

**GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF VISITORS**

**Finance and Land Use Committee Meeting
April 10, 2025, 3:00pm
Merten Hall, Hazel Conference Room (1201), Fairfax Campus**

AGENDA

- I.** Call to Order
- II.** Approval of Minutes for February 13, 2024 (**ACTION**)
- III.** Financial Matters
 - A. FY 2025 Financial Report Through February
 - B. FY 2026 University Budget (**ACTION**)
- IV.** Capital Matters
 - A. Six-Year Capital Plan (**ACTION**)
 - B. Land Use Certification (**ACTION**)
 - C. SciTech Dominion Transmission Easement (**ACTION**)
- V.** Adjournment

APPENDIX I – Capital Projects Review (Stoplight)
APPENDIX II – Detailed FY 2026 Tuition and Fee Rates
APPENDIX III – Supplemental Financial Information
APPENDIX IV – Six-Year Capital Plan Outyear Projects

The April 10, 2025 Meeting of the Board of Visitors Finance and Land Use Committee will be in-person. Members of the public are welcome to observe in person or may view the meeting live at the following link: <https://bov.gmu.edu/live/>. Those attending any Board of Visitors sessions are asked to adhere to the meeting rules, accessible at the following webpage: <https://bov.gmu.edu/board-of-visitors-resources/>

No oral public comment will be taken at this meeting.

**GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF VISITORS
Finance and Land Use Committee Meeting
February 13, 2025
Meeting Minutes**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Pence; Vice Chair Rosen; Visitor Alacbay; Executive Vice President Dickenson; Faculty Representatives: Shutika, Venigalla

ABSENT: Visitor Peterson

ALSO PRESENT: President Washington; Rector Stimpson; Faculty Representative Simmons; Staff Representative Spence; Student Representatives: Cuesta, Hoffman

I. Call to Order

Chair Pence called the meeting to order at 12:32 p.m.

II. Approval of Minutes for December 5, 2024 (ACTION ITEM)

Chair Pence called for any corrections to the minutes for the Finance and Land Use Committee Meeting for December 5, 2024. Hearing no corrections, the **MINUTES STOOD APPROVED AS WRITTEN.**

III. Financial Matters

A. FY 2025 Q2 Financial Report

Chair Pence turned the meeting over to Deb Dickenson, Executive Vice President for Finance and Administration. Ms. Dickenson noted that the FY26 Tuition and fee recommendations were informed by discussions at the December Finance and Land Use Committee meeting, the Governor's proposed budget, and both House and Senate budget recommendations. Ms. Dickenson highlighted the importance of voting on next year's Room and Board rates now to give parents and students the required information to make important financial decisions. Ms. Dickenson handed off to the Vice President for Finance, Dan Stephens.

Mr. Stephens shared the financial report for the FY25 Q2 Budget and Actuals:

- Year-to-date revenues are trending 10% ahead of prior year and expect to finish the year on a positive note;
- Primary drivers of increased revenue are Enrollment, State Appropriations, Grants & Contracts, and Auxiliary Enterprises;
- Expenses are trending 7% higher than the prior year;
- Largest cost drivers are compensation and contract expenses;
- Operating expenses continue to be monitored and cost reductions sought where possible.

Mr. Stephens reviewed the FY25 Q2 E&G Operating Budget and Actuals:

- Revenues trending 9% higher and expect the next half of the year to trend similarly;
- Primary drivers are State Appropriations and increased Net Tuition and Fees;
- Expenses are trending 2% over the prior year;
- Drivers for the increase are compensation increases and contractual services;
- Expecting to finish the year in a surplus.

B. FY 2025 Budget Planning

Ms. Dickenson continued with an update on the recent Moody's Ratings Affirmation of George Mason's Aa3 issuer rating and GMUF's A1 lease revenue bonds rating with a stable outlook.

Visitor Alacbay and Ms. Dickenson discussed the university's debt, which is currently \$398M in total outstanding debt, noting that Mason currently has debt capacity. Mason also has auxiliary reserves and the Patriot Investment Fund which are used for investment, research, capital, and deferred maintenance.

Ms. Dickenson updated the Board on the Commonwealth's budget development, with the House budget proposing \$10.7M in additional operations funding, while the Senate recommends \$4.6M. President Washington noted the university's positive position, with either scenario exceeding George Mason's \$18M in operating funds request or this biennium.

Mr. Stephens reviewed the three FY26 and FY27 E&G Operating Budget Planning Scenarios.

- The different scenarios include enrollment growth from 0% to 1.5% and tuition increases from 0% to 2.5%.
- 3% salary increases and 30% VMSDEP participation growth are included in all scenarios;
- George Mason is responsible for roughly half the impact of the salary increases approved by the Commonwealth, which is approximately \$10M each year;
- The impacts range from positive \$1M in FY26 and a \$6M deficit in with 2.5% tuition and 1.5% increase each year, to deficits of \$3M and \$22M each year with flat tuition both years and flat enrollment in FY27.

