BOARD OF VISITORS
GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

Meeting of
May 2, 2019
MINUTES

PRESENT: Rector Davis and Vice Rector Hazel; Visitors Alcalde, Blackman, Chimaladinne, Cumbie, Marquez, Moreno, Petersen, Purvis, Rice, Witeck and Zuccari; Faculty Representative Renshaw; Student Representatives Keatinge and Pettine; President Cabrera; and Secretary pro tem Cagle.

ABSENT: Visitors Prowitt, Reagan, and Roth.

I. Vice Rector Hazel called the meeting to order at 1:43 p.m.

II. Recognitions
On behalf of the Board of Visitors, Vice Rector Hazel welcomed and recognized several groups of outstanding students and Jack Wood Award recipients.

A. Recognition of Truman, Udall and Goldwater Scholars
Vice Rector Hazel recognized and introduced the Truman Scholar, Udall Scholar, Udall Honorable Mention and three Goldwater Scholars as follows:
- Truman Scholar: Patrick Grady, junior majoring in Government and International Politics major with a minor in Criminology, Law and Society
- Udall Scholar: Katie Russell, junior majoring in Environmental and Sustainability Studies
- Udall Scholar Honorable Mention: Ben Rhoades, majoring in Environmental and Sustainability Studies
- Goldwater Scholars:
  - Karen Therrien, junior majoring in Neuroscience with minors in Statistics and Chemistry
  - Benjamin Concepcion, sophomore double majoring in Math and Physics
  - Brianna Sobieski, junior majoring in Biology

The students were recognized with applause. President Cabrera expressed thanks to LaNitra Berger, Director of the Office of Fellowships, for providing guidance to these scholarship students. Dr. Berger was recognized with applause.

B. Recognition of the Early Identification Program (EIP) Graduating Students
Vice Rector Hazel welcomed and recognized the 2019 Graduating Class of the Early Identification Program. He called on Khaseem Davis, Director of the Early Identification Program, to provide remarks and introduce the student speaker. On behalf of the 650-plus students, parents and staff, Mr. Davis
thanked the Board for their continued support of the EIP. He also thanked Ms. Rhina Alvarado, Ms. Kathy Cagle, Mr. Scott Nichols, and Ms. Sharon Cullen for providing information and logistics for the recognition presentation. He highlighted the statistics and accomplishments of the graduating students and the 108 students who will be transitioning from high school to college this year. Mr. Davis introduced the EIP student speaker, Ms. Doreen Joseph. Ms. Joseph spoke on behalf of her fellow graduates by sharing her personal story of being part of the Early Identification Program, now graduating with a Bachelor’s degree in Cyber Security Engineering. In addition to thanking the EIP staff and the Honors College, Ms. Joseph recognized and thanked President Cabrera and the Board for their support of the EIP program. The Board recognized Ms. Joseph with applause. President Cabrera recognized and thanked Ms. Joseph, Mr. Davis and the EIP staff. President Cabrera also recognized Dr. Emma Violand-Sanchez, Chair of the Arlington School Board for her work in the Arlington Public School system. Dr. Violand-Sanchez was recognized with applause. Vice Rector Hazel asked the EIP Graduates to stand, the group was recognized with applause.

(Attachment 1: EIP List of 2019 Graduates)

C. Appreciation Plaque Presentation to Outgoing Student Representatives
Vice Rector Hazel recognized the outgoing Student Representatives, Becca Keatinge and Bekah Pettine, for their contributions to the Board during the 2018-2019 year. He noted that Ms. Pettine would be introducing her successor, the new Undergraduate Student Body President. Vice Rector Hazel called on Bekah Pettine for remarks. Ms. Pettine thanked the Board for the experience and opportunity to work with them. She noted that her experience contributed to her service as the Undergraduate Student Body President. Ms. Pettine thanked Rose Pascarell, Vice President of University Life and President Cabrera for their support and encouragement. Ms. Pettine introduced Mr. Camden Layton, the new Student Body President for 2019-2020. She noted Mr. Layton served as the Under Secretary for Civic Engagement, Vice President of Mason Democrats, a Mason Ambassador and Treasurer of his fraternity. Mr. Layton was welcomed with applause. Ms. Keatinge thanked the Board and introduced the new Graduate and Professional Student Association (GAPSA) President, Natalie Gelbvaks, who was not present. Ms. Gelbvaks is an international student from Brazil studying Arts Management. Ms. Gelbvaks was welcomed with applause. Vice Rector Hazel presented Ms. Keatinge and Ms. Pettine with plaques of appreciation for their service to the Board of Visitors. He thanked them for their service and contributions to the Board. The Student Representatives were recognized with applause.

D. Recognition of Faculty Senate Chair
Vice Rector Hazel recognized Dr. Keith Renshaw as the Faculty Senate Chair for the past three years. Vice Rector Hazel called on Dr. Renshaw for remarks and to introduce the incoming Faculty Senate Chair. Dr. Renshaw thanked the
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Board for the opportunity and for their shared commitment to the mission of the university. He also thanked the Board for their support of the faculty and his efforts as Chair of the Faculty Senate. Dr. Renshaw introduced the 2019-2020 Faculty Senate Chair, Dr. Shannon Davis. Dr. Davis is a Professor of Sociology, Director of Graduate Studies in Sociology and Interim Senior Associate Dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences. Dr. Davis was welcomed with applause. Vice Rector Hazel presented Dr. Renshaw with a plaque of appreciation for his service to the Board of Visitors. Dr. Renshaw was recognized with applause.

E. Jack Wood Awards Presentation
Vice Rector Hazel recognized Traci Kendall, Executive Director of Community and Local Government Relations, for the presentation of the Jack Wood Awards. Ms. Kendall provided background information on the awards, noting it is a university and community-wide annual award program to recognize both Mason and community individuals, groups, government, businesses, and not-for-profits who demonstrate leadership in fostering mutually beneficial relationships between the university and the community. She noted it was the sixth anniversary of the Jack Wood Award program. Ms. Kendall explained the award is named for John C. “Jack” Wood, Mayor of the Town of Fairfax from 1953-1964, who was the driving force for arranging a campus to be located on land adjacent to the town and deeding it to the Commonwealth of Virginia for the university, beginning the “Town-Gown” relationship. Together with John Wood, son of Jack Wood, President Cabrera recognized the following awardees and their respective categories:

- Government Category - Jon Stehle
- Business/Nonprofit Category- The Dream Project, award accepted by Lizzette Arias, Executive Director
- Partnership Category- The FOCUS Program, award accepted by Kelly Knight, Padhu Seshaiyer and Danielle Craddock, Founder of Girl INC.
- Student Category – Tim O’Shea
- Faculty/Staff Category – Dr. Lauren Cattaneo
- Legacy Category – Dr. R. Christian Jones

(Attachment 2: Jack Wood Awards program)

Vice Rector Hazel thanked the awardees and the Board recognized them with applause.

III. Closed Session
It was MOVED by Secretary Purvis and SECONDED by Visitor Petersen that the Board go into a Closed Session under the provisions of Section 2.2-3711. A.29 to discuss a Public Contract, Section 2.2-3711. A.9 to discuss Gifts, Bequests and Fundraising Activities, Section 2.2-3711. A.7 for consultation with Legal Counsel pertaining to actual or probable litigation, Section 2.2-3711. A.8 for consultation
with Legal Counsel regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice, Section 2.2-3711. A.1 to discuss a Personnel Matter, and Section 2.2-3711. A.5 to discuss a prospective Business or Industry.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE**

It was MOVED by Vice Rector Hazel and SECONDED by Visitor Petersen that the Board go back into public session and further moved that by ROLL CALL VOTE 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.

Roll call was taken with all present members responding in the affirmative.

**IV. Approval of the Minutes**
Rector Davis called for any corrections to the minutes of the Executive Committee and full Board meeting of February 27, 2019 and the Public Comment Session of April 3, 2019. Rector Davis opened the floor for discussion. There was none. The minutes were approved as written.

