

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD OF VISITORS  
GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY**

**Meeting of  
Thursday, February 23, 2023  
Merten Hall, Hazel Conference Room (1201)**

**MINUTES**

**PRESENT:** Rector Horace Blackman, Vice Rector Simmi Bhuller, Secretary Jon Peterson and Visitor Carolyn Moss.

**ABSENT:** Visitor Wendy Marquez.

**ALSO, PRESENT:** Visitors Reginald Brown, Lindsey Burke and Michael Meese; Erin Rogers, Staff Liaison; Sophia Nguyen, Undergraduate Student Representative, Ayondela McDole, Graduate Student Representative; Gregory Washington, President; Ken Walsh, Executive Vice President of Strategic Initiatives & Chief of Staff; Mark Ginsberg, Provost and Executive Vice President; Deb Dickenson, Executive Vice President for Finance and Administration; Trishana Bowden, Vice President of Advancement and Alumni Relations; Anne Gentry, University Counsel and Sarah Hanbury, Secretary pro tem.

**I. Call to Order**

Rector Blackman called the meeting to order at 8:01 a.m.

**II. Approval of Minutes**

- A. Executive Committee Meeting Minutes of September 29, 2022 (**ACTION ITEM**)
- B. Executive Committee Meeting Minutes of December 1, 2022 (**ACTION ITEM**)

Rector Blackman called for any corrections to the minutes for the Executive Committee Meetings for September 29, 2022 and December 1, 2022. Hearing none, the **MINUTES STOOD APPROVED AS WRITTEN**.

**III. Rector's Comments**

Rector Blackman provided the following comments:

- Informed the committee that University Life is hosting a two-day Spring Career Fair in the Johnson Center on February 22-23, 2023. The event provides Mason students and alumni from all degree programs an opportunity to meet with local and national organizations. Golf carts were available to transport Board of Visitor Members to the fair beginning at noon, with the last shuttle returning from the Johnson Center to Merten Hall at 1:15 p.m.
- The board self-assessment results will be provided in the full board meeting that afternoon.
- Informed the committee that an AGB representative is slated to provide an opportunity to meet SCHEV's continuing education requirement on April 4, 2023, following the Board's Public Comment session that day. Further details will be provided once they are finalized.

**IV. President's Comments**

Dr. Washington stated he would provide his formal report at the full board meeting. Dr. Washington congratulated the women's basketball team on winning their game the previous evening and for concluding their season with a winning record.

**V. Closed Session**

- A. Public Contract (Code of VA: §2.2-3711.A.29)
- B. Acquisition of Real Property (Code of VA: §2.2-3711.A.3)
- C. Gifts, Bequests, and Fundraising Activities (Code of VA: §2.2-3711.A.9)
- D. Honorary Degrees and Special Awards (Code of VA: §2.2-3711.A.11)
- E. Consultation with Legal Counsel pertaining to actual or probable litigation (Code of VA: §2.2-3711.A.7)
- F. Consultation with Legal Counsel regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice (Code of VA: §2.2-3711.A.8)

Secretary Bhuller **MOVED** that the Executive Committee go into closed session under the provisions of Section 2.2-3711.A.29, to discuss a Public Contract related to the Arlington Initiative and a Public Contract related to Fairfax Housing; Section 2.2-3711.A.3, to discussion the Acquisition of Real Property related to the Arlington Initiative; Section 2.2-3711.A.9, for Honorary Degrees and Special Awards; under the provisions of Section 2.2-3711.A.7, for Consultation with legal counsel pertaining to actual or probable litigation including briefings on:

Agrawal v. GMU  
Amison v. GMU  
Auerswald v. GMU  
Ganley and Surber v. GMU et al.  
Jeong v. GMU  
Kashdan v. GMU  
Kinuani v. GMU  
Mahmud v GMU  
Morrison v. GMU et al.  
Rourke v. Rowan et al.  
Ukor v. GMU

and Section 2.2-3711.A.8 for Consultation with Legal Counsel regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice concerning the aforementioned items. The motion was **SECONDED** by Secretary Peterson. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE.**

Following closed session, Secretary Bhuller **MOVED** that the Executive Committee go back into public session and further moved that by roll call vote the committee certify that only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements and only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened were heard, discussed or considered in the meeting by the committee. Any member of the committee who believes that there was a departure from the requirements as stated above, shall so state prior to the roll call, indicating the substance of the departure that, in his or her judgment, has taken place.

