

**BOARD OF VISITORS
GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY**

Approved
7.31.26

**Full Board Meeting
Thursday, April 30, 2026
Merten Hall, Hazel Conference Room (1201), Fairfax Campus**

MINUTES

PRESENT: Rector Michael Meese, Vice Rector Sumeet Shrivastava, Secretary Armand Alacbay, Visitors Anne Altman, Bruce Caswell, Paul Misener, Trevor Montano, Jim Moran, Delbert Parks, Shawn Purvis, Jeff Rosen, George Schindler, Sean Spence, and Jennifer Taylor.

ABSENT: Visitors Tom Davis and Jon Peterson.

ALSO PRESENT: Rachel Spence, Staff Representative; Solon Simmons, Faculty Representative; Nilima Mow, Graduate Student Representative; Jonathan Dubois, Undergraduate Student Representative; Gregory Washington, President; Ajay Vinzé, Interim Provost; David Drummey, Interim University Counsel; and Bridget Higgins, Secretary pro tem.

I. Call to Order

Rector Meese called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

II. Recognitions

A. Appreciation Plaque Presentation to Outgoing Representative

Rector Meese presented Jonathan Dubois, Student Body President, a plaque in recognition of his board service and invited him to introduce his successor, Griffin Crouch. Mr. Dubois thanked the board for their support and informed the board that Mr. Crouch will be a creative and collaborative partner with providing students the resources they need for a positive student experience and position them for professional success.

Rector Meese congratulated Nilima Mow and Solon Simmons for being reelected to another term as the President of the Graduate and Professional Student Association and the Faculty Senate President, respectively. The board looks forward to continued collaborations with Ms. Mow, Mr. Simmons, and Ms. Spence.

B. Recognition of Scholarships and Fellowships

Rector Meese recognized Megan Bruening, Director of the Office of Fellowships, who presented the students receiving some of academia's most prestigious scholarships and fellowships.

- Critical Language Scholarship (Korean): Lina Bondesson
- Boren Fellowship (Japanese): Xavier Isaac
- Smithsonian Institution Fellowship: Jayme Kurland
- Goldwater Scholarship: Sophie Strompf
- Fulbright U.S. Student Research Grant: Ashleigh Williams
- Berlin Program Dissertation Fellowship: Ashleigh Williams
- COVES Fellowship: Yingjie Zhang

C. Recognition of Early Identification (EIP) Graduating Students

Rector Meese recognized the 2026 graduating class of the Early Identification Program (EIP). Rose Pascarell, Vice President of University Life, provided an overview of the EIP program, highlighting its 40th anniversary, and introduced Alpachino Hogue, Executive Director of EIP. Dr. Hogue introduced EIP student speaker,

Monica Amaya, who is the first in her family to pursue higher education and is passionate about turning her achievements into opportunities for those continuing in the EIP program.

Ms. Amaya praised the EIP program and the support it provided her academically and as a leader, which culminated in her receiving the University Scholars Award, a full tuition scholarship. EIP provided a sense of belonging as a first-year student. With the addition of Costello College scholarships, she was able to expand her network with industry leaders and provide her future career path. She is now an EIP mentor, providing current participants like her sister the skills, confidence, and mindset to succeed. She expressed appreciation to supporters, staff, and leaders of the EIP program for encouraging limitless potential.

D. Jack Wood Awards Presentation

Rector Meese directed board members to the information in the board materials and the pamphlet at their seats for this year's Jack Wood Award recipients. Traci Kendall, Executive Director in the Office of Government and Community Relations, was recognized to present the following awards:

- Business/Nonprofit Category
 - Arina Van Breda, Fairfax League of Women Voters.
- Faculty/Staff Category
 - Becky Howick, Director of Operations and Engagement in the Costello College of Business Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship.
- Student Category
 - Iman Chaudry, President of the Mason Consulting Group, accepted the award on behalf of the organization.
- Partnership Category
 - Tina Disch, of the Old Town Fairfax Business Association, Caroline Simpson, of New Student and Family Programs, and Maria Garin Jones, of Contemporary Student Services accepted the award for launching the inaugural Coffee Shop Crawl.
- Innovation Category
 - Iulia Fratila of the College of Public Health and Jesse Van Wick of Alexandria's Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities (RPCA) partnered to develop a project to enhance Ben Brenman Park.
- Legacy Category
 - Lovey Hammel, President and Co-Founder of Employment Enterprises, Inc., chair of the Innovation District Steering Committee, and former member of the Board of Visitors, Foundation Board of Trustees, the SciTech Campus Advisory Board, and a presidential search committee.

Rector Meese invited all honorees to join the board for lunch and recessed the meeting at 12:33 p.m.

Lunch Recess

III. Approval of the Minutes

A. Full Board Meeting on March 31, 2026 (ACTION ITEM)

Rector Meese reconvened the meeting at 1:45 p.m.

Rector Meese called for any corrections to the Full Board Meeting Minutes for March 31, 2026 that were provided for review in the board meeting materials. Hearing no corrections, the minutes stood **APPROVED AS WRITTEN**.

IV. Rector's Report

Rector Meese began by celebrating a few recent events: the EIP program, which encompasses a nine-year journey for each graduating student; the opening of the Activities Building on April 16 was led by hospitality and events management classes; and the Scholarship Celebration not only recognized scholarship recipients and donors but was also a great networking opportunity.

Board members were encouraged to attend the following upcoming events:

- Tuesday, May 5 – OSCAR Celebration of Student Scholarship and Impact
- Thursday, May 7 – Legacy Society Luncheon
- Thursday, May 14 – Spring Commencement

Referring to the Chronicle of Higher Education article specific to board members' text messages and resulting public comments, Rector Meese noted that his on-the-record quote was left out of the article: "It is not possible to get any meaningful insight into board operations by pulling select private text messages out of context. What matters are the totality of the conversations had on the record at board meetings including votes cast, and results achieved, which contributes to the university's continued success." The actions of the board speak for themselves and are on the record.

Rector Meese informed the board of the work that will take place at the Annual Meeting on July 31, including the reorganization of board leadership, President Washington's evaluation, and his goals for the next year. Visitors Caswell and Misener will coordinate and prepare the slate of nominees for leadership elections and committee appointments.

The terms for Visitors Parks, Schindler, Taylor, and Rector Meese will end on June 30. If not reappointed, the rector stated he has appreciated his time on the board and added it has been a distinct pleasure to serve as the rector.

V. President's Report

President Washington described the university as being in a reasonable position, but with challenges from outcomes related to four existential shocks impacting how George Mason will be managed.

Highlights:

- Enrollment: Increased undergraduate enrollment led to a small overall enrollment increase after the decline in foreign graduate students. Mason graduates have a 92% positive outcome, with 73% employed in Virginia, the greatest return on investment anywhere in the commonwealth.
- Rankings: Overall rankings are strong; Mason remains a great value and is the only large Opportunity College and University (Carnegie Foundation & ACE) from Maine to Florida.
- New development: This year saw the grand opening of three facilities: Fuse at Mason Square, the Activities Building, and the Spiritual and Interfaith Center on the Fairfax Campus. Nexus234 was launched as a new community built around the SciTech campus.
- Funding support: There are significant permanent and one-time funds in the Virginia House and Senate budgets; however, future permanent funding support will be difficult given state budget constraints.
- Research and education: Despite expenditures slowing in a difficult environment, Mason launched the Grand Challenge, the AI, and Data Center Initiatives, along with the Nexus234 Innovation District in Manassas.

Four existential shocks are impacting higher education nationwide:

- Fiscal: As a result from the actions of the federal government, there are significant losses from the reduction in graduate students and direct and indirect research cuts.

- Demographic: The “enrollment cliff” is here and will reduce the number of students graduating from high school by 15% for the next five to nine years. Direct Admissions, ADVANCE, and other programs were put into place to address this issue and the university is working to mitigate the decline in foreign graduate enrollment.
- Technological: Institutions must deliberately manage AI’s problems and solutions and also protect against cyberattacks resulting in Mythos AI capabilities.
- Political: Ongoing debates on DEI, free speech and academic freedom, Title IX, and civil rights has impacted George Mason more than most institutions. The war involving Iran could lead to stagflation or a sharp recession in the near term, which the university will need to establish foundational programs to mitigate outcomes.

This is a time of great clarity of the challenges the university is facing with roughly eighteen months to implement changes based on the following questions:

1. How should education be reimagined in the coming environment? Academic unit task forces, called Reimagining Education to the Doctorate (RED), will address adjustments or modifications to degree programs that the country expects from higher education.
2. What can be adjusted through the implementation and optimization of the university Budget Model process? The process includes three steps:
 1. The University Budget Model is applied to each academic unit.
 2. In collaboration with the Provost’s Office, units develop stabilization plans aimed at optimizing credit hour, college/school enrollment, and operating cost.
 3. In collaboration with the Provost’s Office, units are rebased and subsidized for success.
3. How can university level services and support transform when programs are being eliminated by the federal government? The university is exploring new ways to fund students and support mechanisms.

President Washington concluded by stating that if the board approves the proposed increase, Mason’s combined tuition and mandatory fees will be the lowest of Virginia’s R1 doctoral institutions. Recognizing the challenge any increase presents to students and families, the university is managed well and the proposed increase is important to sustain university faculty and staff.

Discussion ensued:

Visitor Rosen asked for President Washington’s thoughts on the Yale Committee on Trust in Higher Education Report. President Washington responded that he thought their faculty did a great job, but the outcomes apply to institutions like Yale and are generally not transferable to Mason.

Before moving to Committee Reports, Rector Meese recognized the newly elected Undergraduate Student Representative, Griffin Crouch. Mr. Crouch expressed how he is looking forward to working as a liaison with the board, university leaders, and faculty. He wants to deliver on the Mason promise, noting that faculty working conditions are student learning conditions. President Washington added that Mr. Crouch has been active in student leadership for many years and is experienced with student and campus issues.