**V. Rector’s Report**
Rector Davis noted the proposed Board of Visitors meeting schedule for 2019-2020, presented in the Board materials. Rector Davis asked the Visitors to review the dates and opened the floor for discussion. There was none. The schedule was accepted as presented.
(Attachment 3: Board of Visitors Meeting Schedule 2019-2020)

**VI. President’s Report**
President Cabrera referred to the President’s Report. He highlighted the following: student achievements and new scholarship recipients of top national recognitions; faculty accomplishments in research, he noted the university’s dedication to support faculty research in the approved 2019-2020 budget which includes $177 million for research expenditures, a 72% increase from 4-5 years ago; overall enrollment for Spring 2019 increased by 2.7%, mostly undergraduate, reflecting a 4% growth; graduate enrollment is flat and slightly down by 0.7% from last year, which highlights the need for continued development of an online presence, the only part of graduate education that continues to show growth; the ADVANCE program, the partnership with Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA) and Mason, enrolled 319 students, above the first-year target of 250 students, 50 additional academic programs will be offered through ADVANCE for Fall 2019, which will bring the total number of academic pathways offered to roughly 100,
better serving the student population; the Public-Private Partnership for Access (P3) Conference was hosted on the Arlington Campus. The conference is an opportunity for collaboration between private partners and universities to drive innovation. It was attended by Visitors Hazel and Petersen, policy makers, Senator Kaine, business leaders and 130 university leaders nationwide. President Cabrera noted that in the last 5 years the student population has grown by 11%, at a time when state university enrollment is declining. Rector Davis commented that university growth has continued while the standards have increased. President Cabrera noted student applicant Grade Point Averages (GPA’s) have increased from 3.5–3.6, student applicant Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) scores have increased from 1129-1210, as a result the average GPA and average SAT scores of the incoming class for Fall 2019 has increased; first year retention rates have increased; the 6-year graduation rate has increased to a 70% and qualifies the university to participate in the American Talent Initiative (ATI) led by the ASPEN Institute. With significant funding by Bloomberg philanthropies, the ATI is a coalition of elite universities that join to increase the acceptance and outcomes of low-income students; appropriation from the Commonwealth has increased by 18% in the last five years, however there continues to be a gap compared to sister institutions. Advocacy in Richmond regarding the university’s goal of access to education has been effective in state provided financial aid, which has increased from $17 million to $31 million, a 78% increase.

President Cabrera recognized the two newest members of the senior administration, Trishana Bowden, Vice President of Advancement and Alumni Relations and President of the George Mason Foundation, and Carol Kissal, Senior Vice President for Administration and Finance. He encouraged the Board to get to know them. President Cabrera discussed the university’s opportunities for continued growth in innovation and serving working professionals better. He noted that Dr. Renshaw and Provost Wu have led a series of conversations throughout the university to raise awareness of strategic choices.

President Cabrera thanked the Board for their engagement with the university and highlighted a Mason Matters brunch hosted by Visitor Zuccari, in connection with the Film School. Brunch attendees included two professors and Mason alum Erblin Nushi (Bini), who had films featured in the Sundance Film Festival. Mr. Nushi’s film was part of his senior thesis. It is an autobiography of his life as a refugee from Kosovo and his journey as an immigrant to the United States, enrolling in NOVA and then Mason. President Cabrera noted that Mr. Nushi’s film won three awards and he is now working as a full-time film producer in Los Angeles, which he also noted is difficult as the industry is closed to outsiders. He went on to speak of the importance of the university’s work for empowering new voices that would otherwise be unheard. President Cabrera thanked Visitor Zuccari for opening her home and hosting the event.

(Attachment 4: President’s Report)
VII. Provost’s Report

Rector Davis recognized Provost Wu to provide the Provost’s report. Provost Wu provided a final status report on the Gift Acceptance Policy efforts. The university has worked on a year-long process of increasing transparency and to ensure academic independence in gift acceptance and gift agreement processes between the university and donors. Provost Wu thanked the thousands of generous donors who contribute to the university’s goal of delivering on excellence and affordability in education. The Gift Acceptance Policy will ensure the university’s trust and accountability to benefactors, and above all to the university and the Commonwealth of Virginia. Provost Wu indicated that President Cabrera charged him with a review of all gift agreements, a committee was formed, chaired by Provost Wu, including Dr. Renshaw, student representatives, administrators and Visitors Alcalde and Witeck. In October 2018, the committee returned with an in-depth analysis and report, and provided a draft Gift Acceptance Policy for consideration. The policy was open for public comment from February 2019 to the present. Provost Wu noted that the Faculty Senate has discussed the policy in three separate meetings at length, for possible amendments. He reminded the board that in the committee’s initial report, 27 agreements were marked for further review. The committee has since resolved each issue, the most recent being three agreements associated with Islam and Global Civilization and the Center for Global Islamic Studies, who have both repurposed their previous gifts in the form of scholarships.

Rector Davis asked if the Gift Acceptance – Policy 1123 was approved by the Faculty Senate. Provost Wu answered in the affirmative. Rector Davis also asked if Provost Wu has approved the Gift Acceptance Policy, Provost Wu answered in the affirmative. Provost Wu continued, noting the enactment of the Policy Implementation Task Force to discuss implementation of the Gift Acceptance Policy, also approved by the committee.

(Attachment 5: Gift Acceptance – Policy 1123)

Rector Davis called on Visitor Witeck for the Gift Acceptance Policy Resolution. Visitor Witeck thanked to Visitor Alcalde, Dr. Renshaw and Provost Wu for their combined efforts and commitment to clarity and transparency, Visitor Witeck referred to the Resolution.

(Attachment 6: Gift Acceptance Policy Resolution)
It was MOVED by Visitor Witeck and SECONDED by Visitor Alcalde to approve the Gift Acceptance Policy Resolution. Rector Davis thanked Provost Wu and noted the difficulty in developing the policy and thanked Dr. Renshaw for his assistance on the Faculty Senate. The Rector stated that he believed the policy put forth for approval was the best possible. Rector Davis opened the floor for discussion. There was none.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE

Rector Davis and President Cabrera thanked Visitors Witeck and Alcalde for their work on the Gift Acceptance Policy.

VIII. Committee Reports

A. Audit Committee
Rector Davis called on Chairman Rice to provide a report from the Audit Committee. Chairman Rice reported that the committee received a follow-on update from their last meeting regarding the status of the university’s process for monitoring compliance with laws and regulations. The university has decided to add resources to the compliance effort including strengthening oversight. In future a consultant will be engaged to help the university with the specific path forward for accomplishing this. In Closed Session the committee received an update on the status of the university’s information security program. Management has worked with a well-recognized external firm to assess the maturity of the information security program; the firm concluded that while important steps have been taken to strengthen the security of our information technology environment, more is required to meet Mason’s evolving intuitional needs. Actions are required related to culture, governance, processes and controls. Management appears to be committed to making the appropriate plans and investment to advance the information security program, starting with employing a new Chief Information Security Officer (CISO) to replace the previous CISO who left the university last week. Finally, the committee reviewed the audit status report include in the materials on BoardEffect.

B. Academic Programs, Diversity and University Community Committee
Rector Davis called on Chairman Alcalde to provide a report of the Academic Programs, Diversity, and University Community Committee. Chairman Alcalde reported the committee received an update from Provost Wu and his team on three key initiatives, and they reviewed and approved the action items. The Provost provided updates on key leadership transitions and framed the conversation for the meeting. The committee received an update on the Student Experience Redesign (SER) from David Burge, Vice President of Enrollment Management. Mason is growing at a fast rate and it is critically important to align services to afford all students the opportunity to thrive.
Beginning in the new academic year, Mason is creating a one-stop shop to conduct all student services and academic advising. In response to a Board charge, the Provost formed a term faculty task force two years ago. Kim Eby, Associate Provost for Faculty Affairs & Development, and John Cantiello, Associate Professor for Health Administration and Policy in the College of Health and Human Services, shared the task force's recommendations to improve the status and quality of term faculty experiences. They recommended creating new, inclusive frameworks, strengthening meaningful pathways for career progression and heightening recognition of their varied contributions to the university. Rose Pascarell briefed the committee on Mason’s efforts in supporting sexual and interpersonal violence prevention. The culture and climate of society at large has a great impact on our students and the experiences they have while attending Mason, and we are committed to increasing resources to strengthen critical services for students.

Chairman Alcalde reported the committee reviewed and approved the Action Items presented in the Board materials for submission to the Board.

