



REPORT OF THE W&M STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

November 2024

Terra M. Sloane

BOARD OF VISITORS, STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Courtney Maynard, Diana Kim, Isabella Esposito, Owen Williams, Momen Zahid
BOARD OF VISITORS, COMMITTEE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Continuing to Engage with our Williamsburg Community

When I last spoke to you all in September, I briefly spoke about growing Community engagement and the creation of bonds between Williamsburg and our campus community. Student Assembly hosted a forum for Off-Campus Housing Resources, with more in-person activities to come. We also hosted a Williamsburg City Council Forum for students, faculty, and staff to learn more about the stances of the five candidates listed on the local ballot. Much was done to encourage students to make informed decisions as voters and to register in and outside of Williamsburg. Our Department of Public Affairs is pleased with these efforts, and we plan to continue these efforts as time goes on.

The Opening of the Bray School

On November 1st, we saw the official opening of the historic Bray School, an event that was open to all Williamsburg community members and members of William & Mary. The event was wonderfully attended, and many William & Mary student groups were present to celebrate the growing potential of the Bray School project. As students at William & Mary, we are happy to see this project flourish and are excited to visit the Bray School as a fundamental part of William & Mary history present in Colonial Williamsburg. We are hopeful that students will visit the Bray School and give respect to the students that are essential to our College's history.

Savoring the Wren Building

After learning of the construction project hitting the Wren Building in December of 2024, students advocated for opportunities to engage with the building before scaffolding and construction projects obscure the iconic hall. We are providing graduation regalia for rent to graduating students to allow early graduation photo sessions, and we encourage students to be informed about the various phases of the Wren construction project and what they can expect throughout the Spring semester. In addition, our Class of 2025 Representatives are providing Career advising sessions to seniors to prepare them for whatever comes after Commencement weekend.

Health Outreach and Advocacy

Our Department of Health & Safety has been tabling for the past month for Domestic Violence Prevention. During Alcohol Safety Awareness week, we gave out Drink Spiking Prevention covers and are planning to expand the project to promote alcohol safety on and off campus. In addition, Sexual Health Education resources were just updated and spread to the community via on-campus tabling. Finally, we have also renewed our Period Project to provide free menstrual and healthcare products to the campus community, expanding the locations that products are offered and offering sustainable options. We provided a free Flu Shot Clinic for students, faculty, and students through the month of October, and we continue to provide free COVID tests at Swem Library.

Community Outreach & 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. Our Outreach Department has just begun a contest to encourage students to follow Student Assembly social media accounts. We are currently working on a video series to explain aspects of Student Assembly's role in the College administration.

Student Assembly also hosted a Fall Frenzy event this October, where around 200 students joined us in Crim Dell Meadow to carve pumpkins and enjoy some fall treats. 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 are planning to continue our Sankofa Gala and Art & Hatsuye Ball to celebrate marginalized student identity and allow space for cultural expression. We will hopefully expand these events this year and are looking forward to continued action.

Rector's Day 2024

We hosted the Rector on campus in late October, and we were able to meet with a variety of student leaders and allow open discussion and questions. Of the topics that came up, students were mainly concerned with the future naming of the buildings being currently constructed, the efforts to continue making space for diversity & inclusion education and programming, and the lack of sufficient parking on campus, especially with growing construction projects taking our preexisting parking locations and increasing numbers of students living off campus.