Rector Meese recognized Vice Rector Shrivastava to provide remarks. Vice Rector Shrivastava thanked Rector Meese for his graciousness, professionalism, and the work he devoted as acting rector to lead through the unprecedented nature of the board and ensure all new members were engaged. The vice rector led the room with applause.

VI. Committee Reports

A. Finance and Land Use Committee

1. Financial Matters
 - a. FY27 University Operating Budget, Tuition and Fees (ACTION ITEM)

2. Capital Matters

- a. Six-Year Capital Plan (ACTION ITEM)
- b. Line of Credit Increase (ACTION ITEM)
- c. Schematic Design & Budget Increase Approvals (ACTION ITEM)
 - i. Telecom Infrastructure Phase 2 & 3
 - ii. Mason Pond Garage Repair Phase 1
 - iii. Potomac Heights Roof Replacement
 - iv. EagleBank Arena HVAC Replacement
- d. Land Use Certification (ACTION ITEM)
- e. Delegation of Authority for Tax-Exempt Financing Reimbursement Declarations (ACTION ITEM)

Vice Chair Caswell reported on the Finance and Land Use Committee meeting on April 15, providing a summary of the presentations received by Dan Stephens, Interim Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer; Julie Zobel, Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer; and Alex Iszard, Assistant Vice President of Planning, Design and Construction.

Vice Chair Caswell noted the committee voted to bring the following action items to the full board:

- The FY27 Operating Budget, including the recommended:
 - 3.5% increase in in-state undergraduate and graduate tuition, which equates to a 1% and 1.4% increase in out-of-state undergraduate and graduate tuition respectively, and
 - A 3.5% increase in Mandatory Student Fees;
- The proposed Six-Year Capital Plan, which authorizes projects due for initiation in FY27 that only utilize Mason funding, as well as those being submitted to the Commonwealth for funding approval;
- An increase to the existing Atlantic Union Bank line of credit by up to \$15 million, as well as approving the establishment of a new Wells Fargo line of credit for up to \$75 million;
- Schematic designs for the following projects:
 - Telecom Infrastructure Phases II & III
 - Potomac Heights Roof Replacement
 - Mason Pond Garage Repair Phase I
 - EagleBank Arena HVAC Replacement, which also included an increase in the project budget;
- The annual Land Use Certification submission, which notes the acquisition of townhomes on the SciTech campus; and
- The delegation of authority for tax-exempt debt financing reimbursement declarations to both the President and Senior Vice President/Chief Financial Officer, as well as any other senior leadership role within the university designated by the President.

Vice Chair Caswell **Moved** that the Board approve the FY27 University Operating Budget, Tuition and Fees as they are provided in the meeting materials. The motion was **SECONDED** by Visitor Altman.

The **MOTION CARRIED BY MAJORITY ROLL CALL VOTE.**

Yes: 13

No: 1

Absent: Visitors Tom Davis and Jon Peterson.

Vice Chair Caswell **Moved** that the Board approve the following action items as they are provided in the meeting materials:

- Six-Year Capital Plan
- University Lines of Credit
 - Increase existing line of credit with Atlantic Union Bank (**Attachment 1**)
 - Establish a new line of credit with Wells Fargo (**Attachment 2**)

- Schematic Design & Budget Increase Approvals
 - Telecom Infrastructure Phase 2 & 3
 - Mason Pond Garage Repair Phase 1
 - Potomac Heights Roof Replacement
 - EagleBank Arena HVAC Replacement
- Land Use Certification
- Delegation of Authority for Tax-Exempt Financing Reimbursement Declarations (**Attachment 3**)

The motion was **SECONDED** by Visitor Schindler.

The **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY ROLL CALL VOTE.**

Yes: 14

Absent: Visitors Tom Davis and Jon Peterson.

B. Academic Affairs Committee

1. New Business

- a. Faculty Senate Update and Proposed Revisions to the Faculty Handbook (ACTION ITEM)
- b. Faculty Actions
 - i. Promotion and/or Tenure (ACTION ITEM)
 - ii. Conferral of Emeritus/Emerita Status (ACTION ITEM)
 - iii. Special Rank Change (ACTION ITEM)

Secretary Alabay reported on the Academic Affairs Committee meeting, providing a summary of the presentations received by Interim Provost Vinzé, Melissa Broeckelman-Post, Assistant Provost of Academic Affairs, and Solon Simmons, President of the Faculty Senate.

Secretary Alabay **MOVED** that the Board approve the following action items as they are provided in the meeting materials:

- Proposed Revisions to the Faculty Handbook
- Faculty Action: Promotion and/or Tenure, to include the correction in the board materials for *Associate Professor* Levi Van Sant
- Faculty Action: Conferral of Emeritus/Emerita Status
- Faculty Action: Special Rank Change

The motion was **SECONDED** by Vice Rector Shrivastava.

The **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY ROLL CALL VOTE.**

Yes: 14

Absent: Visitors Tom Davis and Jon Peterson.

C. Athletics Committee

Chair Montano reported on the Athletics Committee meeting, providing a summary of the presentations provided by Marvin Lewis, Assistant Vice President and Director of Athletics; Tony Skinn, Men's Basketball Head Coach; and Malcolm Grace, Deputy Athletic Director of Compliance and NCAA Governance.

D. Audit, Risk, and Compliance Committee

Rector Meese informed the board that upon consultation with general counsel, the topics that were to be discussed in closed session are not a legal matter and therefore not eligible for closed session.

Chair Parks reported on the Audit, Risk, and Compliance Committee meeting, providing a summary of the presentations by Derek Butler; Zach Borgerding, Auditor of Public Accounts; Charmaine Madison, Vice President and Chief Information Officer; and Melissa Perez, Assistant Vice President, Research Security Office of Research Integrity and Assurance. Visitor Parks emphasized the need for flexibility in order to resolve and close the audit.

Discussion ensued:

Rector Meese stated that the board is optimistic and encouraged flexibility in order to resolve the remaining issues to continue Mason's important research.

Visitor Moran requested Visitor Purvis restate her comments from the committee meeting.

Visitor Purvis recommended that the university engage the state to formally acknowledge federal authority over the contracts regulated by Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR). Failure to do so will disadvantage the university compared to peers and jeopardize a key area of research growth, making it essential that the university insist on adherence to FAR standards.

Rector Meese added that auditors are able to work in the classified area and that Patriot Labs will soon have this capability, preventing this issue in the future. This research is critical to the university and the nation.

E. Development Committee

Vice Rector Shrivastava reported on the Development Committee meeting, providing a summary of the presentations by Jenny Herrera, Chair of the GMU Foundation and Trishana Bowden, Vice President of Advancement and Alumni Relations. The committee also received presentations on Mason Now: Power the Possible Capital Campaign Projects from Alpaslan Özerdem, Dean of the Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter School for Peace and Conflict Resolution; Patrick Soleymani, Associate Dean, Outreach and Strategic Engagement, Costello College of Business; and Rick Davis, Dean of the College of Visual and Performing Arts.

Visitor Moran added that Dean Özerdem has been pursuing foreign investment from Qatar for their Point of View project, but Iran's bombing has negatively impacted their capabilities. Solon Simmons, as a professor of the Carter School, added that Qatar's Minister of State will have a campus visit the following week on this matter.

F. Research Committee

Vice Chair Purvis reported on the Research Committee meeting, providing a summary of the presentations by Andre Marshall, Vice President of Research, Innovation, and Economic Impact.

VII. Closed Session

- A.** Acquisition of Real Property (Code of VA: §2.2-3711.A.3)
- B.** Consultation with Legal Counsel pertaining to actual or probable litigation (Code of VA: §2.2-3711.A.7)
- C.** Consultation with Legal Counsel regarding the aforementioned items (Code of VA: §2.2-3711.A.8)
- D.** Personnel Matter (Code of VA: §2.2-3711.A.1)

Vice Rector Shrivastava **MOVED** that the board go into Closed Session under the provisions of:

- Section 2.2-3711.A.11 for discussion or consideration of honorary degrees or special awards;
- Section 2.2-3711.A.3 for the discussion of potential acquisition of certain real property to further the mission of the University where discussion in open session would adversely affect the university's bargaining position and negotiating strategy;
- Section 2.2-3711.A.7 for Consultation with legal counsel pertaining to actual or probable litigation including briefings on:
 - Morrison v. GMU et al.
 - Ochar v. Employment Enterprises, Inc. & GMU, et al.
 - Akerman v. GMU
 - Sei v. Pulis & Castillo
 - LaFoy v. GMU
 - Robinson v. GMU
 - von Bergen v. GMU
 - Title VI Student Complaint; no actual litigation
- Section 2.2-3711.A.8 for consultation with legal counsel regarding the aforementioned items, Freedom of Information Act, Conflict of Interest Act, Virginia Public Records Act and federal investigations;
- Section 2.2-3711.A.1 for a Personnel Matter to discuss the performance of specific university personnel.

The motion was **SECONDED** by Secretary Alacbay. **MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.**

Following closed session, Vice Rector Shrivastava **MOVED** that the board go back into public session and further moved that by roll call vote the board affirm that only public business matters lawfully exempted from the open meeting requirements under the Freedom of Information Act were heard, discussed or considered in the closed meeting, and that only such business matters that were identified in the motion to go into a closed meeting were heard, discussed or considered in the closed meeting. Any member of the board who believes that there was a departure from the requirements as stated, shall so state prior to taking the roll call, indicating the substance of the departure that, in his or her judgment, has taken place. **ALL PRESENT BOARD MEMBERS RESPONDED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE BY ROLL CALL VOTE.**

Yes: 14

Absent: Visitors Tom Davis and Jon Peterson.