It was MOVED by Visitor Alcalde and SECONDED by Vice Rector Hazel to approve all Action Items in block as presented in the Board materials. Those Action Items were:

- New Programs
  - MS in Cyber Security
  - BSEd in Early Childhood Education for Diverse Learners
  - BSEd in Elementary Education
  - BSEd in Special Education
  - PhD in Public Health
- Faculty Actions
  - Promotion and/or Tenure
  - Conferral of Emeritus/Emerita Status
  - Election of New Tenure Hire
- Program Name Changes
  - Name change from Graduate School of Education to the School of Education
  - Name change from School of Recreation, Health and Tourism to the School of Kinesiology and the School of Sport, Recreation and Tourism

Rector Davis expressed his thanks to Dr. Renshaw for his service to the Board and the APDUC committee, noting that during his tenure he made a real difference. Rector Davis complimented his work with the Faculty Senate to improve the quality of term faculty and their experience at Mason.

Rector Davis opened the floor for discussion. There was none.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE
C. Development Committee

Rector Davis called on Chairman Hazel to provide a report from the Development Committee. Chairman Hazel reported the committee approved the minutes from the previous meeting. The committee was briefed by various Development staff. Chairman Hazel noted the attendance of Jay O’Brien, the George Mason University Foundation (GMUF) Chair. He noted that the Foundation is doing well, finances are in good shape and the endowment is up; just five years ago the endowment was at $70 million in investment assets, today the foundation is now at $129 million. He noted his pleasure with the future pipeline for potential Board of Trustees and continued success; Chris Clark-Talley, Associate Vice President in the Office of Alumni Relations, briefed the committee on several alumni matters, including Mason’s Annual Giving Day. The first Annual Giving day was three years ago raising $193,000, this year the Foundation raised $455,000. Chairman Hazel thanked Ms. Clark-Talley for her efforts. The committee also discussed the Celebration of Distinction event and the Alumni Awards Dinner, celebrating outstanding alumni. Chairman Hazel reported that the Alumni of the Year Award was awarded to Terri Cofer Beirne, a former Visitor, currently serving on GMUF Board. She will serve as the next Chairman of the Foundation. He reported that the Foundation created a new website following the ‘Faster, Farther Campaign’ that ended last year. The new website is named ‘Forward Together’(giving.gmu.edu) and was created as an ongoing giving effort. The committee heard from Germaine Louis, Dean of the College of Health and Human Services. She reported that the Commonwealth of Virginia does not have an accredited school for public health. Her goal is to create the first accredited school for public health in Virginia at Mason. Chairman Hazel thanked Dean Louis for sharing her vision and noted her goal of creating more endowed chairs for better faculty.

Chairman Hazel shared the story of Cordelia Cranshaw, a Mason Alumna who was once homeless and in foster care. With a scholarship she received from Mason, Ms. Cranshaw earned an undergraduate degree in social work and is now working in the District of Columbia helping youth through her own social work consulting group. He also noted that Ms. Cranshaw, crowned Miss District of Columbia 2019, would be competing on television for the title of Miss USA. Chairman Hazel added that Ms. Cranshaw spoke of the impact receiving a Mason education had on her life and her ability to give back to her community.

Chairman Hazel noted the Annual Goal for the year is $60 million, the Foundation has raised $112 million. The faculty and staff giving accounts for $1.6 million which is twice as much as the amount given last year. Chairman Hazel thanked the Faculty and Staff for supporting the university. President Cabrera and the Board showed their appreciation with applause.
D. Rector Davis called on Chairman Blackman to provide a report from the Research Committee. Chairman Blackman reported that Dr. Deborah Crawford, Vice President for Research, was absent during the committee meeting due to a commitment on The Kojo Nnamdi Show. In her absence Mike Laskofski, Associate Vice President of Research Operations, provided the committee with a brief overview of the university’s research performance to date. Chairman Blackman noted that while the number of proposals is slightly lower than last year by 1%, the level of efficiency and effectiveness of the proposals has increased and the dollar amounts have increased significantly. He also noted that Dr. William Hazel has been retained to study the feasibility of Mason opening a School of Medicine. Dr. Hazel will be looking at four areas: 1) the need nationally and locally, 2) the perceived advantages to Mason and the community, 3) defining the unique value that Mason could add to medical education, research, and medical workforce development and 4) addressing the feasibility of such an undertaking. Chairman Blackman concluded by noting Dr. Hazel’s work will be ongoing.

E. Rector Davis called on Chairman Petersen to provide a report from the Finance and Land Use Committee. Chairman Petersen reported that the committee approved the minutes from the February 27, 2019 meeting as well as the April 3, 2019 Information Session. He reported the committee approved the Fiscal Year 2020 Budget. The committee recommended a tuition freeze for both instate and out-of-state undergraduate students, and a 3.5% increase for graduate students, noting that the increases were in line with guidance from Richmond and the information provided during the April 3 Finance and Land Use Committee Information Session. In total, including room, board, fees and tuition for undergraduates, there was an increase of 1.5% for instate students and 0.7% for out-of-state students. The committee approved the total Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 University Budget of $1.25 billion, representing a 17% increase. Chairman Petersen also presented the approval of the Six-Year Capital Plan, which is submitted to the state’s department of Planning and Budget and presented to the committee each May. The information presented under this plan represent the university’s future funding requests from the Commonwealth for projects for the next six years; it includes a list of all capital projects regardless of the funding source. Chairman Petersen explained that the Board will approve all projects, however only projects using General Funds will be put forth to the Commonwealth’s department of Planning and Budget.

Chairman Petersen reported the committee reviewed and approved the Action Items as follows:

- FY 2020 University Operating Budget, Tuition and Fees
- Six-Year Capital Plan
It was **MOVED** by Chairman Petersen and **SECONDED** by Visitor Cumbie to approve the two Action Items in block. Rector Davis opened the floor for discussion. There was none. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE**

Chairman Petersen noted that the committee reviewed the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC) Span of Control topic presented however the committee did not take action at this time. The committee asked Carol Kissal, and her team to further review the JLARC Span of Control and provide future suggestions following review.

As a result of the budget approval, Rector Davis read the following Resolution authorizing a base salary increase for President Cabrera:

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF VISITORS OF GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY AUTHORIZING INCREASE IN BASE SALARY FOR PRESIDENT CABRERA**

**WHEREAS,** on May 2, 2019, the Board of Visitors approved the FY2020 budget, which included a three percent (3%) salary increase and a one percent (1%) merit salary increase for faculty; and

**WHEREAS,** effective June 10, 2019, President Ángel Cabrera will become eligible for the three percent (3%) salary increase and a one percent (1%) merit salary increase to be paid from both state and non-state funds; and

**WHEREAS,** effective June 10, 2019, President Cabrera’s annualized base salary will be increased by four percent (4%) to $580,844.82; and

**WHEREAS,** in accordance with Section D.1. of President Cabrera’s Employment Agreement (as amended by that certain First Amendment to Employment Agreement dated March 24, 2016), any salary adjustment requires approval by the Board of Visitors;

**NOW, THEREFORE,** BE IT RESOLVED:
The Board of Visitors approves the June 10, 2019 increase of four percent (4%) of President Cabrera’s annualized base salary.

It was **MOVED** by Vice Rector Hazel and **SECONDED** by Visitor Cumbie to approve the Resolution. Rector Davis called for a vote. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE**

(Attachment 7: Resolution Base Salary Increase for President Cabrera)
IX. Adjournment

Rector Davis adjourned the meeting at 3:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Cagle
Secretary pro tem

Attachment 1: EIP List of 2019 Graduates (1 page)
Attachment 2: Jack Wood Awards program (2 pages)
Attachment 3: Board of Visitors Meeting Schedule 2019 – 2020 (1 page)
Attachment 4: President’s Report (10 pages)
Attachment 5: Gift Acceptance – Policy 1123 (9 pages)
Attachment 6: Gift Acceptance Policy Resolution (1 page)
Attachment 7: Base Salary Increase for President Cabrera (1 page)
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The John C. “Jack” Wood Award for Town-Gown Relations

May 2, 2019

The Jack Wood Award for Town-Gown Relations is a university and community-wide annual award program to recognize both Mason and community individuals and groups, as well as government, businesses, and not-for profits who demonstrate leadership in fostering mutually beneficial relationships between the university and the community during the past year.

