



IN THE SENATE OF JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY

Sen Res. 2

Senator Mahek Shroff submitted the following resolution in conjunction with Representative Paola Berrios, and senior Ken Kensky to have a statement to be published on behalf of James Madison University's Student Government Association.

A Resolution

To release an immediate statement regarding JMU's chapter of Young Americans for Freedom's event with Liz Wheeler:

"The Student Government Association of James Madison University condemns discrimination and hatred in all forms towards the Transgender community and stands in solidarity with the LGBTQ+ community.

We want to acknowledge our role in the approval of funding for YAF (Young Americans for Freedom) to bring Liz Wheeler to JMU as a guest speaker. This funding request was presented to our finance committee, and passed the committee with 5 votes in favor and 1 abstention. YAF then presented their funding request at senate, and after some debate, it passed with 43 votes in favor and 2 abstentions.

When YAF presented their request, they stated they were "not a political organization" and listed a few possible topics for Wheeler's talk, not including the topic that was ultimately chosen. Given the recently announced topic of Wheeler's talk, "The Ideology of Transgenderism," we believe that YAF's request for funding was misleading. We did not approve, nor were we aware of this topic.

We reserve the right to deny funding for any reason if a majority of senators are opposed. In this case, the funding request from YAF was voted on and approved on January 31st, and the money has already been put into a contract, so we are unable to rescind funding.

We deeply regret the pain that this event is causing the LGBTQ+ community. We fully support freedom of speech and an open forum for discussion of ideas on campus, and encourage those opposed to the event to exercise their first amendment rights.

Moving forward as an organization, we will strive to increase scrutiny of all funding requests we receive. We resolve to increase support of diversity, equity, inclusion, justice, and accessibility efforts within the organization and on campus, and other ways to support any marginalized students.”

We would like to extend and promote the following resources to any student that has been impacted during these difficult times:

- James Madison University Counseling Center: 540-568-6552, in Student Success Center Suite 3100
- Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression (SOGIE), 540-568-2545, in Student Success Center Room 1310
- Madison Equality, madisonequality@gmail.com, @mejmu on Instagram

Now, therefore, be it Resolved by the Student Senate of James Madison University, That:

The Student Government Association will publish this statement on their social media platform effective immediately after the Statement is approved. The social media platforms include the following: Facebook, Instagram, & Twitter.

This resolution is to be sent to:

- I. Alex Schleyer, Communications Director of the James Madison University SGA
- II. Johnathan Alger, President of James Madison University
- III. Select members of the President’s Cabinet, including:
 - A. Malika Carter-Hoyt, Vice President Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
 - B. Art Dean, Associate Vice President, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
 - C. Brent Lewis, Associate Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
 - D. Tim Miller, Vice President Student Affairs
 - E. Narketta Sparkman-Key, Associate Provost for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
- IV. Meredith Bauer, Fiscal Manager, Student Life
- V. Jen Grossman Leopard, Director of Student Life
- VI. SOGIE Staff members, including:
 - A. E. Lee Dyer IV, Director of SOGIE
 - B. Cassidy Angelo, Assistant Director of SOGIE
- VII. Parker Boggs, Chairman of JMU’s chapter of Young Americans for Freedom