As a result of the closed session discussions under the Acquisition of Real Property Code, Rector Meese **MOVED** that the Board vote to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Chapter 15, Title 23.1 of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended (the "Virginia Code"), establishes a public corporation under the name and style of The Rector and Visitors of George Mason University (the "University") which is governed by a Board of Visitors (the "Board") vested with the supervision, management and control of the University;

WHEREAS, by Article 4, Chapter 10, Title 23.1 of the Code of Virginia of 1950, the University entered into a management agreement with the Commonwealth of Virginia which was enacted as Chapters 76 and 77 of the Acts of Assembly of 2021 (Special Session I) which, classifies the University as a public institution of higher education and empowers the University with the authority to undertake and implement major capital projects, including the acquisition of any interest in land;

WHEREAS, on May 1, 2025, the Board approved the submission of the University's Six-Year Capital Plan which included Faculty Staff Housing ("Capital Plan") and

WHEREAS, the Board deems it desirable and in the best interests of the University to acquire that certain real property discussed in Closed Session on this date (the "Property").

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that

1. the University is authorized to acquire the Property with Non-General Funds at the agreed upon price and upon such other terms and conditions as the President or others authorized to act on his behalf may, in their discretion, deem advisable;
2. the Board hereby authorizes, directs and empowers the President or the Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer to execute, for and on behalf of the University and in its name, any and all documents required in connection with the acquisition of the Property,
3. any actions by the aforementioned officers or those delegated to act on their behalf within the authority conferred hereby, taken prior to the date of this resolution, are hereby ratified, confirmed and approved as the acts and deeds of the University; and
4. this resolution is effective immediately.

The motion was **SECONDED** by Visitor Parks.

The **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY ROLL CALL VOTE. (Attachment 4)**

Yes: 14

Absent: Visitors Tom Davis and Jon Peterson.

Rector Meese asked if there was any additional business. Visitor Rosen remarked on the attendance of members of George Mason's Chapter of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP). This was a small representation, not the large and diverse faculty of the university.

Rector Meese thanked the board for their engagement and looked forward to seeing them at commencement. The meeting was recessed at 4:31 p.m.

Bridget Higgins
Secretary pro tem

Attachment 1: Increase Existing Line of Credit with Atlantic Union Bank

Attachment 2: Establish a New Line of Credit with Wells Fargo

Attachment 3: Delegation of Authority for Tax-Exempt Financing Reimbursement Declarations

Attachment 4: Authorization to Acquire Property

Attachment 5: Public Comments (6 Pages)

**RESOLUTION
OF THE
BOARD OF VISITORS OF GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY**

Authorizing Increasing Existing Line of Credit Authorization by \$15,000,000

WHEREAS, the Board of Visitors (the "Board") previously authorized the financing and refinancing of a portion of the costs of the Fuse Building at Mason Square, which is part of the Arlington campus of George Mason University (the "University"), including costs associated with capitalized interest, financing costs, and related working capital (the "Project"), subject to the limitations and parameters set forth therein; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to such authorization, the Board approved a plan of finance providing for the incurrence of one or more loans in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$68,000,000; and

WHEREAS, the Board has been advised that additional capacity under the existing financing authorization is advisable to provide increased liquidity and flexibility in connection with the Project and related working capital needs; and

WHEREAS, the Board has determined that increasing the previously authorized maximum aggregate principal amount of such loans by up to \$15,000,000, for a revised aggregate amount not to exceed \$83,000,000, is in the best interests of the University; and

WHEREAS, any such loans will continue to be secured by the University's general revenue pledge and shall not constitute a debt or obligation of the Commonwealth of Virginia (the "Commonwealth"), either legal, moral, or otherwise; and

WHEREAS, the loans will continue to be evidenced by one or more credit agreements or similar agreements (each a "Credit Agreement") and promissory notes issued to or for the benefit of the applicable lender (each a "Note");

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that

1. the Board hereby amends the previously approved plan of finance to authorize an increase of up to \$15,000,000, such that the maximum aggregate original principal amount of all Loans shall not exceed \$83,000,000, and otherwise reaffirms the plan of finance described in the prior authorization; and
2. the President of the University or the Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of the University is authorized to determine and approve the lenders to provide the Loans and the final terms and conditions of each Loan, including, without limitation,

their original principal amounts and series, maturity dates and amounts, redemption provisions, prices and interest rates, tax status of interest, and whether principal of the applicable Loan may be borrowed, repaid, and reborrowed on a revolving credit basis; provided that:

1. the maximum aggregate original principal amount of all Loans shall not exceed \$83,000,000;
2. any Loan bearing interest at a fixed rate shall have an interest rate not in excess of 6%;
3. any Loan bearing interest at a variable rate shall have an initial interest rate not in excess of 10%; and
4. no Loan shall have a final maturity date more than 20 years after its issuance date; and
3. the President of the University or the Senior Vice President and CFO of the University is authorized to negotiate, execute, and deliver the Credit Agreements, Notes, and any other documents necessary or desirable in connection with the Loans, and such execution shall constitute conclusive evidence of final approval of all terms and conditions thereof; and
4. all officers of the University are authorized and directed to take all such further actions and to execute all such instruments, agreements, documents, and certificates as they deem necessary or desirable to carry out the purposes of this Resolution; and
5. all actions of the officers of the University taken in conformity with the purposes and intent of this Resolution are hereby ratified, approved, and confirmed; and
6. this Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

Adopted: April 30, 2026



Secretary
Board of Visitors
George Mason University

**RESOLUTION
OF THE
BOARD OF VISITORS OF GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY**

Authorizing New Line of Credit for Short-Term Debt Financing up to \$75,000,000

WHEREAS, the Board of Visitors (the "Board") of George Mason University (the "University") has determined that establishing a new line of credit is advisable to provide cost effective cash liquidity and financial flexibility to support the timing of capital expenditures and other general corporate purposes of the University; and

WHEREAS the Board desires to authorize the University to enter into one or more credit facilities with Wells Fargo Bank (the "Lender") evidencing a line of credit (each, a "Loan"), subject to the limitations and parameters set forth herein; and

WHEREAS, the Loans shall be secured by the University's general revenue pledge and shall not constitute a debt or obligation of the Commonwealth of Virginia (the "Commonwealth"), either legal, moral, or otherwise; and

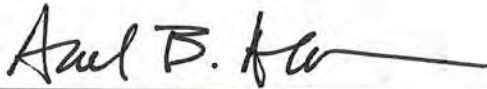
WHEREAS, the Loans shall be evidenced by one or more credit agreements or similar agreements with the Lender (each, a "Credit Agreement") and one or more promissory notes issued to or for the benefit of the Lender (each, a "Note");

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that

1. the Board hereby authorizes the establishment of a new line of credit with Wells Fargo Bank for the purpose of providing short-term debt financing for capital expenses and/or for other general corporate purposes, in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$75,000,000; and
2. the President of the University or the Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of the University is hereby authorized to negotiate, determine, and approve the final terms and conditions of the Loans, including, without limitation, their principal amounts, maturity dates, interest rates, tax status of interest, redemption provisions, and whether all or any portion of the Loans may be borrowed, repaid, and reborrowed on a revolving credit basis; provided that:
 1. the maximum aggregate original principal amount of all Loans shall not exceed \$75,000,000;
 2. any Loan bearing interest at a fixed rate shall have an interest rate not in excess of 6%;
 3. any Loan bearing interest at a variable rate shall have an initial interest rate not in excess of 10%; and

4. no Loan shall have a final maturity date more than 20 years from its issuance date;
and
3. the President of the University or the Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of the University is authorized to negotiate, execute, and deliver the Credit Agreements, Notes, and any other documents necessary or desirable to carry out the purposes of this Resolution, and the execution thereof shall constitute conclusive evidence of final approval of the terms and conditions of the Loans; and
4. all officers of the University are authorized and directed to take all such further actions and to execute all such instruments, agreements, documents, and certificates as they deem necessary or desirable to effectuate the purposes of this Resolution; and
5. all actions of the officers of the University taken in conformity with the purposes and intent of this Resolution are hereby ratified, approved, and confirmed; and
6. this Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

Adopted: April 30, 2026



Secretary
Board of Visitors
George Mason University

**RESOLUTION
OF THE
BOARD OF VISITORS OF GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY**

Authorization to Acquire Property

WHEREAS, Chapter 15, Title 23.1 of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended (the "Virginia Code"), establishes a public corporation under the name and style of The Rector and Visitors of George Mason University (the "University") which is governed by a Board of Visitors (the "Board") vested with the supervision, management and control of the University;

WHEREAS, by Article 4, Chapter 10, Title 23.1 of the Code of Virginia of 1950, the University entered into a management agreement with the Commonwealth of Virginia which was enacted as Chapters 76 and 77 of the Acts of Assembly of 2021 (Special Session I) which, classifies the University as a public institution of higher education and empowers the University with the authority to undertake and implement major capital projects, including the acquisition of any interest in land;

WHEREAS, on May 1, 2025, the Board approved the submission of the University's Six-Year Capital Plan which included Faculty Staff Housing ("Capital Plan") and

WHEREAS, the Board deems it desirable and in the best interests of the University to acquire that certain real property discussed in Closed Session on this date (the "Property").

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that

1. the University is authorized to acquire the Property with Non-General Funds at the agreed upon price and upon such other terms and conditions as the President or others authorized to act on his behalf may, in their discretion, deem advisable;
2. the Board hereby authorizes, directs and empowers the President or the Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer to execute, for and on behalf of the University and in its name, any and all documents required in connection with the acquisition of the Property,
3. any actions by the aforementioned officers or those delegated to act on their behalf within the authority conferred hereby, taken prior to the date of this resolution, are hereby ratified, confirmed and approved as the acts and deeds of the University; and
4. this resolution is effective immediately.