The award is named for John C. “Jack” Wood, Mayor of the Town of Fairfax from 1953-1964. Mayor Wood was the driving force for arranging a campus to be located on land adjacent to the town and deeding it to the Commonwealth of Virginia for the university, thus beginning a Town-Gown relationship.

Government Category (Office/Agency, Elected Official/Staff)
Jon Stehle, Councilman, City of Fairfax, has been an incredible leader within the Fairfax community, while keeping the interests of and partnership opportunities with Mason students in mind. He has frequently reached out to Student Government, attended Student Senate meetings, and supported and participated in Town-Gown initiatives like Mason Rock the Block. Councilman Stehle has established personal relationships with many members of Student Government and makes it a priority to include students in relevant city business, including the comprehensive planning process. Through his inclusivity and transparency, student involvement and attendance to City Council meetings and Mason/Community Forums has increased, and information from those meetings has been incorporated within Student Senate reports.

Business/Nonprofit Category
The Dream Project is an organization founded to assist low-income immigrant students whose immigration status creates barriers to a college education. The organization has partnered with Mason leaders and students to achieve its mission and serve this marginalized group of young adults at Mason. The Dream Project provides college scholarships, and last year 22 of the 95 Dream Project Scholars where Mason students. In addition, the organization works closely with Mason’s student organization, Mason Dreamers, and has facilitated connecting Mason student researchers to scholars for research projects regarding this unique group of Dreamers. The Dream Project has also provided a leadership role and visibility to Mason’s President, Dr. Cabrera, who has been a keynote speaker at Dream Project events and currently serves as an Advisory Board Member.

Partnership Category (an initiative created between a Mason entity and an external organization(s) to benefit both entities)
The FOCUS program, a partnership between Mason’s College of Science and the non-profit GIRL, Inc., exposes middle school females in Northern Virginia to a variety of disciplines within science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), at an age where studies have shown the
interest in STEM begins to significantly decline, and provides them a week-long educational experience. The first four days are centered around a different letter of STEM, and on day five the participants have an opportunity to collaborate and present one of the topics from the week in a poster session with invited faculty, students and family. There is also a “Leadership and Entrepreneurship” component which gives the students an opportunity to meet successful women working in STEM fields.

**Student**

Tim O'Shea, Executive Secretary for Government and Community Relations, Student Government, has spent his time at Mason helping his peers become more engaged citizens in their community and state. In his role for Student Government, Tim designed and directed the creation of an online guidebook for civic engagement for students. He led members of Student Government to make legislative appointments, created briefing books on legislators, and trained students in Government Relations 101 as a part of Mason Lobbies, which brings a group of students to Richmond to advocate for the university’s legislative priorities. The Mason students were recognized in the House and Senate, and met the Governor for a photo opportunity.

**Faculty/Staff Category**

Dr. Lauren Cattaneo, Associate Professor of Psychology, functions as a bridge between Mason and organizations working to solve social problems. Her greatest impact in building town-gown relations is through a community-based learning course she developed called Community Engagement for Social Change, which has been offered every semester since 2012. In the course students learn about the social issue of poverty, and volunteer for 20 hours with a community partner who serves clients in poverty through collaborations Dr. Cattaneo has developed. Dr. Cattaneo and her students typically work with five to eight community partners per semester. Organizations count on the steady stream of volunteers, and student get hands-on experience and learning opportunities. The professional networks Dr. Cattaneo has created have also been extended to other faculty who are interested in creating opportunities for students in the community, building our town-gown relations.

**Legacy Category** (The Legacy award recognizes leadership achievement in town-gown relations over a period of time longer than five years)

Dr. R. Christian Jones, Director, Potomac Environmental Research and Education Center, Environmental Science and Policy, began a long-term “green to clean” partnership in 1984 by collaboratively developing a monitoring plan designed to document algae counts, monitor water quality, fish, invertebrates and aquatic plants in Gunston Cove, downstream from the Noman Cole wastewater treatment plant, which at that time had just implemented a new protocol that removed phosphorus, an essential nutrient for algae growth, from the purified water they returned to the river. This partnership has helped train and launch careers of dozens of students, and paved the way for additional community collaborations, culminating in the creation of the Potomac Environmental Research and Education Center (PEREC), and the building of its home, Mason’s Potomac Science Center. For the past seven years, in partnership with Alexandria Renew Enterprises, Dr. Jones’ PEREC team has initiated a more multifaceted study to document water quality and aquatic ecosystem trends in Hunting Creek, downstream of the AlexRenew wastewater treatment plant. Long-term partnerships such as these, and others with Fairfax and Prince William Counties, has fostered mutually beneficial relationships with a multitude of local, state, and national agencies and organizations, while bettering the quality of life for the community.

**Congratulations to all award recipients!**
BOARD OF VISITORS
George Mason University
Meeting Dates for 2019-2020
Approved May 2, 2019

Thursday, October 10, 2019     Full Board Meeting

Thursday, December 12, 2019    Full Board Meeting

(Winter Graduation – Thursday, December 19, 2019)

Thursday, February 27, 2020    Full Board Meeting

Thursday, April 2, 2020        Finance & Land Use Information Session and Public Comment Session

Wednesday, May 6, 2020         Full Board Meeting

(Commencement – Friday, May 15, 2020)

Thursday, July 30, 2020        Annual Planning Conference

Friday, July 31, 2020           Annual Meeting

Special Full Board or Committee meetings to be scheduled if needed.
President’s Report
May 2, 2019

[Goals and activity updates since the February 27, 2019 BOV meeting.]

Student and Alumni Highlights:

• Government and international politics major Patrick Grady, an Honors College student, won a Truman Scholarship, the second Mason student to do so in the past three years. Grady was one of 62 awardees out of 840 applicants who plan a career in public service.

• Environmental and sustainability studies major Katie Russell, an Honors College student, earned a 2019 Udall Scholarship, for sophomores or juniors committed to issues related to Native American nations or the environment. She was one of 55 winners out of 443 applicants.

• Sophomore Ashley Stewart, majoring in government and international politics and conflict analysis and resolution, wrote a policy memo about discretionary parole that was picked up by Delegate Vivian Watts and introduced as legislation in the Virginia General Assembly.

• Women’s basketball sophomore point guard Nicole Cardano-Hillary was named 2019 Atlantic 10 Player of the Year. She led the league in scoring and steals. Junior guard Sarah Kaminski was named to the A-10 All-Academic Team.

• Lauren Back, a senior studying communication and environmental science, conducted research through an OSCAR grant to analyze how Discovery Channel’s Shark Week content has shifted from education to entertainment.

• Seven military veterans who are Schar School students visited the U.S. State Department for “speed mentoring” by 13 military veterans who volunteer their time to assist fellow veterans with their career decisions.

• Senior business management major Soulin Reyes leads a small group of student interns and volunteers in the Patriot Pollinator Coalition, a social entrepreneurship program in the School of Business that is a training ground for potential future business owners.

• Junior finance major Abiral Pandey last year served a 10-week paid summer internship for the PGA Tour in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida. He designed performance analysis reports for senior managers and reviewed legal contracts.

• Forty-seven Mason students took part in the National Conference on Undergraduate Research from April 10-13 at Kennesaw State University in Georgia. The conference is regarded as the nation’s most prestigious undergraduate research event.

• Hunter Hautz, a Mason kinesiology graduate who in May will earn his master’s in exercise, fitness and health promotion, wrote a training manual for firefighter candidates in Prince William County.
• We are looking forward to the graduation of an impressive class. Just as an example, senior art and visual technology major Lauren Lapid, an Honors College student, will graduate with a resume that includes stints at Adobe Inc., in Silicon Valley and Paramount Pictures in Hollywood.

Faculty Highlights:

• Thomas Duxbury, a research professor of planetary science within the Department of Physics and Astronomy, will head an international team charged with learning more about the moons of Mars as a harbinger of possible human exploration of the red planet.


• Andrew Light, director of Mason’s Institute for Philosophy and Public Policy, testified before the House Committee on Energy and Commerce about what universities can do to help America keep its global climate commitments.

• Criminology professor Cynthia Lum published research showing that police body cameras can lead to fewer citizen complaints, but their impacts on the frequency of police use of force is less certain.

• Researchers from the School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution and the Department of Psychology are headed to Rondine, a two-year “laboratory of peace” in Italy, to study how groups can acquire sympathetic understanding of perceived enemies.

