

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF VISITORS
Academic Affairs Committee

MINUTES

Wednesday, April 15, 2026

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair: Armand Alacbay; Vice Chair: Jeff Rosen; Visitors: Anne Altman, Paul Misener, Jim Moran, Sumeet Shrivastava, Sean Spence; Staff Representatives: Interim Provost Ajay Vinzé, Sharnnia Artis, Rose Pascarell; Faculty Senate President: Solon Simmons; Staff Senate Chair: Rachel Spence; Faculty Representatives: Tim Gibson, Shane Caswell; Student Representative: Nilima Mow

ALSO PRESENT: Rector Meese; President Washington; Visitor Schindler

I. The meeting was called to order by Chair Alacbay at 11:13 a.m.

II. Approval of Minutes (Action Item)

Chair Alacbay called for any corrections to the minutes from the February 26, 2026 Academic Affairs Committee meeting. Hearing no corrections, the meeting minutes stood **APPROVED** as written.

III. New Business

A. Provost's Report

Ajay Vinzé – Interim Provost and Executive Vice President

Interim Provost Vinzé shared updates on key priorities - strengthening student support, improving operational effectiveness, and advancing resource allocation strategies. The Committee received updates on spring commencement planning and ongoing leadership searches, including the Antonin Scalia Law School dean search. Progress was noted on several strategic initiatives, including efforts to better integrate student services, enhance coordination in online education, and improve transparency in course-related fees. Additional highlights included recognitions of faculty and leadership, as well as continued efforts to expand global engagement and support Pell-eligible students.

B. Higher Education: Policy and Governance

1. University Policy and Governance Process

Melissa Broeckelman-Post – Associate Provost, Academic Affairs

Associate Provost Broeckelman-Post provided an update on the University Policy Governance Process, highlighting efforts to strengthen shared governance, improve policy clarity, and ensure alignment with external regulations. Dr. Broeckelman-Post noted the implementation of a more transparent and coordinated policy development process, including broad stakeholder input and systematic review. Progress was also shared on updating university policies on a regular cycle and aligning college and unit-level bylaws with the Faculty Handbook to enhance consistency and accountability across the institution.

2. Faculty Senate Update and Proposed Revisions to the Faculty Handbook

Solon Simmons – Faculty Senate President

Faculty Senate President Simmons reviewed the changes to several academic policies that were approved this year by the faculty including academic policies 1.3.1, 2.1.4, 1.3.2, 2.1.3, 2.3.2.3, 2.4 and 3.2.

Chair Alacbay called for a **MOTION** to approve the Proposed Changes to the Faculty Handbook; Visitor Altman **MOVED**; Visitor Shrivastava **SECONDED**.

MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

Yes – 7

C. Faculty Actions

Interim Provost Vinzé provided an overview of Faculty Actions.

Chair Alacbay called for a **MOTION** to approve the Program Actions and Faculty Actions en bloc; Visitor Misner **MOVED**; Visitor Moran **SECONDED** the following program actions:

- Promotion and/or Tenure
- Special Rank Change
- Conferral of Emerita/Emeritus Status

MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

Yes – 7

D. Announcements

Announcements and Reports were acknowledged for the Committee's benefit.

IV. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Parnell
Secretary Pro Tem