

From: William & Mary President's Office
Sent: Thursday, September 29, 2022 9:42 AM
Cc: brush@vims.edu; armd@physics.wm.edu; Gilmour, John
Subject: Response to your open letter

Dear colleagues,

As I noted earlier this week, I welcome you writing in this forthright way. I take seriously substantive concerns shared collaboratively. And I wholeheartedly agree that this is a timely moment to deepen faculty engagement and input.

As I shared last spring at the open meeting for faculty, staff and students when I presented the strategic plan — and at the faculty meeting at the beginning of the year — this is a year for developing concrete actions and initiatives and we will continue to work in a phased way. William & Mary is in a strong position right now. Yet significant challenges lie ahead. We need your best thinking, and there is ample time to bring it forward.

After a thoughtful consultation with the Faculty Assembly executive committee this week, I have accepted their gracious invitation to come speak to the issues you raise and develop more robust paths for communication and involvement.

I have valued Faculty Assembly's partnership in shared governance since my very first meeting with the Faculty Assembly in August of 2018. Indeed, the FA report I received that month, "W&M 2026," is the blueprint we are following for enrollment growth. As I say frequently to the board and alumni, W&M faculty bring solutions to the problems they identify – and do so with creativity and dedication.

So, my commitment to you is to continue to affirm the importance of shared governance as laid out in the FA Constitution: "The Faculty Assembly is the elected faculty body that regularly advises the President and the Provost on matters affecting the welfare of the university and that ensures effective faculty participation in the governance of the university as a whole." I appreciate that they have invited me to address your letter more fully at the next meeting on Oct. 11. Please send them your thoughts and that will help guide our conversation.

As always, I am available to meet in person and talk. And I will respond to correspondence with as much promptness as I can.

Best regards,

– Katherine

Katherine A. Rowe
President

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