• Jerry Hanweck and Anthony Sanders, professors of finance in the School of Business, concluded through a study that bank failures attributed to the Great Recession were affected by an underreported component – declining home values.

• Ukrainian Ararat Osipian is the first “endangered scholar” the university is hosting through its membership in the New University in Exile Consortium. At Mason, Osipian will continue his research at the Terrorism, Transnational Crime and Corruption Center in the Schar School.

• College of Education and Human Development associate dean Ellen Rodgers and early childhood assistant professor Carley Fisher-Maltese – along with educational psychology master’s student Rick Holt, an organizational development consultant in Mason’s Office of Human Resources and Payroll – developed “traffic gardens” and accompanying curriculum at two Washington, D.C., elementary schools to help educate preschool students on bicycle safety.

• Meggan Ford, assistant dean for undergraduate academic affairs in the School of Business, has been awarded a Fulbright U.S. International Education Administrators grant. Ford will travel to India to study higher education.

• A study by Nancy Freeborne, adjunct professor in Mason’s Department of Health Administration and Policy, determined that having a good support system of family and friends may lead to a longer, healthier life.
• Mason political science professor Delton Daigle, a survey research expert, assisted Smithsonian Magazine in designing and analyzing a poll about military and veteran communities’ opinions on a variety of issues. His team included two PhD candidates and a first-year master’s student.

• Computer science assistant professor Thomas LaToza received a CAREER Award, an honor for early career researchers from the National Science Foundation, for his research proposal on debugging software problems.

• Associate professor of communication Emily Vraga is part of a team that discovered that consumers don’t necessarily take verification on Twitter as proof of being a credible source.

Media:
Mason faculty, staff, and students continue to feature prominently in national and international media. Please read the weekly digest for the latest.

Access to Excellence and Transformative Learning:

Overall Enrollment: Spring 2019 total university enrollment was up by 2.7% year-to-year (36,441 this year from 35,447 last year). Total undergraduate enrollment is 25,514, which reflects a 4% increase. Total graduate enrollment is down by 0.7% (10,339 this year from 10,411 last year).

ADVANCE: Total ADVANCE enrollments grew to 319, which is well above our first-year target of 250 students. Among these, 30 ADVANCE students have co-enrolled at Mason while still attending NOVA and 1 ADVANCE student has already fully transitioned from NOVA to Mason. We are on track to launch more than 50 additional program offerings for Fall 2019.

Adult Learners: We continue to explore possible partnerships which would expand our ability to serve adult learners through online education. We have held a series of campus conversations throughout the Spring to exchange ideas and share information with Mason faculty and staff. We will update you on our progress in a separate briefing.

Public-Private Partnerships for Access: This week we hosted the P3 Conference on our Arlington (Innovation) Campus. P3, which is in its second year, has become higher education’s premier public-private partnership conference and has become the “go-to” place for university and college leaders interested in driving innovation in collaboration with private partners.

Research:

Research Activity: Following last year’s Mason record $150 million in research expenditures, overall research activity continues to grow rapidly. Through the end of March 2019, expenditures are up by 26.8% over the same period last year. In addition, the dollar value of new proposals, the number of new awards, and the dollar value of new awards are all up, which bodes well for sustained growth in research activity.
## Medical Research and Education

We have conducted a study on possible options to grow Mason’s medical research and education. A separate briefing will be provided to update you on this initiative.

## Research Institutes

The Institute for a Sustainable Earth was launched in February, and a partnership with Future Earth was finalized. Planning for The Institute for Digital Innovation (IDIA), which was announced coincident with the Amazon announcement, continues.

## Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Economic Development

In order to enhance Mason’s contribution to regional economic development, in March we aligned our innovation and research operations to create a new, combined Office of Research, Innovation and Economic Impact.

## Development

As of March 31, annual fundraising had reached $106.6M, a new Mason annual fund-raising record and well above our $60 million goal for FY19.

As of March 31, we had raised $55.8M for the endowment compared to $3.9M at the same time last year. This total has far exceeded our $5 million annual goal.

Also, at the end of March, the total number of alumni donors stood at 4,334, which is on pace to reach our FY19 Goal of 6,930.

As a follow up to the Gift Review Committee’s report, the Provost is working with university stakeholders to discuss and respond to the feedback we have received on our draft gift policies.

## Foundation for the Future

Planning has begun on expansion of the Arlington (Innovation) Campus and replacement of the Original Building. The Commonwealth’s negotiated budget bill authorizes us to demolish the Original Building using private funds and consider the expense as part of our contribution to be matched by the Commonwealth up to $125 million.

We have drafted a revised SCHEV six-year enrollment planning report. We have also submitted a proposal to the State’s Tech Talent Investment Fund, which include additional enrollment growth in areas such as computer science, software engineering, etc., along with request for operational and capital support. The combined six-year plan will be shared with you and then a final draft will be submitted to SCHEV by June 30.
Rankings:
Mason has 12 graduate programs ranked among the top 50 in rankings released by U.S. News and World Report on March 12. Leading the way were the security studies program in the Schar School, which was ranked No. 2, and the part-time JD program at the Scalia Law School, ranked No. 4.

Mason is ranked No. 55 nationally and No. 18 in the South in a new evaluation of public colleges by Business First, which analyzed 505 public institutions with enrollments greater than 1,000.

Legislative Update – Federal:
First-term Rep. Jennifer Wexton toured the research laboratories at the Science and Technology Campus in Manassas on April 15. Rep. Wexton talked to Mason researchers in the Institute for Advanced Biomedical Research and saw the work being done on cancer and Lyme diseases through proteomics, antibiotic resistant bacteria through use of alligator and Komodo dragon blood, and the role of pathway inhibitor development in treating various medical conditions. Rep. Wexton also toured the Virginia Serious Game Institute and saw how game technology builds STEM skills, and its wide application in defense and homeland security, financial services, transportation and many other areas. Rep. Wexton then visited the Biodefense Research Laboratory, where she was provided a walk-through of the facility and was briefed on the critical research on dangerous toxic agents. Finally, Rep. Wexton toured the Bull Run Hall Science and Engineering Labs. She was joined by Visitor Edward Long, Provost David Wu, Bill Hazel, and other Mason Administrators.

Legislative Update – State:
During the winter and early spring, a busy schedule related to legislative, budget and new initiatives was maintained. Some specific highlights follow:

- Met with Speaker Cox and his family at Mason.
- Met with April Kees (Senate Finance Committee), Robert Vaughn (House Appropriations Committee), Tony Maggio (House Appropriations Committee), Peter Blake (SCHEV) and his senior staff, Secretary Aubrey Layne (Finance), Deputy Secretary June Jennings and Deputy Secretary Joe Flores regarding the Tech Talent Pipeline and our IPPA proposal.
- We hosted Secretary of Veterans Affairs and Defense Carlos Hopkins at the Fairfax Campus to learn more about Mason’s Office of Military Services.
- We hosted Commissioner John Newby (Virginia Department of Veteran Services) and Deputy Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs Kathleen Jabs at the Arlington Campus and Fairfax Campus to learn more about Mason’s Center for Business Civic Engagement, the Schar School, our MVET program, and Mason’s Office of Military Services.

Other Mason Engagement:
- Tom Calhoun and Carol Kissal met with key officials in state agencies – House Appropriations Committee, Senate Finance Committee, the Department of Planning and Budget and the Department of General Services.
- Dr. Deb Crawford and our Richmond team attended the VRIC meeting.
- Dr. Michelle Marks and Mark Smith met with Secretary Atif Qarni (Education).
- Dr. Deb Crawford participated in the Tech Talent Initiative Program Meeting.
In addition, the state government relations team has been fully engaged with a number of other legislatively related events, to include:

- Touring the Jefferson Lab in Newport News to learn more about the Electron Ion Collider and potential collaboration among the universities.

**Looking Forward:**
- Planning has begun for our upcoming legislative visits this summer.

**External Activities & Speaking Engagements:**

- Participated in an interview with Mike Martz of the Richmond Times Dispatch. We touched on Mason’s top priorities outlining all the reasons why there has never been a better time to be a part of George Mason University.

- Attended and provided remarks at a 2030 Group luncheon.

- Joined Ken Eisner, Amazon Web Services Senior Manager of Worldwide Education Programs and Kathleen deLaski, Founder and President of the Education Design Lab for a fireside chat in honor of the Lab’s 5th Anniversary.