**ALL COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT RESPONDED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE BY ROLL CALL.**

## **VI. Adjournment**

Rector Blackman called for any additional business to come before the Executive Committee. Hearing none, he adjourned the meeting at 8:13 a.m.

Prepared by:

Sarah Hanbury  
Secretary pro tem

**BOARD OF VISITORS  
GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY**

**Meeting of  
Thursday, February 23, 2023  
Merten Hall, Hazel Conference Room (1201)**

**MINUTES**

**PRESENT:** Rector Horace Blackman, Vice Rector Simmi Bhuller, Secretary Jon Peterson, Visitors Reginald Brown, Lindsey Burke, Anjan Chimaladinne, James Hazel, Mehmood Kazmi, Michael Meese, Carolyn Moss, Dolly Oberoi, Robert Pence, Nancy Prowitt and Robert Witeck.

**ABSENT:** Visitors Juan Carlos Iturregui and Wendy Marquez.

**ALSO, PRESENT:** Melissa Broeckelman-Post, Faculty Representative; Erin Rogers, Staff Liaison; Sophia Nguyen, Undergraduate Student Representative, Ayondela McDole, Graduate Student Representative; Gregory Washington, President; Ken Walsh, Executive Vice President of Strategic Initiatives & Chief of Staff; Mark Ginsberg, Provost and Executive Vice President; Deb Dickenson, Executive Vice President for Finance and Administration; Anne Gentry, University Counsel and Sarah Hanbury, Secretary pro tem.

**I. Call to Order**

Rector Blackman called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

Rector Blackman stated that the board is accepting public comment at this session and that registration for making oral comments was open until 9:30 a.m. on Monday, February 20 through the form on the Board of Visitors website. No registrations for oral comments were received. Written public comments that were received will be made a part of the public record of this meeting. In addition, written comments will be accepted through the same form until the full board meeting adjourns this afternoon.

**II. Approval of Minutes**

**A. Full Board Meeting on December 1, 2022 (ACTION ITEM)**

Visitor Witeck **MOVED** that the board approve the Full Board Meeting Minutes for December 1, 2022. The motion was **SECONDED** by Visitor Moss. Rector Blackman opened the floor for discussion. There was none. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE**

**III. Rector's Report**

**A. Self-Assessment Survey Results**

Rector Blackman highlighted the following survey information:

- Survey Overview:
  - As part of the requirements from The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) to develop a board self-evaluation process, the Executive Committee approved the continued use of a survey for the self-evaluation process during their September 29, 2022 meeting.
  - The survey was emailed to the entire Board on Tuesday, January 3, 2023 and the period of completion closed on Wednesday, January 18, 2023.
  - 12 of 16 members responded to the survey.
- Individual Board Member Roles:
  - All respondents agreed or strongly agreed with the following statements:
    - I have a clear sense of responsibility as a BOV member.
    - The orientation I received provided the right level of information.
    - I ensure appropriate time is spent preparing for each BOV meeting.

- I actively participate at BOV meetings.
  - I believe that the tools for accessing materials for meetings are user-friendly.
- Board of Visitor Meetings:
  - Most respondents agreed that BOV meetings were appropriately focused and provided the information needed for the board to make decisions.
  - A minority of respondents did not agree that adequate time is given to understanding the “downside” and impact of issues and decisions.
  - Half of the respondents did not agree that board meetings include adequate opportunities to visit the campus and to view ongoing projects. Action has begun regarding this, with the opportunity to attend today’s career fair. There is a commitment to provide more opportunities for board members to engage with on-campus activities.
- Board Standing Committees:
  - Most respondents agreed that standing committees were structured appropriately, contained valuable presentations, and provided ample opportunity for discussion.
  - Well-Functioning Areas:
    - Briefings are excellent and informative.
    - Highly competent leadership.
    - Information provided allows for committees to make the correct decisions.
  - Improvement Areas:
    - More unstructured time for discussion.
    - Adding a “good for the order” section for board members to raise issues not on the agenda.
    - Consistent Leadership in CFO role.
    - More discussion on long-term financial issues.
    - More focus on Cyber/IT threats.
- Strategic Issues:
  - Top three strategic issues warranting the attention of the BOV:
    - Financial Sustainability
    - Long-Range Planning
    - Ensuring success of Dr. Washington.
- Suggestions for Enhancement of BOV Meetings:
  - Additional time to discuss the biggest issues.
  - More opportunities to become better acquainted with each other.
  - Executive Committee meeting previews the topics for each meeting. Rector Blackman noted that this has already begun.
  - Mixed feedback on the length of meetings. Will work toward finding the optimal balance.
  - Online attendance and virtual committee meetings could boost effectiveness. Rector Blackman informed the board that virtual meetings are governed by state law. Will work within the current restraints to make meetings more effective for everyone.
- More information desired on the following topics:
  - How the university ensures student success.
  - The tenure review process and metrics associated with awarding tenure.
  - Research impact of faculty and graduate students.
  - Fluctuations to faculty and staff ratios over time.
  - Ongoing dialog with Commonwealth agencies and elected officials.
- Comments Summary:
  - BOV members report a good understanding of their role and responsibilities. Time will be spent on April 4, 2023 to refresh everyone’s understanding during the continuing education session.
  - BOV members overwhelmingly view the meetings as productive, efficient and informative.
  - Presentations given during committee meetings are viewed positively and found to be informative across all committees.

