



## REPORT OF THE W&M STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

April 2023

JOHN CHO

BOARD OF VISITORS, STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

LORIELLE BOULDIN, JOSH RAMDASS, JASMIN MARTINEZ,

OWEN WILLIAMS, CLAIRE WYSZNSKI

BOARD OF VISITORS, COMMITTEE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

### Increased Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Efforts in the Classroom

The Senate of the Student Assembly, in representing the interests of the student body, passed [SA Resolution 330-004: The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Course Evaluation Resolution](#). This resolution calls on the University to uphold commitments surrounding academic-focused initiatives on diversity, equity, and inclusion. We encourage greater accountability through developing a method of raising concerns and actively soliciting feedback on student experiences, through an adopted standard question for all end-of-course evaluations effective at the end of this semester. *“The instructor fosters an environment of inclusivity.”*

The current standard required questions on the end-of-course evaluations read as: “1: How would you rate this instructor’s overall teaching effectiveness? 2. How would you rate this course overall?” While students who feel that the classroom environment lacks inclusivity may reflect this in their response to these questions, faculty failing to meet appropriate standards on inclusive practices are fundamentally different in nature than other standards in the classroom and therefore require different forms of evaluation and reflection. This approach involves all stakeholders and prioritizes the implementation of actionable steps to address any identified gaps or areas for improvement. We also highlight ongoing concerns with student academic accommodations. While understanding current limitations with staffing vacancies, we charge the administration to ensure that all students receive an equitable educational experience.

### National Pan-Hellenic Council Garden Support

This semester, Student Assembly has partnered with the National Pan-Hellenic Council, Student Affairs, and University Advancement to heighten awareness for ongoing fundraising efforts to construct a garden as a physical representation of the historically Black fraternities and sororities on W&M’s campus. Ahead of One Tribe One Day, Student Assembly committed \$50,000 to be utilized in a matching campaign to raise funds towards the project’s \$380,000 cost. SA is matching 1:1 every \$500 contributed to the project. Excitingly, this project was endorsed as this year’s Student Affairs



Challenge. We appreciate the Board's support for this initiative and hope that we can finally move this project across the finish line with continued partnerships.

### Student Assembly Omnibus Survey

The newly-created SA Department of Data & Analytics has successfully facilitated a student body survey with over 1,400 responses to gauge feedback from a variety of areas regarding the student experience. This is one of the avenues SA is pursuing to increase communication with the broader campus community and increase student engagement with ongoing initiatives. The report of survey responses will be provided with the *2022-2023 Student Assembly Annual Report*.

### Highlighted Events of Spring 2023 - Traditions Old & New!

- **Green & Gold Bash**—in a partnership with the Charter Day Committee and Alma Mater Productions, Student Assembly hosted the inaugural GREEN & GOLD BASH on Charter Day Weekend! The Bash was an upbeat celebration of the University, with a live band, numerous vendors and fun activities, food and the crowning of a Royal Court of nominated students voted in by their peers. The Bash and the Royal Court reinvigorated student interest in the Charter Day Weekend celebrations and added a student-friendly and student-driven spin to the weekend. We look forward to this event becoming a long-standing university tradition.
- **Sankofa Gala/Legacy Fest**—the Sankofa Legacy Festival is an annual ceremony held to celebrate the Sankofa sculpture and bring continuous awareness to the Black members of the William & Mary community. The 'Sankofa Seed' sculpture is an art installation created by Steve Prince, who is a distinguished artist in residence at the Muscarelle Museum of Art at William & Mary. This sculpture features a Sankofa bird, symbolizing looking at the past in order to move forward. At this event, arts from the African Diaspora such as poetry, dance, history, and visual arts will be showcased and multiple African-American inspired vendors with both food and crafts will be in attendance.
- **Computing/Data Steering Committee Town Hall**—in collaboration with the Computing, Data Science & Applied Science Initiative, SA has hosted members of the Committee to speak with student leaders and solicit feedback. In addition, we supported a student town hall to facilitate a community conversation.
- **Royal Ball**— SA is excited to announce the return of a beloved campus tradition, the Royal Ball! For the first time since 2019, the end-of-year formal will take place in a tent under the stars on the Sunken Garden on Friday, April 28th. As a joyous moment for students to celebrate the end of the academic year, there will be dancing, food, an appearance by the Griffin, and performances by four student groups. The night will conclude with a toast from President Rowe and a rousing chorus of the alma mater.



### **Final Remarks from the 330th Session of Student Assembly**

On behalf of my fellow Student Representatives, I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to the Rector, Board Members, President Rowe, Michael Fox, and Jessica Walton, for warmly welcoming us and supporting our work this past year. I am proud and excited to welcome our successors, President Sydney Thayer, Vice President Taylor Fox, and Chief of Staff Marley Fishburn. They are thoughtful and committed individuals whom I know will continue SA's work to affect positive change on campus.

I will graduate comforted in knowing that William & Mary is cared for by incredible and passionate individuals like yourself who are invested in our values, mission, and most importantly—our uniquely strong sense of community for *all time coming*.

With Gratitude,  
John Cho '23