- Attended the Greater Washington Partnership executive luncheon conversation on Driving Talent and Innovation in the Capital Region. Speakers included Jamie Dimon (Chairman and CEO of JPMorgan Chase), Wes Bush (retired Chairman and CEO of Northrop Grumman) and Mark Weinberger (Global Chairman and CEO of EY). The event was moderated by Jon Hilsenrath, Editor, Wall Street Journal. Mason’s leadership in establishing the Digital Credential was highlighted as well as a group of Mason students, the first in the region to pursue the credential.

- Invited by a Woodson High School Spanish teacher to speak with her students.

- Co-chaired the Aspen Prize jury together with Northrop Grumman’s CEO Kathy Warden, and attended the award luncheon which culminated in presentation of ten finalists and the actual award winner. The prize is the highest national recognition for community colleges that demonstrate excellence in four key areas: student learning, degree completion and post-transfer outcomes, employment and earnings outcomes and equitable results for underrepresented student groups.

- At the invitation of ACE President, Ted Mitchell, attended a welcome dinner for Representative Donna Shalala.

- Accepted the Pat Jackson award and participated as the dinner keynote speaker. The award is designed to recognize a professional not in the public relations field but who uses those principles to benefit their organization and society.

- Participated in a VBHEC Board conference call.

- Attended a Mason Matters brunch hosted by BOV member Lisa Zuccari highlighting the work of the School of Film. Two professors with films featured at Sundance were in attendance, as
well as alum Erblin Nushi, who transferred to Mason from NOVA, went on to make award-winning film Bini as his senior thesis, and is now making movies in Los Angeles. Bini is an autobiographical story of a refugee family from Kosovo. It highlights the work of our Film School in empowering underrepresented voices to tell new stories through film.

- Joined the Virginia Council of Presidents meetings (including GPAC/SCHEV sessions).
- Participated in various development activities/cultivation dinners and visits with donors and business CEOs, and 123 Club sessions.

**Internal/Campus-Related Activities & Speaking Engagements:**

- Attended the screening of the film *The Unafraid* and participated in a Q&A session with the film’s director, Heather Courtney.
- Along with Greg Unruh, co-taught spring semester classes of the President’s Leadership Seminar.
- Attended a men’s volleyball match against Sacred Heart accepting a dinner invitation from Delegate Kirk Cox, an event hosted for his family and friends.
- Attended the National Leadership Council Breakfast where we briefed the Council on Mason’s marketing and branding efforts, along with efforts surrounding Amazon HQ2.
- Hosted Employee of the Month ceremonies. Kathy Cagle, President’s Office, was the recipient of the April recognition.
- Provided introductory remarks at the inaugural Community Police Council meeting.
- Attended the Men’s A10 Basketball Tournament in Brooklyn, New York.
- Participated in a working lunch with Peter Abrahams, Publisher of the Washington Business Journal. Conversation included Mason’s bold and innovative initiatives and areas of research, along with the future engagement with Amazon.
- Continued one-on-one spring meetings with each academic dean.
- Hosted a series of breakfast sessions with faculty members who are exceptional in their areas of expertise from throughout the university.
- Attended a Coffee & Conversation event hosted by Human Resources with three-year employees. Provided an update on Mason’s current initiatives and future plans and participated in Q&A.
- Attended the annual Hylton Performing Arts Gala and provided remarks.
- Enjoyed the annual Off the Wall event in the Art & Design Building, a family-friendly digital and fine arts celebration benefitting scholarship and visiting artists programs.
• Provided remarks at the Admissions Counselor Fly-In Dinner, a familiarization trip that offers a unique opportunity to learn about Mason and its top tier academic program and research opportunities while exploring our campus and the Washington, D.C. metro area.

• Hosted several non-academic unit visits. These sessions provide an opportunity to extend appreciation to and hear from members of the Mason community employed in units that serve our students and community.

• Hosted Dr. Gail C. Christopher for a Freedom and Learning Forum. Dr. Christopher is an award-winning social change agent and former Senior Advisor and Vice President of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, a position she left to launch the Maryland based Ntianu Center for Healing and Nature and devote more time to writing and speaking on issues of health, racial healing and human capacity for caring.

• Attended and provided remarks at the Annual Scholarship Dinner, which presents an opportunity to express appreciation to donors for supporting Mason scholarships and demonstrate the impact of giving.

• Hosted final meeting of the academic year for the President’s Council.

• Held active threat discussion briefing with senior leadership as part of an ongoing process for emergency readiness.

• Provided welcome remarks for the Student Environmental Action Showcase. The event offers students from 6 regional school districts the opportunity to showcase the environmental action projects they are doing, network with other active students, teachers and environmental professionals and elected officials.

• Interviewed Gary Shapiro, author of *Ninja Future: Secrets to Success in the New World or Innovation*, in a fireside chat. Topics covered were based on themes throughout his book.

• Spoke at the Civil Engineering Institute Awards Luncheon where James Patterson, PE of the Fairfax County Department of Public Works and Environmental Services was recognized.

• Provided remarks at the Gillespie Gallery of Art dedication.

• Hosted a luncheon at the Mathy House to recognize the SCHEV Outstanding Faculty awardees.

• Provided welcome remarks at a town-hall discussion on Anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, and Discrimination in the Name of Religion.

• Attended and provided remarks at the 2019 Celebration of Distinction Awards Dinner. The event is hosted by the Alumni Association and recognizes 18 recipients including outstanding alumni, faculty, and Senior of the Year.

• Spoke to the Parent and Family Council, provided a brief overview of university priorities and goals for the year, and addressed questions, concerns and ideas from the parents.

• Commenced the Spring semester one-on-one conversations with each academic dean.
• Was interviewed by Mason student Cody Borden on the Mason Cable Night Show and also participated in the “Newly Close Game”.

• Provided remarks at a Spring meeting of the Faculty Senate.

• Presided over two University Day events which recognize faculty and staff who have been integral members of the Mason Community having served Mason for 5, 10, 15 and over 20 years.

• Participated in Giving Day events, which generated more than $300,000 in donations from over 1,000 donors that included faculty, staff, alumni and friends.

• Participated in the spring semester President’s Student Advisory luncheon meeting. Topics of conversation included the decision process for hiring Justice Kavanaugh; the Title IX Office, campus safety, Graduate Student stipends and housing and Mason Korea.

• Facilitated a session for the ninth cohort of Leadership Legacy.

• Attended a town-hall meeting hosted by the student government on sexual violence, together with Provost Wu, VP Pascarella and other members of the administration. We listened to personal testimonies of sexual assault survivors and answered questions related to the upcoming summer class in the law school by Justice Kavanaugh and the university’s efforts to combat sexual violence on campus.

• Attended a Conversation with Tyler Cowen event; his special guest was Margaret Atwood, a Canadian poet, novelist, literary critic, inventor, teacher and environmental activist.

• For the second year, participated in various aspects of the P3.EDU Conference held at the Arlington campus. This is an invitation-only event that brings together a select group of university leaders and private company CEOs to network and share best practices around public-private partnerships in higher education.

• Participated in briefing calls with the A10 presidents.

• Attended various Mason sporting and performing arts events

**Outside Board Service:**

• Inovio (NASDAQ:INO) (telephonic/in-person meetings).

• Northern Virginia Technology Council.

• Washington Airport Task Force (no meetings this reporting period).

• National Geographic (telephonic/in-person meetings in DC).

• Richmond Federal Reserve Board (telephonic/in-person meetings in Richmond).

• Center for Innovation Technology (CIT).
• Georgia Institute of Technology in-person board meeting.

**Select Upcoming Events:**

- Commencement – May 17
- Planning Conference – July 25
- Annual Board of Visitors Meeting – July 26
Policy 1123: Gift Acceptance

Responsible Office:

University Advancement and Alumni Relations

Procedures:

Appendix A: George Mason University Required Endowment and Deferred (Planned) Gift Minimums
Appendix B: George Mason University Philanthropic Naming Opportunities Gift Acceptance Committee Procedures

Related Law & Policy:

Policy 1129, Art Collection Management
Policy 4006, Sponsored Programs Administration
Policy 4008, Private Sector Funding.