- Long-term planning and financial sustainability are the most significant upcoming issues for the Board's attention.

To conclude the survey results segment, Rector Blackman thanked the Board for their feedback and relayed that action would be taken to address some of the feedback. Rector Blackman then opened the floor for discussion. Visitors Hazel and Peterson respectively made comments about electronic participation and getting more acquainted with Board members. Rector Blackman responded that the Board's electronic participation policy would be reviewed at the next meeting and that there are social event offerings available that would allow BOV members to get better acquainted with each other outside of Board meetings.

Rector Blackman notified the board that an AGB representative is slated to provide an opportunity to meet SCHEV's continuing education requirement on April 4, 2023 after the Board Public Comment session.

#### **B. Board of Visitors Meeting Schedule for 2023-2024 (ACTION ITEM)**

Visitor Hazel **MOVED** that the board approve the Board of Visitors Meetings Schedule for 2023-2024 that was provided in the board meeting materials. The motion was **SECONDED** by Secretary Peterson.  
**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE.**

#### **IV. President's Report**

Dr. Washington provided the following highlights:

- Bottom Line Up Front (BLUF)
  - The university is doing well and continues to drive enrollment in the area.
  - Mason continues to be one of the fastest-growing research institutions in the country.
  - Mason's partnerships are flourishing. Informed the BOV about partnerships with Northrop Grumman and CGI. A major partnership was just launched with Amazon. The Amazon partnership involves expanding Mason's efforts from an educational perspective in cloud computing, data center engineering and food insecurity. Will be utilizing some of Amazon's walk out technology, transfer pathways and transfer pipeline.
- 2022-2023 Presidential Metrics
  - The five (5) pillars relative to the strategic plan were presented, along with the metrics for each as they currently stand. The status for most of the metrics are complete. The final metrics will be presented at the Annual Planning Conference on July 27, 2023.
    - Deliver a distinctive and inclusive student experience that fosters lifelong engagement.
    - Expand the impact of Mason's research, scholarship, and creative enterprise.
    - Accelerate economic and social impact.
    - Invest in faculty and staff success.
    - Patriot Pantry. At the December 1, 2022 meeting Dr. Washington played the Patriot Pantry Challenge video to help restock the pantry with 5,000 pounds of non-perishable food and hygiene items by February 2023. Since the launch of the challenge more than 7,000 pounds have been donated.
- Five-Year Revenue History
  - Presented a graph that shows Mason's revenue history for the past five years. The graph is included in the meeting materials.
  - Both state and tuition support are needed for Mason to stay above inflation.
  - The state support that is received will directly affect how Mason handles tuition and fees moving forward. If the requested state funding support is received there will not be a tuition increase.
  - Requested that board members continue to advocate for state support for Mason.
- Strategic Plan Pillar – Invest in Faculty and Staff Success

- Earlier this winter, Mason spent \$14 million on compensation for high-performing faculty and staff to reflect the current marketplace. This money came directly from the university without additional state support.

