

Resolution for Censure
James Madison University Faculty Senate
May 6, 2021

Whereas one of the traditional duties of the Speaker of the Faculty Senate is to attend the quarterly meetings of the JMU Board of Visitors to report to its Academics and Student Life Committee on activities of the Faculty Senate and to update the Committee on issues of concern to the faculty, and

Whereas the Faculty Senate places its trust in the Speaker to fairly represent its interests before the Board of Visitors and to reflect views that are held in common by a majority of the faculty, and

Whereas at the April 15, 2021, meeting of the BOV Academics and Student Life Committee, Senate Speaker Val Larsen delivered a speech that misrepresented the views of the Faculty Senate, in particular, by making faulty assumptions about the reasons for abstentions on the freedom of speech resolution, and

Whereas the result of the freedom of speech resolution was taken out of context, exploited rhetorically, and misinterpreted as signifying deep ideological divisions at JMU, and

Whereas the Speaker's oral presentation was discussed with neither the Senate Steering Committee nor the Provost prior to its delivery, and

Whereas the delivery of the Speaker's oral presentation constitutes a breach of trust of the Faculty Senate and its constituents, and

Whereas the claims and ideology expressed in the Speaker's oral presentation belong primarily to the Speaker and significantly misrepresent and distort the views and beliefs of the faculty senate as a collective,

Now therefore be it Resolved that the Faculty Senate issues this Censure for the above-described actions of Speaker Larsen, and directs the Speaker at the next Board of Visitors meeting to read a statement retracting and clarifying the April 15 oral presentation. Prior to the BOV meeting, the statement must be approved by the Senate Steering Committee.