I. Scope

This Policy covers the transmission, acceptance, disposition, and management of Gifts (as later defined) made for the benefit of George Mason University (the “University”). This policy applies to all University offices. This policy does not apply to grants, which are governed in part by Policy 4008, Private Sector Funding for George Mason University, and Policy 4006, Sponsored Programs Administration.

II. Policy Statement

A. Tax Status

1. George Mason University is a public institution of higher education of the Commonwealth of Virginia. The University is an organization described in Internal Revenue Code section
170. The George Mason University Foundation, Inc. (the Foundation), is a Virginia nonstock corporation organized and operated exclusively to receive, manage, invest, and administer private gifts and property and to make expenditures to or for the benefit of the University. The Foundation is an organization described in Internal Revenue Code section 501(c)(3) and is classified as a publicly supported organization under Internal Revenue Code sections 509(a)(1) and 170(b)(1)(A)(iv).

B. Receipt of Gifts by Departments

1. Collection of Gifts from donors directly by a University department is strongly discouraged. In the event that a donor makes a Gift directly to a University department, the department administrator must contact the Office of University Advancement and Alumni Relations immediately for instructions.

C. Gift Acceptance

1. The University is obligated to use Gifts in a manner consistent with the stated intentions of the donor. Because the University must comply with donor restrictions, only Gifts that are consistent with federal and state laws, are consistent with the University’s values and policies, and are supportive of the University’s mission, may be accepted.

2. The University shall not accept any Gift that:
   a. interferes with or influences the University’s academic freedom or its capacity to fully control the management, operations, and direction of its affairs, including admission procedures, faculty selection and promotion, academic programs, and their integrity;
   b. contains restrictions that unlawfully discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, citizenship, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, marital or partnership status, military status, or disability;
   c. presumes or requires a particular result or conclusion of scholarly work;
   d. impedes the free inquiry and scholarly activity of a faculty member, fellowship holder, or student;
   e. is offered for purposes inconsistent with the University’s missions of education, research, and service;
   f. affords the donor influence over the continued employment of specific personnel;
   g. impairs the University’s ability to define and pursue its mission, requires illegal or unethical acts, hinders governance or administration, or compromises the University’s accreditation.

3. The Gift Acceptance Committee shall be composed of the following persons:
   a. The two faculty representatives to the Board of Visitors Development Committee, who are elected by the General Faculty in accordance with the Board of Visitors bylaws;
   b. Faculty Senate Chair
   c. One Academic Dean Representative Appointed by the Provost
   d. Vice President for Advancement and Alumni Relations
   e. Deputy Vice President, Advancement and Alumni Relations
   f. Associate Vice President, Advancement Relations
   g. Senior Vice President for Administration and Finance
h. Provost and Executive Vice President

4. Although the Foundation controls the acceptance of gifts to it, the University understands that the Foundation normally chooses to accept gifts that the University has determined to be in furtherance of the mission of the University. Accordingly, the Gift Acceptance Committee shall review and approve Gifts as provided in Section C.5. before the completion of a gift to the Foundation.

5. The following types of Gifts may only be accepted by the University after review and approval by the University’s Gift Acceptance Committee:
   a. Gifts of $250,000 or more, subject to any conditions or restrictions (excluding established programs and faculty research grants);
   b. Gifts of real estate;
   c. Gifts that would be paid over a period greater than five years;
   d. Gifts that would be paid with assets other than cash or readily marketable securities (except for planned gifts);
   e. Gifts that will draw significant public attention, or have significant reputational implications for the University;
   f. Gifts from international entities not already known to or affiliated with the University;
   g. Gifts that would permit use of the University logo or other trademark by the donor or a third party;
   h. Gifts that may have real or apparent conflicts of interest for the donor or University officers or employees;
   i. Gifts that are specifically related to the appointment or retention of a specific individual;
   j. Gifts that potentially create significant immediate or future financial or administrative burdens;
   k. Gifts associated with naming opportunities recognizing current or former heads of state or public officials, government entities, corporations, or individuals;
   l. Gifts endowing faculty positions at a lower amount than the threshold established for each school;
   m. Gifts requiring donor oversight or advisory committees. If such a committee is created, the University should appoint the majority of the members, and any donor designees should be limited to a nonvoting role on any matter related to academic governance.

6. The determination of whether a Gift must be reviewed by the Gift Acceptance Committee shall be based on a gift acceptance procedure using the criteria defined in Section III.C.5.

7. Gifts to the University that may expose the University to liability or that obligate the University shall also be reviewed by the Office of University Counsel.

D. Public access to Gift information

1. When the Foundation accepts a gift subject to conditions that govern the use of those funds by the University, the University shall provide the Foundation with a writing
specifying the University’s acceptance of those conditions prior to transfer of any funds from the Foundation to the University. Such writing will become a part of the minutes of the Gift Acceptance Committee and, therefore, will become a public record of the University under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act.

2. In general, the University will afford donors the privacy protections permitted by the Virginia Freedom of Information Act.

3. Gifts may be made anonymously, but for Gifts of $100,000 or more, the President, Provost, and Vice President for University Advancement and Alumni Relations must be aware of the donor’s identity and agree that the University will accept the Gift on condition of anonymity.

E. Administration of Gifts

1. The University’s administration of Gifts must comply with all relevant federal and state regulations.

2. The financial management of Gifts should follow the guidelines set forth in the University’s Financial Policies.

3. The Office of University Advancement and Alumni Relations is responsible for ensuring that the University is in compliance with applicable laws pertaining to the receipt and management of Gifts and that it honors its fiduciary responsibility to donors. It is the duty of each department or school to use Gifts in accordance with the donor’s intentions as agreed by the University.

4. In the case of funds subject to a gift agreement with the Foundation, if it becomes impossible or inadvisable for the funds associated with a Gift to continue to be used for the specific purpose for which given, the University shall contact the donor, or notify the Foundation so that the Foundation may contact the donor, to discuss an alternative application of the funds. If the donor cannot be contacted, the University, subject to the terms of any applicable gift instrument(s) and applicable law, will determine appropriate uses of the funds, or work with the Foundation to do so, in consultation with the University’s President, Senior Vice President for Administration and Finance, and Provost and Executive Vice President.

5. Exceptions to this policy must be approved by the President.

III. Definitions

Bequest - A gift of real or personal property made at death by a will or a trust.

Gift - A voluntary transfer of property made without consideration, which may or may not be restricted as to its use. The term “Gift” as used in this Policy includes both transfers of funds or property made by a donor directly to the University; as well as restricted and unrestricted funds transferred by the Foundation to the University.
**Grant** - An agreement representing the transfer of money, property, or services by a sponsor in exchange for specified services or activities (e.g. research and development). Grants are enforceable by law, and performance is typically accomplished with set time parameters with payment subject to being revoked for cause.

**Cash** - Money, currency, checks, money orders or cash equivalents.

**Securities** - Stocks, bonds, options, warrants, notes, or similar instruments, either publicly traded on an exchange (public) or not publicly traded (private).

**Gift-in-kind** - A gift that is a tangible item, for example, a work of art, equipment, or a literary collection.

Internal Revenue Code (IRC) – 26 U.S.C.S. §1 et seq.

**IV. Responsibilities**

A. Department Administration –
   - Promptly deposits Gifts received in the form of cash or check in accordance with University procedures, or forwards such Gifts to the Foundation.

B. Office of University Advancement and Alumni Relations –
   - Responsible for overseeing University compliance with laws pertaining to the management of charitable gifts and confirming that the University honors its fiduciary responsibility to donors. Performs quality assurance reviews to ensure that Gifts are assigned to correct accounts.

C. Vice President, University Advancement and Alumni Relations - Has general oversight of Gifts accepted by the University.

**V. Forms**

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**VI. Dates:**

A. **Effective Date:**

   This policy will become effective upon the date of approval by the Senior Vice President for Administration and Finance and the Provost and Executive Vice President.

B. **Date of Most Recent Review:**
N/A.

VII. Timetable for Review

This policy, and any related procedures, shall be reviewed every three years or more frequently as needed.