Adopted: April 30, 2026



Secretary
Board of Visitors
George Mason University

**RESOLUTION
OF THE
BOARD OF VISITORS OF GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY**

Authorizing New Line of Credit for Short-Term Debt Financing up to \$75,000,000

WHEREAS, the Board of Visitors (the "Board") of George Mason University (the "University") has determined that establishing a new line of credit is advisable to provide cost effective cash liquidity and financial flexibility to support the timing of capital expenditures and other general corporate purposes of the University; and

WHEREAS the Board desires to authorize the University to enter into one or more credit facilities with Wells Fargo Bank (the "Lender") evidencing a line of credit (each, a "Loan"), subject to the limitations and parameters set forth herein; and

WHEREAS, the Loans shall be secured by the University's general revenue pledge and shall not constitute a debt or obligation of the Commonwealth of Virginia (the "Commonwealth"), either legal, moral, or otherwise; and

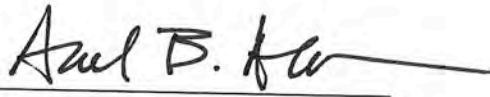
WHEREAS, the Loans shall be evidenced by one or more credit agreements or similar agreements with the Lender (each, a "Credit Agreement") and one or more promissory notes issued to or for the benefit of the Lender (each, a "Note");

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that

1. the Board hereby authorizes the establishment of a new line of credit with Wells Fargo Bank for the purpose of providing short-term debt financing for capital expenses and/or for other general corporate purposes, in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$75,000,000; and
2. the President of the University or the Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of the University is hereby authorized to negotiate, determine, and approve the final terms and conditions of the Loans, including, without limitation, their principal amounts, maturity dates, interest rates, tax status of interest, redemption provisions, and whether all or any portion of the Loans may be borrowed, repaid, and reborrowed on a revolving credit basis; provided that:
 1. the maximum aggregate original principal amount of all Loans shall not exceed \$75,000,000;
 2. any Loan bearing interest at a fixed rate shall have an interest rate not in excess of 6%;
 3. any Loan bearing interest at a variable rate shall have an initial interest rate not in excess of 10%; and

4. no Loan shall have a final maturity date more than 20 years from its issuance date; and
3. the President of the University or the Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of the University is authorized to negotiate, execute, and deliver the Credit Agreements, Notes, and any other documents necessary or desirable to carry out the purposes of this Resolution, and the execution thereof shall constitute conclusive evidence of final approval of the terms and conditions of the Loans; and
4. all officers of the University are authorized and directed to take all such further actions and to execute all such instruments, agreements, documents, and certificates as they deem necessary or desirable to effectuate the purposes of this Resolution; and
5. all actions of the officers of the University taken in conformity with the purposes and intent of this Resolution are hereby ratified, approved, and confirmed; and
6. this Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

Adopted: April 30, 2026



Secretary
Board of Visitors
George Mason University

**RESOLUTION
OF THE
BOARD OF VISITORS OF GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY**

Authorization to Acquire Property

WHEREAS, Chapter 15, Title 23.1 of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended (the "Virginia Code"), establishes a public corporation under the name and style of The Rector and Visitors of George Mason University (the "University") which is governed by a Board of Visitors (the "Board") vested with the supervision, management and control of the University;

WHEREAS, by Article 4, Chapter 10, Title 23.1 of the Code of Virginia of 1950, the University entered into a management agreement with the Commonwealth of Virginia which was enacted as Chapters 76 and 77 of the Acts of Assembly of 2021 (Special Session I) which, classifies the University as a public institution of higher education and empowers the University with the authority to undertake and implement major capital projects, including the acquisition of any interest in land;

WHEREAS, on May 1, 2025, the Board approved the submission of the University's Six-Year Capital Plan which included Faculty Staff Housing ("Capital Plan") and

WHEREAS, the Board deems it desirable and in the best interests of the University to acquire that certain real property discussed in Closed Session on this date (the "Property").

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that

1. the University is authorized to acquire the Property with Non-General Funds at the agreed upon price and upon such other terms and conditions as the President or others authorized to act on his behalf may, in their discretion, deem advisable;
2. the Board hereby authorizes, directs and empowers the President or the Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer to execute, for and on behalf of the University and in its name, any and all documents required in connection with the acquisition of the Property,
3. any actions by the aforementioned officers or those delegated to act on their behalf within the authority conferred hereby, taken prior to the date of this resolution, are hereby ratified, confirmed and approved as the acts and deeds of the University; and
4. this resolution is effective immediately.

Adopted: April 30, 2026



Secretary
Board of Visitors
George Mason University

Public Comments
Received for April 30, 2026 Full Board Meeting
As of 4/30/26 4:30 p.m.

Full Name:	Mason Affiliation	Written Comment
Bethany Letiecq	Faculty	As the leader of the GMU chapter of the American Association of University Professors, I write the Mason BOV with concerns about Visitor Alacbay's dual roles as BOV member and ACTA executive. Serving as a trustee of our public institution of higher education while leading an organization that seeks to undermine our public mission is a clear conflict of interest. ACTA is a named partner to the Heritage Foundation's Project 2025. According to the AAUP's Center for the Defense of Academic Freedom, ACTA has engaged in a "quiet campaign to subdue faculty authority and shared governance, [urging] trustees to overpower presidents and faculty governing bodies when conflicts arise." ACTA's aims are explicit: They believe trustees are the key to bringing universities in line with a conservative, anti-worker political agenda. Their plan for "changing" higher ed clearly seeks to erode the democratic processes embedded in shared governance and academic freedom--two principles that are fundamental to public higher education and our mission to serve the common good. Beyond his role in ACTA, Visitor Alacbay also colluded with former Rector Cully Stimson of the Heritage Foundation as the Youngkin-controlled BOV (including Meese, Rosen, and Peterson as well) worked to politically interfere with our institution and oust President Greg Washington. As text messages reveal, Stimson told Alacbay to surveil the Faculty Senate and give him and Meese "a readout." Stimson pushed Alacbay's ACTA agenda, instructing Mason staff to share ACTA documents with the full board. And lastly, Alacbay violated the BOV's own institutional neutrality dictates by publishing op-eds defending the board's governance record in his ACTA role while FOIA productions of all of the text messages between Stimson, Alacbay, Rosen, Meese, and Peterson were pending. Political operatives have no place on our BOV. All BOV members have a duty of undivided loyalty which requires fiduciaries to act solely in the best interests of Mason, prioritizing our institution and its public mission over their personal gain or political agendas. This duty demands that fiduciaries avoid conflicts of interest. Because Visitor Alacbay's ongoing dual service conflicts with the fiduciary duty of undivided institutional loyalty, he should resign. Because the Visitor colluded with Rector Stimson, violating norms of good governance, engaging in political interference, attempting to oust our President, and destabilizing our institution, he should be held accountable and be removed from the BOV or do the right thing and resign. You can find all the text messages between Stimson, Meese, and Alacbay here: https://www.chronicle.com/article/bordering-on-insubordinate-how-george-masons-conservative-board-chair-went-after-its-president
Preston Wilson	Community Member	Given their roles in coordination with Rector Stimson to oust President Washington, interfere with GMU curriculum, establish a partisan litmus test for academic honors, operate outside quorum and violate open meetings laws, and destabilize our university, Visitors Alacbay and Rosen and Rector Meese must resign!

I have recently seen the text message exchanges between former Rector Stimson and Visitors Alacbay, Rosen, and Rector Meese. This makes it clear that they failed to uphold their fiduciary duties and demonstrate their loyalty to Mason. They must resign!

Visitor Alacbay's dual roles as BOV member and ACTA executive is a clear conflict of interest. ACTA is a named partner to the Heritage Foundation's Project 2025. According to the AAUP's Center for the Defense of Academic Freedom, ACTA has engaged in a "quiet campaign to subdue faculty authority and shared governance, [urging] trustees to overpower presidents and faculty governing bodies when conflicts arise." ACTA's aims are explicit: They believe trustees are the key to bringing universities in line with the political agendas of governors. Their plan for "changing" higher ed places governors above all democratic processes. This is straightforward conflict of interest, and it is embarrassing that it hasn't been rectified already. It is clear that Visitor Alacbay cannot be trusted as a "fiduciary" on the BOV. He must resign.

Shared governance is vital for the protection of academic freedom. Public universities are under an unprecedented level of threat from politicians and ideologues. The arm of the Heritage Foundation continues to reach Mason's BOV. Visitors Alacbay and Rosen and Rector Meese must resign.

Matthew
Kelley

Faculty

I write with righteous anger and indignation. It is farcical that Visitor Alacbay, Visitor Rosen, and Rector Meese have been granted or allowed to keep leadership roles on the Board when the results of last November's election sent a strong signal to make significant changes in the Commonwealth. The new visitors on the Board should have asserted their clear, unquestionable mandate to lead the Board and sidelined the lame duck vestiges of Youngkin's appointees.

Now, in light of recently revealed text messages from their time on the Board, Alacbay, Rosen, and Meese have got to go. They coordinated with former Rector Stimson in an attempt to oust President Washington for no valid reason. They wanted a partisan litmus test for academic honors, a obvious sign of political hackery. They operated outside quorum and violated open meetings laws, a crystal clear moral failing. For these reasons and more, Visitor Alacbay, Visitor Rosen, and Rector Meese must follow in former Rector Stimson's footsteps and resign!

Terrence
Lyons

Faculty

I am deeply concerned that the texts between former Rector Stimson and Visitors Alacbay, Rosen, and Rector Meese raise questions regarding whether BOV members are acting in the best interest of George Mason University. I believe they should resign.

