

This is a request under the Freedom of Information Act. On April 7, 2022, the JMU Office of the Provost communicated by email to the faculty of the College of Science and Mathematics a message from the CSM Dean Search committee that included the following claim:

Over several weeks last month, we solicited feedback on each of the three candidates for the CSM Dean position via surveys that included the ability to provide open-ended text responses. While many people engaged with this process productively, there were also many instances of comments that were inappropriate or irrelevant, as well as instances of single individuals completing the survey multiple times, to the extent that our Human Resources and Legal teams rendered the survey feedback unusable. Therefore, survey reports were not distributed to search committee members.

We are requesting copies of emails created between March 23, 2022, and April 7, 2022 that concern the events leading to the statement above on which Provost Heather Coltman and/or Search Committee Chair Sharon Lovell were observers or participants, including TO, FROM, CC, and/or BCC with each other or other parties, and including all email accounts used by Provost Coltman and Search Chair Lovell for communication on these matters.

If you determine that only portions of a file are exempted from release, we request that we be provided with all non-exempt portions. If you choose to deny any part of this request, please provide a written explanation for each individual denial, including a reference to the specific statutory exemption(s) upon which you rely, and please notify us of the appeal procedures available to us under the law.

We request a waiver of fees, on the basis that the disclosure of the requested information is (1) in the public interest, due to the fact that it pertains to faculty governance, administrative transparency, and recent JMU Faculty Senate resolutions and discussions, and (2) not in the commercial interest of the requestors. If a waiver is not granted, please supply a written reason why it has not been granted, and a detailed estimate of charges, before processing.

The Virginia Freedom of Information Act requires a response to this request be made within five business days. As this request is being submitted on Friday, June 23, 2023, the first working day in this timeline will be Monday, June 26, 2023, and the fifth will be Friday, June 30, 2023. If access to the records we are requesting will take longer than this amount of time, please provide a written request for a seven-day extension that specifies the conditions that make a response within five working days impossible.