VIII. Signatures

Approved:

[Signature]

Senior Vice President for Administration and Finance

Date

Approved:

[Signature]

Provost and Executive Vice President

Date
Appendix A – George Mason University Required Endowment and Deferred (Planned) Gift Minimums

I. Endowments

The foundation defines and manages its true and quasi-endowments in accordance with the Uniform Prudent Management of Institutional Funds Act (UPMIFA) as adopted by the Commonwealth of Virginia, and GAAP as codified by FASB. Endowments may be designated by the donor for a restricted purpose in any school, college, department or program within the university and may be named in honor of donors or their designees. Endowments are governed by a written gift agreement executed by the original or lead donor, the foundation, and the university. Endowment funds are invested and managed by professional investment advisors with the oversight of the foundation Investment Committee.

Endowments require a minimum level of funding to be established (table below). The Gift Acceptance Committee establishes the minimum required levels and updates the amounts periodically. Gifts may be made over a period of up to five years or through other means as described in University Policy 1123 – Gift Acceptance Policy. The Gift Acceptance Committee will review for acceptance non-standard endowment proposals on a case by case basis.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Endowment Type</th>
<th>Endowment Minimum</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Restricted Endowment – Established for a donor’s designated purpose that is approved by the university, may be scholarship or program related</td>
<td>$25,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endowed Lectureship – Established to provide program support for a lecture series, may include travel and honoraria, publication and reception costs</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endowed Fund for Undergraduate Scholarships (est. 50% tuition costs)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In State Students</td>
<td>$175,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Out of State Students</td>
<td>$325,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endowed Fund for Graduate Fellowships (est. 50% tuition costs)</td>
<td>$175,000 - $350,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endowed Fund for an Athletic Team – Established for general support of a specific athletic program</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endowed Fund for Head Coach Position – Established for general support of a coaching position in a particular sport</td>
<td>$250,000 - $1,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endowed Fund for Faculty Research – Established to fund research costs and related support for specified faculty or programs</td>
<td>$250,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endowed Faculty Fellowship – Established to support academic endeavors for specified faculty and his or her programs</td>
<td>$150,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Endowed Professorships / Chairs – Established to support academic endeavors for specified professors and their programs or supplemental support for specified professors named to a chair position

- Endowed Term Professorship
- Endowed Professorship
- Endowed Chair

Endowed University Executive Funds – Established to provide a discretionary fund for a university leader to utilize to enhance his/her strategic objectives

- Endowed President’s Fund for Excellence
- Endowed Provost’s Fund for Excellence
- Endowed Dean’s Fund for Excellence

II. Deferred (Planned) Gifts

Charitable Gift Annuity
- $25,000

Charitable Remainder Trust
- $100,000

Charitable Lead Trust
- $1,000,000

(1) Endowment assets are invested in a widely-diversified portfolio managed by independent financial advisors. The endowment spending policy seeks to ensure that the present value of existing funds grows at a rate that exceeds inflation while generating a predictable stream of spendable income. The current spending or payout rate is four percent of the three-year rolling average of the market value for endowments with a fair market value (FMV) equal to or exceeding the corpus value. Any earnings in excess are reinvested in the endowment. A two-percent spending rate will apply for those accounts with a FMV below the original gift value, but not less than 80 percent of the corpus. If the FMV has diminished below 80 percent of the corpus, no distribution will be made.

(2) The minimum for creating a new non-endowed gift fund is $5,000. Such funds may be used to support scholarships, prizes, awards and programs.
Appendix B – George Mason University Philanthropic Naming Opportunities

I. General Policy

A philanthropic naming opportunity is an invitation to a donor (or donors) to name a school/college, facility (such as a building or classroom), center, institute or other program (such as an Honors Program) in honor or memory of the donor or someone the donor wishes to recognize, in recognition of a gift made by the donor in an amount established by the university for the benefit of the corresponding program or facility. Honorific naming opportunities with no philanthropic component are governed by the university’s Naming Committee. Contributions qualifying for naming opportunities may be utilized for facility construction or renovation, maintenance, program enhancement, and/or operations, scholarships or research. Contributions may or may not be endowed. The utilization of the gift must be set forth in a written agreement between the donor, the foundation and the university.

Naming opportunities, including the appropriate funding level, the funding plan and the manner in which the gift will be utilized, must meet with the approval of the president of the university after consultation with the Gift Acceptance Committee and, when required, the Board of Visitors. Naming opportunities for the establishment of a new center, institute or university program must meet with the approval of the president, after consultation with the provost, and the dean or vice president under which the program will be supervised.

Deans and/or directors may prepare naming opportunity plans in consultation with the Gift Acceptance Committee and the provost or vice president before such plans are presented to the president. The naming of multiple spaces within a single facility must be pre-approved in a written plan. The plan will identify the spaces to be named, the appropriate gift amount to name the space, and will outline how the funds will be utilized once collected.

II. Funding Requirements

The funding plan for a naming opportunity must be in writing and must meet with the approval of the president of the university after consultation with the Gift Acceptance Committee, and, when required, the Board of Visitors. Naming opportunities may be delayed until agreed upon funding requirements are met.

Outright gifts and written pledges for up to five years may be used to fully or partially fund a naming opportunity at face value. The president, after consultation with the Gift Acceptance Committee, must approve any pledge agreement that provides for any pledged amounts to be received beyond five years.

Testamentary deferred gifts (gifts by will, trust, retirement plan or life insurance policy) may be used in combination with an outright pledge to fully or partially fund a naming opportunity as long as the testamentary portion of the total commitment is no more than 50 percent of the total gift, is secured by a written pledge agreement and the present value of the gift will meet the agreed upon gift level. Irrevocable deferred gifts (gift annuities and charitable remainder trusts) may be used to fully or partially fund a naming opportunity as long as the present value of the gift meets the agreed upon gift level.

III. Philanthropic Naming Opportunities Listing

The Office of Donor Relations and Advancement Communications, University Advancement, maintains the listing of approved philanthropic naming opportunities. Unit specific naming opportunity gift plans are periodically updated with the consultation and approval of the Gift Acceptance Committee. The Gift Acceptance Committee will review for acceptance certain non-standard naming opportunity gift proposals.
RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF VISITORS OF
GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

WHEREAS, George Mason University is grateful to all the donors who contribute to its mission of access to excellence; and

WHEREAS, with the endorsement of the Board of Visitors, President Cabrera ordered a review of the university’s gift acceptance policy in order to better protect the University’s academic independence and increase transparency; and

WHEREAS, President Cabrera formed a multi-stakeholder committee, chaired by the Provost, including faculty, students, administration and members of the Board of Visitors, and assisted by an independent third-party professional, to review all active donor agreements that support faculty positions as well as University gift acceptance policies and practices; and

WHEREAS, the committee produced analysis and recommendations in a report that it shared with the University Board of Visitors, and the public; and

WHEREAS, the recommendations and public comments were reviewed for implementation by a joint faculty-administration task force led by the Provost, which produced a new policy; and

WHEREAS, the new policy establishes conditions for public access to gift information, guarantees of academic independence, and creates mechanisms for increased transparency at all levels and by all parties in the gift acceptance process; and

WHEREAS, the new policy is a University policy to be adopted and implemented in accordance with regular University procedures for adoption of administrative policies; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the ordinary administrative policy process, the administration is expected to review this new policy, and any related procedures, every three years or more frequently as needed; now

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the George Mason University Board of Visitors endorses adoption by University administration of the gift acceptance policy, to replace the prior policy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be entered into the minutes of the George Mason University Board of Visitors this day, May 2, 2019.

Adopted May 2, 2019

Shawn N. Purvis
Secretary
Board of Visitors
RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF VISITORS OF GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY
AUTHORIZING INCREASE IN BASE SALARY FOR PRESIDENT CABRERA

WHEREAS, on May 2, 2019, the Board of Visitors approved the FY2020 budget, which included a three percent (3%) salary increase and a one percent (1%) merit salary increase for faculty; and

WHEREAS, effective June 10, 2019, President Ángel Cabrera will become eligible for the three percent (3%) salary increase and a one percent (1%) merit salary increase to be paid from both state and non-state funds; and

WHEREAS, effective June 10, 2019, President Cabrera’s annualized base salary will be increased by four percent (4%) to $580,844.82; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Section D.1. of President Cabrera’s Employment Agreement (as amended by that certain First Amendment to Employment Agreement dated March 24, 2016), any salary adjustment requires approval by the Board of Visitors;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

The Board of Visitors approves the June 10, 2019 increase of four percent (4%) of President Cabrera’s annualized base salary.

Adopted: May 2, 2019

Shawn Purvis
Secretary
Board of Visitors