

**Madison Vision Teaching Award**  
**Faculty Senate resolution**  
**Spring 2015**

In response to JMU's recently adopted Vision Statement<sup>1</sup> and Strategic Plan 2014-20<sup>2</sup>, the Faculty Senate recommends that the university institute and fund a permanent, new, student-selected teaching award, to be given each year to two faculty members who best display JMU's principles of vision and engagement as stated in its Vision Statement and Strategic Plan. This award will be called the Madison Vision Teaching Excellence Award.

This teaching Award will be unique at the institution, because recipients will be selected entirely by students. The Faculty Senate recommends that the award's eligibility be restricted to instructional faculty of any type (full-time, RTA, and part-time), but not to A&P faculty. The Faculty Senate further recommends that the university designate *three* recipients per year and offer cash prizes to the winners, as follows:

--\$1,000 prize for each of the top three winners, to be used as a one-time educational grant by the winning faculty member to use as he or she sees fit

The Faculty Senate recommends that the university collaborate with the Faculty Senate and SGA in order to invite students to organize an *ad hoc* committee which would be charged with developing the criteria to be used for the selection of faculty winners. These criteria are to be grounded in the principles articulated by the university's Vision Statement. The Faculty Senate further recommends that the university collaborate with SGA in order to publicize the award among the student body and articulate to the student body the specific criteria for selection. Finally, the Faculty Senate requests that the university request SGA to administer the award each year and determine annual winners. The three faculty members who receive the highest number of votes would be declared the winners.

**Rationale**

The Faculty Senate believes that the Madison Vision Teaching Excellence Award offers the student body, the university community, and its constituents at minimum five positive and desirable outcomes, as follows:

--the award would engage students by providing them with a venue to recognize those faculty members who have been most engaged in fostering their own learning;

--the award would encourage students by giving them a voice in recognizing excellent teaching;

--the award would reward faculty, albeit in a small way, and thus help address the university's ongoing compensation challenge; and would thereby boost faculty morale;

--the award would afford students who participate in its promotion with valuable professional, career-related experience in writing, public relations, and other areas; and

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<sup>1</sup> See page 2, below.

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.jmu.edu/jmuplans/jmu-strategic-plan/index.shtml>

--the award would foster student focus around the JMU Vision Statement and demonstrate to the wider university community the principles articulated by the Vision Statement

The award's cost to the university would be \$3,000 per year. Winning faculty would be expected to provide a short statement on their philosophy of engaged teaching, to be used by the university in its promotion of the Vision. The Faculty Senate recommends that the university commemorate the award's winners by listing their names on a plaque and displaying it in a prominent location. In these ways, the Faculty Senate envisions that the award could be utilized to communicate to the university's wider approach to and support of engaged learning.

The faculty senate recognizes that members of the faculty teach different numbers of students on campus, and that some faculty will have taught a larger pool of potential student voters. However, the faculty senate believes that the merits of the award outweigh this potential imbalance.

Drafted by Mark Rankin, Department of English

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### **JMU's Vision**

*To be the national model for the engaged university: engaged with ideas and the world.*

This new vision was part of the strategic planning work that was led by the Madison Future Commission in 2013. It was approved in January 2014 by the university's Board of Visitors as our guiding statement up to and through 2020.

Simply put, our central pursuit in the coming years as we seek to fulfill our mission will be to become the national model for what it means to be engaged.

And, for JMU, *engagement* means:

- **Engaged Learning** – Developing deep, purposeful and reflective learning, while uniting campus and community in the pursuit, creation, application and dissemination of knowledge.
- **Civic Engagement** – Advancing the legacy of James Madison, the Father of the Constitution, by preparing individuals to be active and responsible participants in a representative democracy dedicated to the common good.
- **Community Engagement** – Fostering mutually beneficial and reciprocal partnerships, ranging from local to global, that connect learning to practice, address critical societal problems and improve quality of life.

From <http://www.jmu.edu/jmuplans/engagement.shtml>