Bethany
Letiecq

Faculty

The GMU-AAUP has reviewed hundreds of text exchanges between former Rector Cully Stimson and Visitors Alacbay, Rosen and current Rector Meese (among others). We have analyzed these texts and considered what they mean in the context of governance, institutional autonomy, and fiduciary duties. Given their roles in coordination with former Rector Stimson to oust President Washington, interfere with our curriculum, establish a partisan litmus test for academic honors, operate outside quorum and violate open meetings laws, and destabilize our university, Visitors Alacbay and Rosen and Rector Meese should resign immediately. All BOV members are

		fiduciaries of Mason and must be held accountable. These Board members used their positions to politically interfere with and—as text messages show—assert “their agenda” on our public institution of higher education. You can read these text exchanges here: https://aaupmason.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/BOV-2024-2025-Text-Message-FOIA-Records.pdf And read the GMU-AAUP analysis of these text exchanges here: https://aaupmason.org/letters-statements/
Alyssa Cazier	Student	As a graduate student, I remain concerned about the conflicts of interest that current Visitors hold. Public universities and academic freedom remain under threat from political ideologues. Given their roles in coordination with Rector Stimson to oust President Washington, interfere with our curriculum, establish a partisan litmus test for academic honors, operate outside quorum and violate open meetings laws, and destabilize our university, Visitors Alacbay and Rosen and Rector Meese must resign!
Rebecca Bushway	Student	Given their roles in coordinating with Rector Stimson to oust President Washington, interfering with our curriculum, establishing a partisan litmus test for academic honors, operating outside quorum, violating open meetings laws, and destabilizing our university, Visitors Alacbay, Rosen, and Rector Meese must resign!
Alexander Monea	Faculty	Visitor Alacbay's dual roles as BOV member and ACTA executive is a clear conflict of interest. ACTA is a named partner to the Heritage Foundation's Project 2025. According to the AAUP's Center for the Defense of Academic Freedom, ACTA has engaged in a "quiet campaign to subdue faculty authority and shared governance, [urging] trustees to overpower presidents and faculty governing bodies when conflicts arise." ACTA's aims are explicit: They believe trustees are the key to bringing universities in line with the political agendas of governors. Their plan for "changing" higher ed places governors above all democratic processes. It is clear that Visitor Alacbay cannot be trusted as a fiduciary. He must resign.
Elizabeth DeMulder	Faculty	Because of their actions—working with Rector Stimson to push out President Washington, interfering in the curriculum, imposing a partisan test for academic honors, violating quorum and open-meetings rules, and destabilizing the university—Visitors Alacbay and Rosen and Rector Meese should resign.
CVPA Professor	Faculty	The behavior of Visitors Rosen and Alacbay, along with Rector Meese, is antithetical to the very underpinnings, intellectually and ethically, that define this University. I am embarrassed by the way they have carried themselves and the manner in which they have attempted to inject naked partisan politics into George Mason's operations, putting personal alignments and loyalties over the best interests of the University, its student body, and its staff. This institution, and those it represents, would be better served if they resigned their positions rather than continue to use the appointments to serve the aims of their political allies.
Colleen Vesely	Faculty	The text message exchanges between former Rector Stimson and Visitors Alacbay, Rosen, and Rector Meese make clear that these board members failed to uphold their fiduciary duties and demonstrate loyalty to George Mason University. These concerns are compounded by Visitor Alacbay's dual role as a Board of Visitors member and an executive with ACTA, an

		organization aligned with efforts—such as those associated with the Heritage Foundation’s Project 2025—that have been described by the AAUP’s Center for the Defense of Academic Freedom as seeking to undermine faculty authority and shared governance. At a time when shared governance is essential to protecting academic freedom amid increasing political pressures on public universities, these conflicts of interest and actions raise serious concerns about the integrity of the Board. Accordingly, Visitors Alacbay and Rosen, along with Rector Meese, should resign.
Concerned faculty member	Faculty	Simply put. I want to be treated as a human being living in this society, whom has basic needs, whom needs their employer to provide a fair and just employment experience. I want the BOV to consist of human beings who care, who value the work that staff and faculty do in and outside of the institution to provide students with a highly valuable educational experience. Please be kind, considerate, and thoughtful. Stop playing games with our basic needs. Stop playing politics with our lives. Thank you for reading.
Courtney Wooten	Faculty	The text message exchanges between former Rector Stimson and Visitors Alacbay, Rosen, and Rector Meese make it abundantly clear that these board members all failed to uphold their fiduciary duties or to demonstrate their commitment to the success of Mason above political partisanship. They must resign in order for the continued success of Mason and its ability to provide a strong learning environment for all of its students.
Jessica Scarlata	Faculty	Rector Meese, Visitor Alacbay, and Visitor Rosen must resign. Visitor Alacbay's executive position with ACTA is clearly at odds with his obligations to Mason as a BOV member. ACTA is a named partner to the Heritage Foundation's Project 2025. According to the AAUP's Center for the Defense of Academic Freedom, ACTA has engaged in a "quiet campaign to subdue faculty authority and shared governance, [urging] trustees to overpower presidents and faculty governing bodies when conflicts arise." ACTA's aims are explicit: trustees are the key to bringing universities in line with the political agendas of governors. Their plan for "changing" higher ed places governors above all democratic processes on campus. We cannot protect academic freedom without shared governance, and shared governance is impossible when BOV members use their power to sideline the democratic will of faculty, staff, and students. The text message exchanges between former Rector Stimson and Visitors Alacbay, Rosen, and Rector Meese make it abundantly clear that these board members all put political loyalty and ideology above their duty to Mason as a public university serving the public good.
Agnieszka Paczynska	Faculty	Visitor Alacbay's dual roles as BOV member and ACTA executive is a clear conflict of interest. ACTA is a named partner to the Heritage Foundation's Project 2025. According to the AAUP's Center for the Defense of Academic Freedom, ACTA has engaged in a "quiet campaign to subdue faculty authority and shared governance, [urging] trustees to overpower presidents and faculty governing bodies when conflicts arise." ACTA's aims are explicit: They believe trustees are the key to bringing universities in line with the political agendas of governors. Their plan for "changing" higher ed places governors above all democratic processes. It is clear that Visitor Alacbay cannot be trusted as a fiduciary. He must resign.

Anonymous	Faculty	Rosen, Meese, and Alacbay must resign from the George Mason University Board of Visitors. Their outlandish and unethical behavior are a breach of their responsibilities as board members and go against the mission and values of the institution. They don't represent Mason.
Rachael Goodman	Faculty	I have proudly served this institution for 15 years. I am shocked and saddened by the blatant and egregious harm that BOV some members have inflicted upon the university. Given their roles in coordination with Rector Stimson to oust President Washington, interfere with our curriculum, establish a partisan litmus test for academic honors, operate outside quorum and violate open meetings laws, and destabilize our university, Visitors Alacbay and Rosen and Rector Meese must resign!
Grace Francis	Faculty	As a faculty member, I have watched with alarm as Visitors Alacbay and Rosen, in coordination with Rector Stimson, orchestrated the removal of President Washington, inserted themselves into our curriculum, and imposed a partisan litmus test on academic honors — the very foundations of our scholarly mission. They have operated without quorum, violated open meetings laws, and systematically destabilized the institution we have dedicated our careers to building. Rector Meese bears equal responsibility for enabling this assault on academic integrity. Enough. Alacbay, Rosen, and Meese must resign — now.
Laura Buckwald	Faculty	Given Visitors Alacbay and Rosen and Rector Meese's attempts to oust President Washington and their roles in interfering with university curriculum, establishing a partisan ideological litmus test for academics and equal access to education, violating open meeting laws and destabilizing the university, they must immediately resign. Their relationships with the highly prejudiced and anti-education Heritage Foundation and refusal to defend the university from unjust, unsubstantiated and anti-American attacks on the university make them unfit to serve on the BOV - Rosen, Alacbay and Meese must resign immediately.
Daniel T. Kirsch	Faculty	I am appalled by the bad faith Visitors have engaged in to the detriment of our entire University community. Students who graduate from Mason should have peace of mind that academic freedom, open inquiry, and meaningful inclusion exist in a celebration of teaching and learning on our campus, now and in the future. All of these vital pillars of higher education have been undermined by the Visitors in question in both intent and action for far too long. That needs to end.
Robbie Dieterich	Faculty	Given their roles in coordination with Rector Stimson to oust President Washington, interfere with our curriculum, establish a partisan litmus test for academic honors, operate outside quorum and violate open meetings laws, and destabilize our university, Visitors Alacbay and Rosen and Rector Meese must resign!
Carlos Chism	Faculty	Given their roles in coordination with Rector Stimson to oust President Washington, interfere with our curriculum, establish a partisan litmus test for academic honors, operate outside quorum and violate open meetings laws, and destabilize our university, Visitors Alacbay and Rosen and Rector Meese must resign!
Alqasem Hasan	Student	As a student I am concerned that some BOV members are engaging in power overreach. Given their roles in coordination with Rector Stimson to oust President Washington, interfere with our curriculum, establish a partisan litmus test for academic honors, operate outside quorum and violate open meetings laws, and destabilize our university, Visitors Alacbay and Rosen and Rector Meese must resign!

