explore new passions, take advantage of new opportunities, and connect with the things that bring them joy. In Student Assembly, we have been working hard to plan our initiatives by better connecting with the student body and prioritizing the issues that they care about most. As we look ahead to the coming year, we hope to empower students as they work to make our campus, and our world, a better place.

Celebrating the Year of the Arts

After many years of construction, students are thrilled to finally be walking through the halls of the newly unveiled Arts Quarter. The space has quickly become a hub of student life, with classes now underway and student groups taking advantage of the new resources that the buildings offer. The appreciation for these new spaces has brought with it an excitement for the Year of the Arts.

In collaboration with the President's Office and University Advancement, Student Assembly is thrilled to be welcoming our 2023 Commencement speaker, Patton Oswalt, back to campus in October for two comedy shows. We are so excited for the broader campus community to get to enjoy Mr. Oswalt's humor and are looking forward to continuing our celebration of the arts throughout the year.

Community Engagement in Williamsburg

W&M prides itself on educating active citizens of the world, and we believe that citizenship should start right in our own backyard. As the November elections approach, we are encouraging students to register to vote and make a difference in the Williamsburg community. Our Department of Public Affairs is already busy as they help students register to vote and encourage them to make informed decisions at the ballot box.

Outside of election season, we are looking forward to working with the city to help bridge the gap between students and full time residents. We recognize that W&M's community extends beyond the walls of campus, and we hope to empower students as they recognize the power and privilege that comes with being a citizen of Williamsburg.

Data & Student Advocacy

We are using data as a key tool in our work to better connect with students and understand their concerns. Our newly formed Department of Data & Analytics conducted their first ever omnibus survey last spring and we are still using the data collected in that survey to shape our priorities and projects today. We hope to continue to use data as a tool in our advocacy efforts.

Data collection tools helped us better understand students' frustrations and concerns with the previous dining provider on campus. Throughout the contract bidding process, we advocated for the changes and improvements that students wanted to see and are delighted to have a new dining service provider on campus. While we are only about a month into the semester, much of the student feedback has been positive. We hope to continue to monitor student response to the changes and collect more data about students' feelings regarding the changes to their dining experience.

Promoting Healthy & Sustainable Habits

The habits that students form while at W&M can be the habits that they carry with them for the rest of their lives. That being said, while they are on our campus, we hope that students are exposed to healthy lifestyles and are empowered with the tools that they need to become the best version of themselves. Over the course of the next year, we are committed to connecting students with existing resources and creating new resources through peer education campaigns. Our hope is that we can use education as a tool in promoting a healthy community and a healthy planet.

Peer-led Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Training

Diversity is an essential part of our campus community. Engaging with different ideas, perspectives, identities, and backgrounds helps our students become more conscious and empathetic citizens. Student Assembly is committed to uplifting diversity in our community and helping students understand experiences that are different from their own. This year, our Department of Diversity Initiatives plans to create a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Peer Education Training that can be delivered by students, for students.