



## REPORT OF THE W&M STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE SEPTEMBER 2022

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BOARD OF VISITORS, STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

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BOARD OF VISITORS, COMMITTEE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

The start of the semester has been filled with excitement and nervousness from the transition back to “normalcy.” It has been incredible to feel student life flourishing once again and appreciating the resiliency of our community. Student Assembly has been focused on supporting initiatives that allow students to engage with one another, as we also work to revitalize new and old traditions.

Though there have been some concerns regarding the rise of COVID-19 cases on-campus and the discontinuation of university case management and quarantine housing, students are continuing to exercise caution and self-care. We appreciate faculty for being flexible and accommodating students using various teaching modalities that were adopted the past several years. Lessons learned from the pandemic prove to still be relevant and we urge the student body and the administration to learn, adapt, and work to move forward—together.

### **New Traditions: The Community Values Pledge**

Student Assembly worked with the Office of Student Transition Engagement Programs to implement the Community Values Pledge this past Orientation at Hearth: Memorial to the Enslaved. We were honored to use and celebrate this beautiful space, and through this new tradition we hope to reinforce our values of inclusivity, belonging, and civility. Representatives from The Lemon Project and James Monroe’s Highland were also present to provide resources and information for new students.

See the pledge below:

“Recognizing that William & Mary is a community of interdependence and human connection, I pledge to honor the sanctity of every person, by treating all with respect, dignity and empathy and pledge to foster an appreciation of cultural and religious diversity in order to cultivate our shared values.”

**Diversity Training Modules for Student Leaders**

As a part of our reformed annual budgetary allocation system of the Student Activities Fee, Student Assembly has mandated learning modules focused on diversity, equity, and inclusion for all recognized student organizations requesting funding. Information covered in the modules include: identities, power, privilege, oppression, and creating a culture of respect. We believe this is a momentous step forward in standardizing skills for student leaders to facilitate a more inclusive community.

**Building Campus Coalitions**

In an effort to strengthen collaboration and the impact of student initiatives, we have prioritized the development of issue-based coalitions. We are piloting the Health & Safety Campus Action Coalition, composed of stakeholders and student leaders from across campus. They will be tasked with working together in advocating for student issues and coordinating initiatives with similar goals. These coalitions will help reduce redundant programming, increase communication, and maximize the effectiveness of resources.