



REPORT OF THE W&M STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE November 2023

Sydney Thayer

BOARD OF VISITORS, STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Gwen Galleher, Taylor Fox, Marley Fishburn, Max Beers

BOARD OF VISITORS, COMMITTEE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Activism on Campus

The past few weeks have served as an example of the exceptional passion of W&M's students. We know that global conflicts can have a very personal impact on students. As Student Assembly, our priority will always be to promote a safe and inclusive learning environment where students have the opportunity to express their values. We are grateful that the vast majority of expressive activities on campus have been peaceful and we will continue to support students as they advocate for the causes that they care about. We recognize that there is deep hurt in our community and we have been navigating how best to support all students during this time.

Working towards Transparency & Engagement

One of our key goals this year is to increase Student Assembly's transparency with the student body. In order to make ourselves more accessible, each department in our executive branch is responsible for hosting Student Assembly Office Hours once throughout the course of the semester. As we work to make ourselves more accessible, we are also working on helping connect students with administrators. In October we hosted our first ever "Donuts with the Dean" event, in coordination with the Dean of Students and her office.

Student Support for Honoring Asian Americans

Students from the Asian American Student Initiative have released a letter calling on the Board to name one or more of the current construction projects at W&M after a historic and impactful Asian American figure who has contributed to the flourishing community of the university. The group has outlined numerous Asian American figures who have made a meaningful impact on our campus and asks that the Board consider honoring these individuals by naming one of the new buildings going up across campus in their honor. Their letter to the Board can be found [here](#).

Expanding our Health Advocacy

Our Department of Health & Safety has recently expanded to include two new undersecretaries positions. These individuals will be dedicated to physical health and wellness and substance abuse and campus safety. We are excited to continue to work on initiatives pertaining to these areas and are looking forward to having members of our team who are specifically dedicated to these subjects.

Community Building & Fun

In addition to our advocacy efforts, we are continually committed to hosting events and allocating funds in a way that supports building community on campus. On October 23rd, nearly 800 students attended the Patton Oswalt comedy shows that Student Assembly co-sponsored with the help of the President's Office and University Advancement. We are so grateful that so many students were excited about the event and came out to join us for an evening of laughs.

In addition to the comedy shows, Student Assembly hosted a Fall Frenzy event this October, where 200 students joined us in Crim Dell Meadow to carve pumpkins and enjoy some fall treats. We sponsored the Fall Sustainability Fair where students had the opportunity to stop by and connect with a wide variety of student organizations, professors, and research opportunities that all pertained to sustainability. Looking ahead to next semester, we are excited to be in the initial planning stages for the Green & Gold Bash and the Royal Ball, two of our largest campus wide events. We will hopefully expand these events this year and are looking forward to continuing to facilitate more community building events.

Safety around Campus

Based on recent events, we are hearing more advocacy and interest in increasing the safety of campus and the surrounding area. We will continue to support conversations around student concerns about safety and will do what we can to aid in those efforts to make our campus a safer place.