

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF VISITORS
Academic Programs, Diversity, & University Community Committee

MINUTES

Tuesday, September 17, 2024

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair: Lindsey Burke; Visitors: Ken Marcus, Mike Meese, Nina Rees; Staff Representatives: Provost Jim Antony, Sharnnia Artis, Faculty Senate President: Solon Simmons; Staff Senate Chair: William Gautney; Faculty Representatives: Cameron Harris, Melissa Broeckelman-Post; Student Representatives: Maria Cuesta, Carolyn Faith Hoffman

ABSENT: Visitors: Nancy Prowitt, Jeff Rosen, Marc Short

ALSO PRESENT: Rector Stimson, President Washington; Visitors:

I. The meeting was called to order by Chair Lindsey Burke at 12:02 p.m.

II. Approval of Minutes (Action Item)

It was **MOVED** by Chairperson Burke to approve the minutes from the May 2, 2024 APDUC Committee Meeting. Approval of the meeting minutes was unanimously approved with no changes or discussion.

III. New Business

A. Provost's Update

James Antony – Provost and Executive Vice President

Dr. James Antony, the new provost and executive vice president, began by highlighting his reasons for joining George Mason University, emphasizing its mission to broaden access to education and its rapid growth as a research institution. He shared insights from his first two months, where he has been actively listening and learning about the university's operations, programs, and budget. Key emerging priorities include streamlining faculty hiring, improving communication, and refining graduate education. Provost Antony welcomed Dr. Joshua Park as the new dean of the Mason Korea Campus and provided an update on the search for the next dean of the College of Science, with recruitment of candidates taking place now and in person interviews anticipated in the spring. Next Provost Antony provided an update on Just Societies and communicated his commitment to follow through with the plan that his predecessor began, which was outlined in a campus-wide note detailing the university's pause of any implementation of a requirement. Through this pause, the campus will engage in an assessment of the learning outcomes of all courses that are being offered that meet the intended Just Societies learning outcomes.

He also offered an overview of one of the reports included in the materials on degrees awarded in the last academic year. He concluded his report with highlights of accomplishments by some of our students and faculty members.

B. Enrollment Update

David Burge – Vice President for Enrollment Management

Alan Byrd – Dean of Admissions

David Burge, vice president for enrollment management, and Alan Byrd, dean of Admissions, reported on admissions and enrollment for the fall 2024 semester. The enrollment report emphasized George Mason's growth trajectory, especially within Northern Virginia. The university is experiencing significant enrollment growth, with fall 2024 marking the largest first-year class in its history—over 4,500 students. The university now has over 29,000 undergraduates, 10,500 graduate students, and 650 law students, including those students enrolled at Mason Korea. He noted that while there is a nationwide decline in out-of-state master's students due to decreased international enrollment, in-state master's enrollment has slightly increased. George Mason is one of five Virginia universities experiencing growth, driven by Northern Virginia. Enrollment targets are aligned with state obligations, with instances given where the university has increased enrollment for these reasons. Despite the national "enrollment cliff" challenge, George Mason's leadership remains optimistic due to projected increases in high school graduates in Northern Virginia, and continued growth is supported by SCHEV-approved plans.

Alan Byrd provided an overview of the Mason Ambassador programs and student tour information, highlighting the ongoing training and meetings that they receive and how the program is unique from other institutions.

C. Program Actions and Faculty Actions

Provost Antony provided an overview of both the Program Actions and Faculty Actions.

Chairperson Burke called for a **MOTION** to approve the Program Actions and Faculty Actions en bloc; Visitor Meese **MOVED**; Visitor Rees **SECONDED** the following program actions:

1. New Degree Programs
 - a. MS Behavior Analysis
 - b. PhD in Cyber Security Engineering
2. Conferral of Emeritus/Emerita Status

MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.

Yes – 4

Absent – Visitors: Nancy Prowitt, Jeff Rosen, Marc Short

D. Announcements and Reports

Announcements and reports were acknowledged for the Committee's benefit. It was noted that the Admissions & Student Profile Report will be added to the board materials in the post-committee meeting update to the materials. No further discussion was held.

IV. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Parnell
Secretary Pro Tem