Charlotte Shaver	Student	Providing aid to attempts by this Administration to actively harm large parts of our student body is unacceptable. Visitors Alacbay and Rosen and Rector Meese must resign!
Catherine Saunders	Faculty	Based on text messages FOIA'd, compiled, and released by the GMU AAUP, I am concerned that Visitors Alacbay, Rosen, and Meese have failed to prioritize the best interests of the university over other goals, and so have failed in their fiduciary duty as Visitors. I believe that they should resign, and urge all Visitors to either commit themselves to fully supporting the mission and goals of the university, as determined by the appropriate university bodies (including the BOV), or to resign and make use of other avenues to pursue goals that may be sincerely held, but are incompatible with the responsibilities of Visitors.
Jennifer Victor	Faculty	I am concerned about recent evidence that shows members of the BOV have illicitly coordinated to attempt to oust the university president outside of the Board's regular order, processes, and decision rules, interfered with curriculum outside the academic standards of expertise, and engaged in private communication during meetings in violation of the trust placed in them to act in the best interests of the university. Visitors Alacbay, Rosen and Rector Meese have violated their good faith contracts with the university and should resign.
Eva K Thorp	Associate Professor of Education, Emerita	As a retired faculty member, I closely followed the current federal administration attacks on GMU. I have been impressed by the principled and strong stance taken by President Washington in response to the efforts of the prior BOV to remove him. I have been proud that among the institutions with which I've been affiliated Mason and President Washington stand out in their refusal to bow to unreasonable administration demands and charges. With the new administration in the Commonwealth, we have the opportunity for vision directed forward movement. However, that is less likely to occur when several sitting members represent the position of the prior BOV. Thus, along with the AAUP, I suggest that given their roles in coordination with Rector Stimson to oust President Washington, interfere with our curriculum, establish a partisan litmus test for academic honors, operate outside quorum and violate open meetings laws, and destabilize our university, Visitors Alacbay and Rosen and Rector Meese must resign. Thank you for your attention to this.
Virginia Hoy	Faculty	The recent release of emails between former Rector Stimson and Visitor Alacbay, Rosen, and our current Rector Meese are beyond disturbing. That these men would strategize to remove President Washington without cause or input from Mason faculty members reeks of a conspiracy, one undertaken by those who had pledged to have the best interests of the University and all of its members at heart. These individuals have no place on Mason's Board of Visitors and should be removed immediately.
Tim Gibson	Faculty	Given their roles in coordination with Rector Stimson to oust President Washington, interfere with our curriculum, establish a partisan litmus test for academic honors, operate outside quorum and violate open meetings laws, and destabilize our university, Visitors Alacbay and Rosen and Rector Meese must resign!

**BOARD OF VISITORS
GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY**

**Athletics Committee Meeting
April 30, 2026
Merten Hall 1201**

MINUTES

PRESENT: Chair Trevor Montano, Vice Chair Jim Moran, Visitor Shawn Purvis, Visitor Greg Scindler, and Visitor Jennifer Taylor

ABSENT: Visitor Tom Davis (Virtual), Visitor Jon Peterson.

ALSO PRESENT: Vice Rector Michael Meese, Secretary Armand Alacbay, Visitor Anne Altman, Visitor Bruce Caswell, Visitor Paul Misener, Visitor Delbert Parks, Visitor Jeffrey Rosen, Visitor, Sumeet Shrivastava, Visitor Sean Spence, Visitor Jennifer, Taylor; Faculty Representative Domonique Banville, Faculty Representative Ali Weinstein; Staff Representative Marvin Lewis; Graduate Student Representative Nilima Hakim Mow; Undergraduate Student Representative Jonathan Dubois; President Gregory Washington; University Counsel Anne Gentry; Interim Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer Dan Stephens; and Jay Highsmith, Secretary pro tem.

I. Call to Order

Chair Montano called the meeting to order at 8:31am.

II. Approval of Minutes (Action Item)

Chair Montano asked if there were any questions or comments in regard to the February 26th BOV meeting minutes. Noting no comments or corrections, the minutes stand as written.

III. New Business

Chair Montano noted that the current NIL Policy had been distributed for reference in advance of the NIL policy discussion and would be included in the updated Board materials.

Head Coach Spotlight – Tony Skinn, Head Men’s Basketball Coach

The Athletics Committee welcomed Head Men’s Basketball Coach Tony Skinn to provide an overview of the program’s recent success and future priorities.

Coach Skinn highlighted the most successful three-year stretch in program history, including increased national visibility, record attendance, and sustained competitive success. He emphasized that continued investment in the student-athlete experience, including the Basketball & Academic Performance Center (BAPC), will be critical to recruiting, retention, and program development.

Visitor Taylor congratulated Coach Skinn on the program’s accomplishments and recognized the positive impact of his leadership.

President Washington asked about the upcoming season. Coach Skinn noted the challenges of roster turnover and expressed confidence in the program’s recruiting efforts and culture.

Rector Meese asked how George Mason can improve student-athlete retention. Coach Skinn emphasized the importance of a first-class student-athlete experience and the role of the BAPC in supporting that goal.

Visitor Parks asked about staff continuity. Coach Skinn noted the program has retained key coaching personnel despite increased external interest.

Visitor Moran asked about recruiting priorities. Coach Skinn highlighted the strength of the DC, Maryland, and Virginia (DMV) talent base and the importance of identifying student-athletes who align with George Mason's culture and values.

Visitor Schindler asked about the program's next strategic priorities. Coach Skinn expressed confidence in the program's direction and emphasized sustainable growth and competitive excellence.

Visitor Taylor asked about student-athlete career outcomes. Coach Skinn discussed the program's commitment to holistic development, including preparation for professional athletics and careers beyond sport. Visitor Taylor offered support through the Northern Virginia Technology Council to assist with career readiness opportunities.

Marvin Lewis asked Coach Skinn to define "Patriot Pressure" and share his vision for the program. Coach Skinn described it as the competitive mindset and culture that define the team and emphasized continued support from students, alumni, and the broader George Mason community.

Athletics Director Update

Assistant Vice President and Director of Athletics Marvin Lewis provided an update on departmental accomplishments and strategic priorities.

Lewis highlighted the success of the women's basketball program and the overall competitive achievements across George Mason's 22 varsity sports. He also reported strong revenue and engagement results, including more than \$2 million raised during Giving Day. Lewis provided updates on major capital projects, emerging departmental initiatives, and the ongoing review of the Athletics medical model in partnership with the U.S. Council for Athletes' Health.

Lewis also discussed the evolving NIL landscape and emphasized George Mason Athletics' educational approach to NIL, focused on preparing student-athletes for success while maintaining strong compliance standards. A brief video highlighted a student-athlete NIL partnership that demonstrated the mutual benefits for both the student-athlete and the local business partner.

Lewis concluded by providing an update on his service on the NCAA Division I Women's Basketball Committee.

NIL Policy Update

Lewis invited Deputy Athletics Director for Compliance and NCAA Governance Malcolm Grace to provide an update on the university's NIL Policy.

Grace discussed recent policy revisions made in response to the House v. NCAA settlement and evolving NCAA requirements. He noted that the policy continues to effectively support compliance objectives while providing student-athletes with opportunities to benefit from NIL in a responsible and educational framework.

Other Items

Visitor Moran recognized the success of the women's basketball program and expressed appreciation for the team's accomplishments during the past year. Lewis noted plans to invite Head Coach Vanessa Blair-Lewis to present to the Board at a future meeting.

Rector Meese highlighted the competitive success achieved across multiple sports programs and emphasized the importance of advancing athletics facility priorities, including plans for a new baseball stadium.

Adjournment

Chair Montano adjourned the meeting at 9:19 a.m.

**GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY
AUDIT, RISK, AND COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE
OF THE BOARD OF VISITORS**

April 30, 2026

PRESENT: Chair Parks, Visitor Caswell, Visitor Schindler, Visitor Spence, and Visitor Taylor

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Rector Meese; President Washington; Visitors Alacbay, Altman, Misener, Montano, Moran, Peterson, Purvis, Rosen and Shrivastava; Interim VP Chief Audit & Compliance Officer Butler; VP and Chief Risk Officer Dade; Associate Vice President for Institutional Compliance Lacovara; Auditor of Public Accounts Representative Borgerding; Faculty Senate President Simmons; Staff Senate Chair Spence; Undergraduate Student Representative Dubois

I. Call to Order

Chair Parks called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m.

II. Approval of Minutes

Chair Parks called for any corrections to the minutes of the February 26, 2026 Audit, Risk, and Compliance Committee meeting. Hearing none, the **MINUTES STOOD APPROVED AS WRITTEN.**

III. New Business

Chair Parks called Zach Borgerding Deputy Auditor, Auditor of Public Accounts to present.

A. Auditor of Public Accounts Update on FY25 Audit

Mr. Borgerding provided the Fiscal Year 2025 Audit Update as of April 18, 2026.

- The audit is approximately 95% complete, consistent with progress reported at the same time last year.
- Most public program audits have been substantially completed.
- No significant misstatements have been identified to date.
- University staff are credited with doing a strong job preparing the financial statements.
- Prior-year findings will remain open because the University did not have sufficient time to fully address them before the current audit cycle.
- The audit team has identified three potential new findings, though these are still under review and not final.
- Discussions on these findings are in early stages; a clearer, finalized assessment will be provided at a later meeting.

Primary concerns with restricted access to financial records was stated.

- A significant audit issue exists involving restricted access to financial records tied to highly sensitive federally sponsored programs.
- This restriction could lead to a disclaimer of opinion on Mason's financial statements if unresolved.
- The issue warrants committee attention due to its material impact and potential consequences.
- In the FY24 audit, restricted access to subcontractor records and procurement documentation delayed the audit by five months.
- As a result, Mr. Borgerding emphasized that:
 - University activities should never operate as a "black box."
 - Transparency and oversight must be established before entering new or emerging activities.
- This prior experience informed the current year's risk assessment.

Current year high-risk transactions were reviewed.

- Transactions involving highly sensitive, referred to as "classified", programs were identified as a significant audit risk.
- Two contracts were selected for testing:
 - One previously reviewed in the prior year.
 - One new contract involving a subcontractor.
- Total subcontract activity under review is approximately \$45 million, making it highly material to the financial statements.
- The Auditor of Public Accounts requested what they consider basic financial documentation, including:
 - Copies of the contracts.
 - Detailed expense breakdowns.
 - Statements of work and support showing:
 - Timing of deliverables.
 - Confirmation that subcontractors fulfilled their obligations.
- All requested information is believed to be unclassified on its own.

