Resolution 22.01

A Resolution to: Address the Racial Climate of James Madison College

THE SENATORS OF THE JAMES MADISON COLLEGE STUDENT SENATE
ENACT:

WHEREAS, 7% of students within JMC are Black, 3% of students within JMC are Asian/Pacific Islander, 4% of students within JMC are Hispanic, .1% of students within JMC are Native American, 3% of students within JMC are multi-racial, and 2% of students within JMC are international students (information provided by James Madison College); and

WHEREAS, the JMC Student Senate’s Constitution Preamble states that “we seek to promote intellectual, educational, and social opportunities available to this community by representing the interests and addressing the concerns of the student body”; and

WHEREAS, the issue of the racial climate of James Madison College in courses, student culture, and administration/faculty is a strong concern of the student body; and

WHEREAS, Black students in the graduating class of 2015 wrote an open letter to the college expressing grievances and concerns regarding the racial climate of JMC as it relates to student culture, curriculum and institutional practices; and

WHEREAS, the W.E.B. DuBois society had several events in the fall semester of 2015 to raise awareness about the racial climate and provide a medium for Black students to work for change; and

WHEREAS, many Black James Madison College students attended a senate general assembly meeting on Wednesday, November 18th to express concerns and grievances regarding student culture and the racial climate; and

WHEREAS, nearly 150 James Madison College students attended a town hall on Tuesday, December 11th in which students from marginalized identity groups raised concerns about the racial climate of James Madison College and expressed frustration at the lack of formal response or communication from James Madison College administration; and

WHEREAS, the Dean of James Madison College issued a response on December 14th, and announced the creation of a permanent inclusion committee comprised of James Madison College faculty, staff and students to work on improving the racial climate; and therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the James Madison College Student Senate calls for increased action with a measurable and effective plan from administration, the
RESOLVED, that we call for the use of non-white authors and scholars in MC 201 and MC 202 to be regularized, in order to explain systemic racism and foster Madison classrooms in which the subject of race is discussed in a culturally sensitive way, to ensure an environment that is both intellectually challenging and emotionally safe; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the administration create a more diverse volunteer cohort of James Madison College Ambassadors, that includes all represented identities in James Madison College, to allow more students representative of the university the chance to participate in visit days, allowing prospective students to have the chance to see Madison students they can relate to; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we call on our James Madison College Student Senate representatives on the inclusion committee and the college curriculum committee (CCC) to work towards the above changes; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the James Madison Student Senate stands in solidarity with marginalized students at James Madison College and Michigan State University, their endeavors to improve the racial climate at James Madison College and Michigan State University, and all other students and groups making efforts to improve the racial climate within James Madison College and Michigan State University.

INTRODUCED AND AUTHORED BY: B. SCHROFF and J. ALLEN
PASSED BY: JAMES MADISON COLLEGE STUDENT SENATE GENERAL ASSEMBLY