

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

**Meeting of
September 30, 2021
MINUTES**

PRESENT: Rector James Hazel, Vice Rector Horace Blackman, Secretary Simmi Bhuller, Visitor Ignacia Moreno and Visitor Carolyn Moss.

ABSENT: None

ALSO, PRESENT: Erin Iacangelo Rogers, Staff Representative; Melissa A. Broeckelman-Post, Faculty Representative; Steven Zhou, Student Representative; Natalia Kanos, Student Representative; Gregory Washington, President; Ken Walsh, Vice President for Strategic Initiatives and Chief of Staff; Mark Ginsberg, Provost and Executive Vice President; Carol Kissal, Senior Vice President for Administration and Finance; Brian Walther, University Counsel; and Sarah Hanbury, Secretary pro tem.

I. Call to Order

Rector Hazel called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m.

II. Approval of Minutes

A. Executive Committee Meeting Minutes for July 30, 2021 (ACTION ITEM)

Rector Hazel called for any corrections to the 30, 2021 Executive Committee minutes. Hearing none, the **MINUTES STOOD APPROVED AS WRITTEN**.

III. Rector's Comments

A. Executive Committee; Duties (Code of VA: §23.1-1306)

Rector Hazel noted that he would have further discussions with Brian Walther, University Counsel, on the topic of Executive Committee duties, as outlined in Code of VA: §23.1-1306. He asked for another member of the Executive Committee to participate in that discussion; Vice Rector Blackman volunteered.

IV. President's Comments

Dr. Washington stated he would reserve his comments for the full board meeting.

V. Closed Session

Vice Rector Blackman **MOVED** that the Executive Committee go into Closed Session under the provisions of Section 2.2-3711.A.11, for Honorary Degrees and Special Awards to discuss the potential awarding of honorary degrees; Section 2.2-3711.A.29 to discuss a Public Contract; Section 2.2-3711.A.7, for Consultation with legal counsel pertaining to actual or probable litigation including briefings on:

Kashdan v. GMU
Agrawal v. GMU
Ganley and Surber v. GMU et al.
Morrison v. GMU
Morrison v. GMU et al.
Morris v. GMU
Inko-Tariah v. GMU
Alemu v. GMU

Zywicki v. Washington et al.

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 Bhuller.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE

Following closed session, Vice Rector Blackman **MOVED** that the Executive Committee go back into public session and further moved that by roll call vote the Board 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 Board. Any member of the Board who believes that there was a departure from the requirements as stated above, shall so state prior to the vote, 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 Hazel called for any additional business to come before the Executive Committee. Hearing none, he adjourned the meeting at 8:16 a.m.

Prepared by:

Scott Nichols
Project Coordinator
Office of the President

**BOARD OF VISITORS
GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY**

**Meeting of
September 30, 2021
MINUTES**

PRESENT: Rector James Hazel, Vice Rector Horace Blackman, Secretary Simmi Bhuller, Visitors Anjan Chimaladinne, Mehmood Kazmi, Ignacia Moreno, Carolyn Moss, Dolly Oberoi, Edward Rice, Denise Turner Roth, and Robert Witeck.

ABSENT: Visitors Juan Carlos Iturregui, Wendy Marquez, Jon Peterson, Nancy Prowitt, Paul Reagan

ALSO, PRESENT: Erin Rogers, Staff Representative; Melissa A. Broeckelman-Post, Faculty Representative; Steven Zhou, Student Representative; Natalia Kanos, Student Representative; Gregory Washington, President; Ken Walsh, Vice President for Strategic Initiatives and Chief of Staff; Mark Ginsberg, Provost and Executive Vice President; Carol Kissal, Senior Vice President for Administration and Finance; Matt Smith, Director of Accreditation; Brian Walther, University Counsel; and Sarah Hanbury, Secretary pro tem.

I. Call to Order

Rector Hazel called the meeting to order at 2:25 p.m.

II. Approval of the Minutes

- A. Planning Conference Minutes for July 29, 2021 (**ACTION ITEM**)
- B. Annual Meeting Minutes for July 30, 2021 (**ACTION ITEM**)

Rector Hazel called for any corrections to the meeting minutes for the July 29, 2021 Planning Conference and the July 30, 2021 Annual Meeting that were provided in the board meeting materials. Hearing no corrections, the **MINUTES STOOD APPROVED AS WRITTEN**.

III. Rector's Report

Rector Hazel reminded the board of several upcoming events and deadlines including:

- SCHEV Boards of Visitors Orientation on October 19.
- The Board of Visitors, Board of Trustees, and Alumni Association Recognition Reception on October 6.
- The Presidential Investiture of Dr. Gregory Washington on October 21.
- Opportunities for board members to tour the Arlington and SciTech campuses.

He noted a conversation at the previous board meeting regarding Classified Information Access, and remarked that following a request for additional information, a memo had been provided in the meeting materials by Melissa Perez, Associate Director of Export Compliance & Secure Research. Given the additional information provided in the memo, Rector Hazel stated he did not believe there was a need to change the processes regarding board clearance.

Rector Hazel concluded by offering, on behalf of the Board, an additional expression of gratitude to the staff working every day to make Mason's students successful.

IV. President's Report

Dr. Washington provided an update noting several highlights including:

- In the face of great uncertainty with the COVID-19 pandemic, Mason has been successful in its response.
- Members of the Mason community supported Afghan refugees upon their arrival in the United States.