## **V. Committee Reports**

**2:50 p.m. – 2:55 p.m.**

### **A. Development Committee**

Vice Rector Bhuller briefed the board on the topics presented and discussed during the Development Committee meeting, which included:

- Board of Trustees (BOT) – Sumeet Shrivastava, Foundation Vice Chair
  - The Foundation Board of Trustees is finishing its winter board cycle which will conclude on March 2, 2023 with their full board meeting.
  - A group of trustees attended the Foundation Leadership Forum last month hosted by the Association of Governing Boards. The connect with peers in the Commonwealth and explored best practices in board governance and activities to strengthen the Foundation’s partnership with Mason.
- Advancement and Alumni Relations – Ms. Trishana Bowden, Vice President, Advancement and Alumni Relations/President
  - Mason’s billion-dollar campaign launch is just around the corner and are trying to seize every opportunity.
  - Mason alums are engaged, which was on full display during Homecoming from February 10 to February 18, 2023.
  - Mason Vision Day is on April 6. Mason Vision Day is an opportunity for the community to unite around one deserving initiative on campus. The Mason Vision Day Fund reflects what the university values, and this year, food insecurity will be addressed.
- School of Business Initiatives – Dean Ajay Vinzé, School of Business
  - New expectations and changes are imminent in the business world due to challenges of multiple generations in the workforce at the same time.
- Advancement Campaign Update – Mr. Adam Bart, Associate Vice President of Development
  - An overview of the coming campaign was provided, proposed campaign benchmarks were discussed, and the three phases and timeline of the campaign were communicated.

There were no action items from the committee to bring before the full board.

**2:55 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

### **B. Research Committee**

Visitor Prowitt briefed the board on the topics presented and discussed during the Development Committee meeting, which included:

- Vice President for Research, Innovation, and Economic Impact, Andre Marshall, provided Mason’s recently reported FY22 research expenditures of \$230M, a 7.5% increase over last year. He provided highlights for programs, partnerships, and initiatives across the university. These included Mason’s leadership among Virginia universities by securing \$5.8M in congressionally directed and community projects; a \$10M award from the U.S. State Department; hosting an AI symposium at Mason with over 150 in attendees; and welcoming a new member of the Mason community, Professor Missy Cummings, Founder and Director of the Mason Autonomy and Robotics Center (MARC) in the College of Engineering and Computing.
- Patrick Vora, Associate Professor in the College of Science and Director of the Quantum Science and Engineering Center (QSEC), and Dr. Jaydeep Joshi, Mason Alumnus and Quantum Physicist, described Mason’s activities and opportunities in quantum. Professor Vora provided an overview of the Quantum Science and

Engineering Center (QSEC) which promotes research and education in quantum computing, quantum materials, quantum sensing, and collaborative education programs with government and industry collaborators.

There were no action items from the committee to bring before the full board.

**3:00 p.m. – 3:05 p.m. D. Audit, Risk, and Compliance Committee**

Visitor Kazmi briefed the board on the topics presented and discussed during the Audit, Risk and Compliance Committee meeting, which included:

- Mason’s Director of Financial Reporting, Nusrat Sultana, briefed the Committee on the status of the Auditor of Public Accounts’ examinations.
  - The annual audit of the university’s financial statements for the year ended June 30, 2022 is underway and, although it’s still early in the audit, no potential findings have been identified. The audit is expected to be completed by the May meeting.
  - Work related to Mason’s report to the NCAA regarding its intercollegiate athletics programs and Mason’s use of Education Stabilization Funds was completed; there were no findings associated with either.
- Mason’s Executive Director of Safety and Emergency Management, David Farris, provided the Committee with an overview of Mason’s policies, protocols, and activities to prepare for, respond to, and recover from potential emergency situations.
  - Among other things, he described the extensive training required of employees, communications channels, guides and signage, and regular drills.
  - The structure for responding to emergencies includes multiple notification methods including email and text alerts, social media, outdoor speakers and others; tactical incident response to direct impacts; operational support to coordinate across the community; and longer-term strategy for prioritization of activities.
  - He also described plans for providing mental and emotional health support in the aftermath of potential emergency situations as part of the resumption of operations.
  - The emergency response program is admired around the state.
- The Committee reviewed the reports covering audit, compliance, and management’s program to strengthen the IT control infrastructure included in the meeting materials.
  - Reviewed the report of the external quality assessment of the internal audit function performed by the Commonwealth’s Office of the State Inspector General. The assessment concluded that the Office of University Audit generally conforms to the Institute of Internal Auditors Code of Ethics and Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing. A ‘generally conforms’ rating is the highest possible rating.

There were no action items from the committee to bring before the full board.