Mr. Borgerding clarified federal sponsor restrictions and legal interpretation.

- Contract provisions prohibit public dissemination of information without sponsor approval.
- Auditors do not view providing documents to a state auditor under law as public dissemination.
- However, Mason sought sponsor approval, which implied public dissemination and triggered sponsor scrutiny.
- Federal sponsors responded with:
 - Opposition or denial of access.

- The reasoning that unclassified data, when aggregated, could rise to the level of controlled unclassified information.

Mr. Borgerding reviewed the efforts to resolve the issues.

- Mason management is directly engaging federal sponsors.
- Auditors expressed willingness to:
 - Sign data protection or confidentiality agreements.
 - Accept redactions where appropriate.
 - Consider alternative access methods, such as on-site or limited review without document custody.
- Discussions are ongoing, and there are signs of progress, though optimism is cautious due to similar challenges in past years.

The Risk of a disclaimer of opinion and the consequences of a disclaimer were reviewed by Mr. Borgerding.

- Without sufficient audit evidence for activity that is material and pervasive, the auditor's current view is that a disclaimer of opinion would be required.
- A disclaimer:
 - Does not imply incorrect or misstated financials.
 - Simply means auditors cannot obtain enough evidence to express an opinion.
- Potential outcomes include:
 - Noncompliance with regulatory code and Tier III agreements.
 - Impacts on the Single Audit.
 - Reputational harm.
 - Difficulty issuing future audit opinions due to a gap in assurance.
- A disclaimer cannot persist indefinitely; an opinion must eventually be issued.

Mr. Borgerding reviewed other concerns and concerns with regard to Patriot Labs.

- The auditor revisited concerns about Patriot Labs, emphasizing the need for transparency when establishing new affiliated entities.
- Initial concerns centered on:
 - Whether accounting and audit requirements were adequately considered.
 - How activity would roll into Mason's financial statements.
- Since then:
 - A white paper has been provided.
 - Discussions have improved clarity and confidence.
- Remaining concern: whether Patriot Labs' future auditors could face the same federal access restrictions.
 - A private CPA firm may be viewed by sponsors as closer to public dissemination than a state auditor.
 - The need for sponsor approval for Patriot Labs' audits remains an unresolved question.
- Aside from the access issue, other audit elements are manageable.

- Once sufficient evidence is obtained and validated, the auditors estimate 40 to 45 days to finalize the audit report and deliverables.

Discussion:

Visitor Schindler asked for clarification if the Auditor of Public Accounts was receiving the information needed to avoid a disclaimer.

Mr. Borgerding stated that currently, they do not have the information needed to avoid a disclaimer opinion. Steps are being taken to obtain that information.

Rector Meese questioned whether other universities in Virginia performing classified research that are being audited by the APA are experiencing the same issues.

Mr. Borgerding noted that in his experience, he has not encountered a similar situation. He noted that other institutions may be creating institutes similar to Patriot Labs that are 501(c)(3) entities and no longer audited by the APA.

President Washington noted the following:

- **Funds and financial risk**
 - Federal and state funds were not truly at risk because contract work was completed and independently verified before funds were released.
 - George Mason University was not directly involved in federal verification or fund release decisions.
 - This significantly reduces financial risk compared to how it may have been characterized.
- **Sensitivity of the research**
 - The research occurs in a highly contested national security environment.
 - Even unclassified financial details could, when analyzed together, reveal sensitive federal activities to adversaries.
 - This creates strong federal caution about releasing detailed financial information.
- **Reason for information restrictions**
 - Federal apprehension is about national security, not withholding information from the state auditor.
 - State auditors are not vetted or cleared by the federal government, which heightens concern.
 - Mason is not the decision-maker on what can or cannot be released.

Mr. Borgerding explained that the issue is not a dispute between the auditors and the federal government or sponsor, but Mason's ability to provide sufficient evidence for an audit opinion. The auditors will do everything legally and professionally required to help, including engaging with sponsors or other parties, but if they lack the necessary information, they cannot issue an opinion. Ultimately, he emphasizes that resolving the issue is Mason's responsibility, and the shared goal is to achieve a clean audit so the university can continue normal financial operations.

Visitor Purvis agreed with President Washington's comments and noted the following:

- Federal contracts involving classified work are managed and audited by federal contracting officers, and the government does not issue payment without verifying deliverables.
- She questioned why federal contract approval, audits, and payment are not considered sufficient proof that proper oversight and due diligence occurred.
- Sole-source contracts are common, valid, and not inherently a risk when justified.
- Releasing classified data without authorization would result in federal prosecution, regardless of audit needs.
- Audit agencies (e.g., Deloitte, DoD auditors) often have cleared personnel who can audit classified programs, including highly sensitive or unacknowledged ones.
- The speaker argued the focus should shift from claiming "lack of evidence" to recognizing that federal audits and contract execution themselves provide assurance.
- If the government issued the contract, accepted deliverables, and made full payment, auditors should reasonably infer that federal due diligence was performed.

Chair Parks concluded the discussion and moved to the next agenda item.

B. Enterprise Risk Management Update

Dr. Aurali Dade, Vice President of Enterprise Risk Management and Chief Risk Officer, introduced Dr. Charmaine Madison, Vice President and Chief Information Officer, to provide the Information Technology Briefing

i. Information Technology Briefing

- Dr. Madison outlined George Mason University's technology and cybersecurity priorities for the next 12–18 months, emphasizing enrollment protection, improved student experience through a new CRM launch (Patriot Connect), and responsible expansion of AI to drive efficiency and student success.
- The university is strengthening technology governance, modernizing infrastructure (including identity and access management, ERP planning, and cloud migration), and improving operational resilience through enhanced disaster recovery, business continuity, and phishing awareness.
- Mason operates in a persistent but managed elevated cyber risk environment, not a crisis, with growing program maturity under a new Chief Information Security Officer.
- Key risks include identity threats, hacktivism, third-party compromise, and legacy systems, which are being addressed through targeted investments and governance.
- Ms. Perez (AVP, Research Security) noted the progress continues on compliance and research security, including CMMC readiness via third-party assessors, to maintain eligibility for federal funding.

IV. Regular Reports

Noting time constraints, Chair Parks encouraged the committee to review the reports presented in the board materials.

A. Office of University Audit Summary Report

B. Office of Institutional Compliance Summary Report

C. Quarterly ITS Audit Open Issues – Follow Up (This will be sent separately due to FOIA restrictions and sensitive nature of IT issues)

V. Adjournment

Chair Parkes adjourned the meeting at 10:24 a.m.

**George Mason University Board of Visitors
Development Committee Meeting Minutes
April 30, 2026
10:36 AM – 11:20 AM
Merten Hall, Fairfax Campus**

Attendees: Chairman Sumeet Shrivastava, Vice Chair Jennifer Taylor, Visitor Delbert Parks

Absent: Visitor Jon Peterson, Visitor Tom Davis

Guests: President Gregory Washington; Rector Mike Meese, Secretary Armand Alacbay, Visitor Anne Altman, Visitor Paul Misener, Visitor Trevor Montano, Visitor Jim Moran, Visitor George Schindler, Visitor Sean Spence, Visitor Jeffrey Rosen, Vice President Trishana E. Bowden; Michael Dockins, legal counsel; Niki Vlastara, faculty representative; Nicole Pozinsky, secretary pro-tem; Rachel Spence, staff liaison; Solon Simmons, full board faculty representative; and guest speakers Jenny Herrera, Patrick Soleymani, Deans Davis and Özerdem.

Call to Order

Chairman Sumeet Shrivastava called the meeting to order at 10:36 a.m. He reminded the committee that the meeting is open to the public and that it is being streamed live on GMU-TV.

In the interest of time Chair Shrivastava did not give opening remarks; however, he acknowledged the success of Giving Day, noting the strong results highlighted in the Athletics Committee report, and commended the Advancement team, university leadership, faculty, staff, and all participants for their contributions to this achievement.

Approval of Development Committee Meeting Minutes from February 26, 2026 (ACTION ITEM)

Chairman Shrivastava confirmed the committee meeting had reached a quorum. He called for any changes or edits to the February 26, 2026, meeting minutes. There being no corrections, the minutes were **APPROVED AS WRITTEN**.

Shrivastava called to the podium Jenny Herrera, chair of the George Mason University Foundation, to deliver an update regarding recent Foundation and Board of Trustees activities.

New Business

GMUF Update – Interim Chair Jenny Herrera

Chair Herrera reported that since the February meeting, the Foundation concluded its winter board cycle with a March 6 full board meeting featuring a trustee-driven presentation on the Center for Community Mental Health, highlighting its role in providing accessible services, training over 150 students annually, supporting veterans at no cost, and launching a Youth

Mental Health Corps; trustees discussed opportunities to champion the center's expansion, including increasing access, veteran support, and infrastructure development. She noted that the spring board cycle will commence in May, and provided an update on what the committees will focus on:

The **Advancement and University Priorities Committee** is actively engaged in activities in support of the campaign and university initiatives. Trustees have sponsored and participated in the Accelerate conference, hosted a dinner to cultivate relationships with advocates for the arts, and facilitated partnerships that support student needs. The committee learned about the Veterans and the Arts Initiative and efforts to engage foundations and are now looking at ways to leverage their networks to make introductions.

The **Audit Committee** will continue its review and discussion of the Foundation's ongoing Enterprise Risk Management process, including a risk trend analysis and evaluation of mitigating controls. The committee will also discuss annual compliance related tasks.