- As Mason’s status with the coronavirus improves, restrictions will be eased, with the first being reduced frequency for required surveillance testing.
- Displayed a list of major initiatives being undertaken at Mason, highlighting:
 - Mason Virginia Promise: pathway towards an advanced degree or their own business for every Virginian who wants it.
 - A plan to meet 100% of student financial need.
 - Plans for growth in students, faculty, staff populations, and infrastructure.
 - Master planning effort for campus transformation.
 - A focus on enhancing specific metrics in order to improve Mason’s ranking with *U.S. News & World Report*.
 - Recent efforts in the current branding campaign.

V. SACSCOC Update (Matt Smith)

Rector Hazel emphasized the significance and scope of the SACSCOC compliance certification (“self-study”) report. He called on Matt Smith, Director of Accreditation, to provide an update. Dr. Smith provided a briefing on the most recent submission to SACSCOC, as well as the timeline for the future elements of the reaffirmation of accreditation process.

VI. Committee Reports

A. Finance and Land Use Committee

Visitor Roth stated that the Finance and Land Use Committee had approved six items to bring before the full board for full approval. She **MOVED** to approve the following items en bloc, as they are outline in the meeting materials:

1. FY 2022 Amended Budget (**ACTION ITEM**)
2. State Six-Year Operating Plan (**ACTION ITEM**)
3. Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission Span of Control (**ACTION ITEM**)
4. Six-Year Capital Plan (**ACTION ITEM**)
5. Land Use Certification (**ACTION ITEM**)
6. University Building Official Office (**ACTION ITEM**)

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

B. Research Committee

Vice Rector Blackman highlighted the topics discussed during the Research Committee meeting, which included a presentation by Andre Marshall, Mason’s new Vice President for Research, Innovation, and Economic Impact. This presentation provided updates on the inclusive excellence plan, research innovation initiatives, research services, and Mason Enterprise. There were no action items from the committee to bring before the full board.

C. Audit, Risk, & Compliance Committee

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

- Discussion with staff from the office of the Auditor of Public Accounts (APA), regarding the audit of Mason’s financial statements for FY21. The APA will provide a separate report on internal controls and compliance.
- Campus health update from Julie Zobel, Associate Vice President for Safety, Emergency, and Enterprise Risk Management.

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

D. Development Committee

Visitor Chimaladinne briefed the board on items discussed during the Development Committee meeting, including:

- Update on George Mason University Foundation (GMUF) activities by Chairperson Terri Cofer Beirne.
- Update on activities by the Office of Advancement and Alumni Relations by Trishana Bowden, Vice President for Advancement and Alumni Relations at Mason, and President of GMUF.
- Report on the “Leading the Way” Campaign in the School of Business.

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

E. Academic Programs, Diversity, and University Community Committee

Secretary Bhuller noted items discussed in the Academic Programs, Diversity, and University Community Committee meeting, which included:

- An academic update on the fall 2021 semester by Provost Mark Ginsberg.
- An overview on fall student move-in and current University Life programs by Rose Pascarell, Vice President for University Life.
- A report on enrollment and registration by David Burge, Vice President for Enrollment Management, and Alan Byrd, Dean of Admissions.

Secretary Bhuller advised that the presentation regarding the Tech Talent Investment Program (TTIP), the Arlington campus expansion, and the Institute for Digital InnovAtion (IDIA) was tabled until the next meeting of the committee. Secretary Bhuller then **MOVED** that the board approve the following action items, en bloc, as they are provided in the meeting materials:

1. Degree Program Name Change
 - a. MA International Commerce and Policy to MA Global Commerce and Policy (**ACTION ITEM**)
2. Program Closure
 - a. MS Physical Education (**ACTION ITEM**)
 - b. BS Ed Health Education (**ACTION ITEM**)

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

Rector Hazel offered the floor to the student, faculty, and staff board representatives, in the event they wished to make any comments. Melissa Broeckelman-Post, faculty representative to the Board and Faculty Senate Chair, noted current priorities of the Faculty Senate:

- A new student evaluation of teaching form, that aims to more accurately assess student learning and reduce the impact of biases (race, gender, and others) on the evaluation process.
- Established a task force to reimagine faculty roles and rewards, with the goal of evaluating and rewarding excellence in teaching and research.

VII. Closed Session

Vice Rector Blackman **MOVED** that the Board go into Closed Session under the provisions of Section 2.2-3711.A.11, for Honorary Degrees and Special Awards to discuss the potential awarding of honorary degrees; Section 2.2-3711.A.29, for a Public Contract; Section 2.2-

3711.A.7, for Consultation with legal counsel pertaining to actual or probable litigation including briefings on:

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Morrison v. GMU et al.
Morris v. GMU
Inko-Tariah v. GMU
Alemu v. GMU
Zywicki v. Washington et al.

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 Kazmi. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE**

Following closed session, Vice Rector Blackman **MOVED** that the board go back into public session and further moved that by roll call vote the Board 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 Board. Any member of the Board who believes that there was a departure from the requirements as stated above, shall so state prior to the vote, 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.**

Rector Hazel then **MOVED** that the board approve the awarding of Honorary degrees at a future date to the individuals discussed in closed session for that purpose. The motion was **SECONDED** by Vice Rector Blackman. Rector Hazel opened the floor for discussion; there was none. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE.**

VIII. Adjournment

Rector Hazel called for any additional business to come before the board. Hearing none, he adjourned the meeting at 4:12 p.m.

Prepared by:

Scott Nichols
Project Coordinator
Office of the President