**3:05 p.m. – 3:10 p.m. D. Academic Programs, Diversity and University Community Committee**

Visitor Moss briefed the board on the topics presented and discussed during the Academic Programs, Diversity and University Community Committee meeting, which included:

- Provost Mark Ginsberg provided an update of the Spring Semester and shared the work being engaged in by the Office of the Provost. He shared that Anne Osterman has been appointed the Interim Dean of University Libraries and University Librarian, SACSCOC’s official reaffirmation of Mason’s accreditation with no findings of noncompliance through 2032, and also highlighted Mason’s current ranking in the U.S. News and World Report online rankings. He provided an overview of mental health services at Mason, reviewed the growth of

study abroad numbers, and highlighted a series of federal earmarks Mason has received and highlighted several faculty honors.

- Alan Byrd, Dean of Admissions, provided a spring enrollment and registration summary and report, highlighting that overall spring registrations is up compared with 2022.
- Rick Davis, Dean of the College of Visual and Performing Arts, provided a look at the mission and role of the arts in the university, review of the college's programs, highlighted the many accomplishments of the college's faculty and also provided an overview of financial contributions and growth. He also detailed the college's Artist-in-Residence Program and other opportunities for students to participate in CVPA's programs and associated activities.

Visitor Moss **MOVED** to approved the following three actions items, en bloc, as provided in the meeting materials:

1. Program Actions
  - a. New Degree Program
    - i. Mechanical Engineering PhD (**ACTION ITEM**)
2. Faculty Actions
  - a. Conferral of Emeritus/Emerita Status (**ACTION ITEM**)
  - b. Elections of New Tenured Faculty (**ACTION ITEM**)

The motion was **SECONDED** by Visitor Meese. Rector Blackman opened the floor for discussion. There was none. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE**

**3:10 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. E. Finance and Land Use Committee**

Visitor Moss briefed the board on the topics presented and discussed during the Finance and Land Use Committee meeting, which included:

- The committee was provided with a financial update and recommendations for Mason's FY24 tuition & fees and room & board rates. These recommendations are structured to find a balance between Mason's funding needs as a dynamic, growing institution with a longstanding funding disparity, and its commitment to access and affordability for students.
- For FY24, the recommended tuition increase is a flat \$300 per student, regardless of level or domicile, with a 3% increase in the mandatory student fees. The tuition increase for in-state undergraduates would be eliminated if Mason's broader funding requests are approved by the Commonwealth.
- The recommended FY24 blended room & board rate is a 3% increase, again balancing the pressures of economic inflation and cost escalation with an institutional commitment to affordability.
- These proposals will be discussed at the April 4, 2023 Public Comment Session before they are considered for Board approval at the May 4, 2023 meeting.

There were no action items from the committee to bring before the full board.

**VI. Closed Session**

- A. Public Contract (Code of VA: §2.2-3711.A.29)
- B. Acquisition of Real Property (Code of VA: §2.2-3711.A.3)
- C. Gifts, Bequests, and Fundraising Activities (Code of VA: §2.2-3711.A.9)
- D. Honorary Degrees and Special Awards (Code of VA: §2.2-3711.A.11)
- E. Consultation with Legal Counsel pertaining to actual or probable litigation (Code of VA: §2.2-3711.A.7)
- F. Consultation with Legal Counsel regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice (Code of VA: §2.2-3711.A.8)

Vice Rector Bhuller **MOVED** that the board go into closed session under the provisions of Section 2.2-3711.A.29, to discuss a Public Contract related to the Arlington Initiative and a Public Contract related to Fairfax Housing; Section 2.2-3711.A.3, to discussion the Acquisition of Real Property related to the Arlington Initiative; Section 2.2-3711.A.9, for Honorary Degrees and Special Awards; under the provisions of Section 2.2-3711.A.7, for Consultation with legal counsel pertaining to actual or probable litigation including briefings on:

Agrawal v. GMU  
Amison v. GMU  
Auerswald v. GMU  
Ganley and Surber v. GMU et al.  
Jeong v. GMU  
Kashdan v. GMU  
Kinuani v. GMU  
Mahmud v GMU  
Morrison v. GMU et al.  
Rourke v. Rowan et al.  
Ukor v. GMU

and Section 2.2-3711.A.8 for Consultation with Legal Counsel regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice concerning the aforementioned items. The motion was **SECONDED** by Visitor Brown. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Following closed session, Vice Rector Bhuller **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.** Secretary Peterson responded in the affirmative for the closed session items he was in attendance for.

Rector Blackman stated that as a result of the closed session there are three (3) action items.