The **Nominating and Governance Committee** will finalize the slate for fiscal year 2027, including officers, committee chairs, term renewals, and new members. We had an exceptional class of nominees this year and expect nine new trustees to join the Board starting July 1.

The **Finance and Real Estate Committee** will review and approve the Foundation's operational budget for fiscal year 2027.

The **Investment Committee** will review investment returns through the third quarter of the fiscal year. The endowment portfolio holds approximately \$277 million and returned 7.4 percent for the period July 1, 2025, through March 31, 2026.

Herrera also recognized Trustee Colin Hart for his leadership, philanthropy, and longstanding contributions to the university, including his service as Investment Committee chair and support for scholarships.

University Advancement and Alumni Relations – Vice President Trishana E. Bowden

Vice President Bowden encouraged committee members to read the full report. She reported that the Mason Now: Power the Possible campaign had raised more than \$639 million toward its \$1 billion goal, reflecting strong engagement from alumni and donors.

Bowden highlighted record-breaking Giving Day results of \$2.95 million—surpassing our previous record last year, \$1.5 million—with notable success from Athletics, the College of Visual and Performing Arts, and the Costello College of Business. Bowden noted the addition of 500 new donors (25 percent of the total), including significant participation from Athletics supporters and 337 faculty and staff contributors. She expressed appreciation for contributions

from the Board of Visitors, Board of Trustees, faculty, and staff, emphasizing the importance of leadership giving.

Bowden introduced key capital project priorities, noting presentations would highlight facility initiatives from the Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter School for Peace and Conflict Resolution, Costello College of Business, and the College of Visual and Performing Arts.

Mason Now: Power the Possible Capital Campaign Projects:

Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter School for Peace and Conflict Resolution– Dean Alpaslan Özerdem

Dean Özerdem presented a comprehensive vision to transform the Carter School’s Point of View property into a “civilian Camp David,” highlighting its origin as a 120-acre estate in Belmont Bay and its current use as a retreat and training facility for dialogue and mediation. He noted that while the site hosts important peacebuilding efforts, its full potential is constrained by the lack of on-site residential accommodations, limiting the ability to conduct immersive, multi-day engagements.

To address this strategic gap, he proposed constructing a residential lodge with approximately 20–25 bedrooms and shared living and gathering spaces to support both formal discussions and informal interactions critical to trust-building. He emphasized that this approach reflects best practices in conflict resolution, where participants live, engage, and negotiate together.

Dean Özerdem stated that the project will require \$10 million in philanthropic support, supplemented by \$4 million secured from the Commonwealth of Virginia, and underscored that the initiative represents an opportunity to fully leverage an existing university asset and position George Mason as a global hub for mediation and peacebuilding.

Visitor Rosen asked how extensively we would expect this to be used: once a week, once a year. Who would be the users?

Özerdem stated that the site would support the Carter School’s dialogue and peacebuilding activities but would not be utilized year-round. He noted that the university is exploring public-private partnership opportunities to assist with construction and operations, including potential revenue-generating uses when the facility is not in use for academic programming.

Costello College of Business – Associate Dean Patrick Soleymani

Associate Dean Soleymani presented the case for a new Costello College of Business building, emphasizing the growing workforce and skills gap in Virginia, with over 130,000 open jobs—80 percent in technology-related fields—and the role of business education in addressing regional and national workforce needs. He noted that the proposed building is intended to enhance student success through modern, collaborative, and interdisciplinary learning environments, benefiting not only Costello but all eleven colleges and schools.

Soleymani highlighted that the initiative, launched in 2018, has strong donor support, with early donors having fulfilled initial commitments and positioned to contribute additional gifts. He underscored that the project is a critical driver of Costello's \$125 million Mason Now fundraising goal and directly tied to the university's broader \$1 billion campaign success.

Soleymani reported significant fundraising momentum, including a \$35 million pipeline of prospective gifts and more than \$80 million in related opportunities, noting that advancing the project and demonstrating institutional prioritization would help unlock these commitments. Soleymani emphasized that the college's reputation and industry partnerships have outgrown its current facilities, and that a new building would support enrollment growth, innovation in learning, and deeper collaboration with industry, strengthening the university's role as a key driver of regional economic development.

College of Visual and Performing Arts – Dean Rick Davis

Dean Davis provided an update on the College of Visual and Performing Arts (CVPA)'s campaign progress and priorities related to the renovation of the Center for the Arts. He reported that CVPA had raised approximately \$43.7 million toward its \$60 million campaign goal (73 percent), noting strong momentum while acknowledging the remaining balance will be the most challenging to secure.

He highlighted additional priorities, including planning studies for a future Commonwealth-funded facility to support film, video, and game design programs, as well as advancing an arts district vision integrating a renovated Center for the Arts with a campus museum and outdoor sculpture garden. He also noted continued emphasis on scholarships, faculty support, and significant endowment growth.

Dean Davis emphasized that the Center for the Arts, opened in 1990 without state funding, is now in critical condition and no longer meets the needs of the university's expanded programs or student population, requiring renovation to address safety, functionality, and competitiveness.

He reported that approximately \$19.8 million has been raised toward the project, with a \$27.5 million philanthropic pipeline against an estimated total cost of \$104 million, underscoring the urgency of advancing the project to address facility needs and strengthen the university's cultural and community impact.

President Washington asked for clarification on the funding structure depicted in the presentation and the total remaining need for the Center for the Arts project.

Davis responded that approximately \$20 million has been raised to date, with an additional \$27.5 million in philanthropic pipeline expected in the near term but noted this is insufficient to fully advance the project. He explained that the remaining gap—estimated at up to \$84 million if construction were to begin immediately—would likely require a combination of university financing and continued philanthropic support. He proposed leveraging university debt capacity,

with a commitment from the college to support long-term repayment through ongoing fundraising, citing prior successful financing models.

President Washington inquired about whether a state funding component could be pursued given the intended use of the space.

Dean Davis responded that this option had been evaluated with facilities and capital planning staff but was determined to be too complex and time-consuming to implement; however, he noted openness to revisiting the approach if a feasible path forward could be identified.

Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, Chairman Shrivastava adjourned the meeting at 11:20 a.m.

**GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF VISITORS
Research Committee Meeting
MINUTES
April 30, 2026**

Present: Chair Tom Davis (virtual), Vice Chair Shawn Purvis, Secretary Armand Alacbay, Visitor Bruce Caswell, Visitor Delbert Parks, Vice President Andre Marshall, Faculty Representative Igor Mazin, Secretary pro tem Yellia Seanor

Also Present: Rector Michael Meese, Visitor Jeff Rosen, Visitor Paul Misener, Visitor Anne Altman, Visitor Jim Moran, President Gregory Washington, Faculty Representative Solon Simmons, Staff Liaison Rachel Spence

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Shawn Purvis at 11:30 a.m.

1. Approval of Minutes (ACTION ITEM)

- a. It was **MOVED** by Vice Chair Purvis to approve the minutes from February 26, 2026, Research Committee Meeting. Meeting minutes were approved.

2. New Business

- a. **Funding Activity.** Dr. Andre Marshall, Vice President for Research, Innovation & Economic Impact, provided an overview of George Mason University's research funding activity and presented financial and operational data through March 2026. He noted that current trends align with national patterns.
- b. **Grand Challenge Initiative.** Dr. Marshall reviewed proposal activity from the inaugural year of the Grand Challenge Initiative (GCI), highlighting:
 - i. Engagement from more than 32 centers and labs
 - ii. Participation from faculty in every college and Mason Korea
 - iii. Partnerships with over 35 external organizations
- c. **Summary of Submitted Proposals.** A total of 41 proposals were submitted across all colleges and schools, including Mason Korea.
 - i. 38 were transdisciplinary
 - ii. 6 involved five or more colleges collaborating. Dr. Marshall noted that this level of engagement reflects the collective energy generated by the initiative and positions the university to lead solutions to society's most urgent challenges.
- d. **Research Translation and Commercialization.** Dr. Marshall summarized progress in research translation, including George Mason's leadership role in the statewide Lab-to-Launch initiative.
 - i. George Mason became the first R1 institution in Virginia to commercialize a product under the new fast-track licensing model, strengthening its position in innovation and startup development.
- e. **Defense and Security Research Activity.** He highlighted major awards in defense and security, including:
 - i. A \$53M Navy contract to build a national training academy in financial management
 - ii. A \$10M Air Force contract supporting applied research, workforce development, and technology advancement in logistics, unmanned systems, and financial management training These awards expand Mason's role as a trusted

national security partner.

f. Faculty Recognition

- i. Dr. Marshall recognized recent high-impact faculty awards across multiple colleges, including Dr. Vivek Narayanan, recently named a 2026 Guggenheim Fellow.

3. Discussion

a. Research Funding Trends

Chair Davis asked whether research funding declines are occurring statewide and nationally. Dr. Marshall confirmed that George Mason's research dollars are down but noted that peer institutions across Virginia show mixed results, with George Mason trending in the middle.

b. Funding Strategy and Priority Areas

Vice Chair Purvis asked whether the university is leaning into areas with stronger funding. Dr. Marshall responded yes, noting opportunities in defense and security as well as mission areas identified through the Grand Challenge Initiative. He shared that the university will announce next week the scaled research projects receiving seed funding. He emphasized that support will extend to both funded and unfunded teams, as all represent areas of opportunity.

c. Politically Sensitive Research Areas

Chair Davis asked whether politically controversial research areas could create challenges for the university. Dr. Marshall noted that Mason's diverse research portfolio spans a wide range of topics, which naturally generates both favorable and unfavorable political opinions. He emphasized that the university ensures all activities remain lawful, which is essential to avoiding scrutiny.

4. Adjournment

With no further comments or items of discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 11:44 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Yellia Seanor
Research Committee Secretary