First, Rector Blackman **MOVED** that the board adopt the following resolution (**ATTACHMENT 1**):

*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 5, 2022, the Board approved the submission of the University's Six-Year Capital Plan which included real estate acquisitions ("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:*

- 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 Executive Vice President for Finance and Administration 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. That this resolution is effective immediately.*

The motion was **SECONDED** by Visitor Kazmi. Rector Blackman opened the floor for discussion. There was none.  
**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE**

Second, Rector Blackman **MOVED** that the board adopt the following resolution (**ATTACHMENT 2**):

*WHEREAS, Mr. Barry Dewberry, renowned businessman, and Ms. Arlene Evans, retired nurse, have been generous benefactors of George Mason University and its College of Visual and Performing Arts; and*

*WHEREAS, Mr. Dewberry and Ms. Evans have been active community members who have provided philanthropic support of the arts and horticulture in Northern Virginia; and*

*WHEREAS, Mr. Dewberry is the son of the late Sidney O. Dewberry, former George Mason University Rector, George Mason University Foundation chairman, trustee emeritus, philanthropist, and recipient of the Mason Medal, the university's highest honor, in 1997; and*

*WHEREAS, Mr. Dewberry and Ms. Evans have pledged a new \$10 million gift to the George Mason University Foundation to support the Center for the Arts renovation; and*

*WHEREAS, Mr. Dewberry and Ms. Evans have expressed their intention to continue to support George Mason University in the future; and*

*WHEREAS, Mr. Dewberry is known in the National Capital Region as CEO of Dewberry, an internationally renowned architecture, construction and engineering services firm; now*

*BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the university's Center for the Arts be renamed the Barry Dewberry and Arlene Evans Center for the Arts (Dewberry Evans Center) upon completion of the renovation in recognition of their present and future support.*

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this resolution be entered into the minutes of the George Mason University Board of Visitors this day, February 23, 2023.*

The motion was **SECONDED** by Visitor Hazel. Rector Blackman opened the floor for discussion. There was none.  
**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE**

Third, Rector Blackman **MOVED** that the board approve the awarding of the Mason Medal at a future date to the individual discussed in closed session for that purpose. The motion was **SECONDED** by Visitor Kazmi. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE**

## **VII. Public Comments**

No registrations for oral or written public comments were received.

## **VIII. Adjournment**

Rector Blackman called for any further business to come before the board. Hearing none, he adjourned the meeting at 3:50 p.m.

Prepared by:

Sarah Hanbury  
Secretary pro tem

Attachment 1: Land Acquisition Resolution

Attachment 2: Renaming Resolution – Center for the Arts to the Barry Dewberry and Arlene Evans Center for the Arts

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF VISITORS  
OF GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY  
TO APPROVE LAND ACQUISITION**

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 5, 2022, the Board approved the submission of the University's Six-Year Capital Plan which included real estate acquisitions ("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:

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 Executive Vice President for Finance and Administration 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. That this resolution is effective immediately.

Adopted: February 23, 2023

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jon M. Peterson  
Secretary  
Board of Visitors of George Mason University

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Barry Dewberry, renowned businessman, and Ms. Arlene Evans, retired nurse, have been generous benefactors of George Mason University and its College of Visual and Performing Arts; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Dewberry and Ms. Evans have been active community members who have provided philanthropic support of the arts and horticulture in Northern Virginia; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Dewberry is the son of the late Sidney O. Dewberry, former George Mason University Rector, George Mason University Foundation chairman, trustee emeritus, philanthropist, and recipient of the Mason Medal, the university's highest honor, in 1997; and

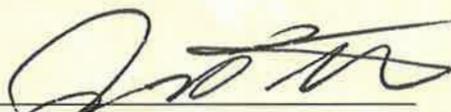
**WHEREAS**, Mr. Dewberry and Ms. Evans have pledged a new \$10 million gift to the George Mason University Foundation to support the Center for the Arts renovation; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Dewberry and Ms. Evans have expressed their intention to continue to support George Mason University in the future; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Dewberry is known in the National Capital Region as CEO of Dewberry, an internationally renowned architecture, construction and engineering services firm; now

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT** the university's Center for the Arts be renamed the Barry Dewberry and Arlene Evans Center for the Arts (Dewberry Evans Center) upon completion of the renovation in recognition of their present and future support.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** this resolution be entered into the minutes of the George Mason University Board of Visitors this day, February 23, 2023.

  
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Jon M. Peterson  
Secretary  
Board of Visitors  
George Mason University