Rector Stimson and Mr. Stephens discussed the 3% salary increase as it relates to CPI and the fiscal impact of the executive orders. Mr. Stephens confirmed the incremental impact reflects budget impact and additional state funding requests indicate offsets to the Incremental Impact in response to Vice Chair Rosen's question.

Chair Pence requested analysis on the net cost of additional enrollment, inclusive of aid and incremental operating expenses. President Washington stated that additional costs are calculated within each scenario showing a net positive value for adding additional students with Ms. Dickenson noting recent JLARC studies had shown Mason's

operations to be extremely lean and efficient, so that when the university grows there is no significant growth in expenditures.

C. FY 2026 Room and Board Rates

Julie Zobel, Interim SVP for Operations and Business Services and Chief Risk Officer, presented the FY26 room and board rate recommendations:

- 1.5% housing rate increase of \$120;
- 4% board rate increase of \$230;
- for a 2.5% total increase of room & board of \$350;
- Compared with peers George Mason is one of the more economical options;
- Students and families benefit from having confirmed rates now while they are making important financial decisions about next year.

Student Representative Hoffman noted the need for affordable housing for graduate and professional students. In response to a question from Student Representative Cuesta, Ms. Zoble noted that the Room and Board increases will impact all students and the revenue generated with these increases goes back into housing and dining and is used for a variety of expenses including maintenance, refreshes, renovations, debt service, and utilities.

Visitor Alacbay asked if there is a point that we raise room and board costs that we are no longer competitive with other housing options in the area. Shannon Jordan, Associate Dean and Chief Housing Officer notes that the housing options are not exactly comparable as the room type offerings are different and Mason offers additional support services and amenities that are not offered at off campus housing locations. Mason housing is currently 98% occupied and that will drop to 92% in the Spring Semester which matches a historical pattern. Chair Pence would like to know the occupancy trends for the last three years.

Chair Pence and Visitor Alacbay voiced their concerns on voting with a reduced committee membership but recognized the importance of providing information to students and families. Vice Chair Rosen agreed, clarifying his view that tuition and room and board are separate issues.

Chair Pence **MOVED** the Committee to approve the Fiscal Year 2026 Room and Board Rates as detailed in the Board Book. Visitor Alacbay **SECONDED** the Motion. The **MOTION WAS CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY ROLL CALL VOTE.**

Chair Pence opened discussion of next steps on the budget and tuition scenarios. Ms. Dickenson noted that there would be additional information in the Commonwealth's budget process with President Washington noting that a 2.5% tuition increase is within the Governor's parameters. Vice Chair Rosen noted his disposition to support a 0% tuition increase and would like to see that scenario thoroughly evaluated, noting that the Board should stay cognizant of the affordability and value Mason offers.

Visitor Alacabay asked for classroom utilization rates as the Board is thinking strategically about campus and facility expansion.

Faculty Representative Simmons noted that, given the current 3% CPI, all of the proposed tuition rates below that are essentially a tuition decrease. President Washington noted that if the Board approved no tuition increase in FY26 along with a 2.5% increase for FY27, that would provide certainty for leadership and enable longer-term planning.

Chair Pence mentioned a recent audit related to student financial aid, noting George Mason had been found to have deficiencies and questioned the adequacy of its response.

IV. Adjournment

There being no further business, Chair Pence adjourned the meeting at 1:48 pm.

Prepared by secretary pro tem,

Jessica Holtzman

Public Comments
Updated 2.13.25 at 4:00 p.m.

Full Name:	Mason Affiliation	Written Comment
Joseph jarjourah	Student	Anti-Zionism is not racist in any way. And I would repeat that a million times, Zionism is not related to any religion or race. It is related to a belief that killing Palestinians and being on the oppressive side of a genocide is okay and normal. Being an Anti-Zionist is not in any way causing hatred to a Jewish community but proving a point that Palestinian lives matter. That in fact the idea of proposing that Anti-Zionism is even possibly racist is actually racist towards Palestinians. Because it clearly states that their lives don't matter just because of an incorrect ideology.
Kay Linwood	Community Member	I am deeply disturbed by the pure lack of knowledge an institution holds around an extremist political ideology like Zionism. If you know this as a university and ignore it for financial reasons, remember that no amount of money can buy us out of hell. Condemning students, the ones who pay you for education, for speaking against a humanitarian atrocity is downright atrocious. May you realize the horrible side of history that George Mason University will fall into should it continue to perpetuate violence against students and stand as an institution that upholds the denial of genocide. Shame.
Jane Doe	Faculty	Antizionism is not racism. Antizionism is not racism. Antizionism is not racism.
Fairouz Ouikhlfen	Student	Recommendation for consideration of the alternative, Jerusalem Declaration on Antisemitism (https://jerusalemdeclaration.org/) referenced in this explanatory +972 article (https://www.972mag.com/ihra-antisemitism-israel-inversion-projection/). +972 describes itself as "an independent, online, nonprofit magazine run by a group of Palestinian and Israeli journalists." The university would be committing a fallacy to ignore or override the views of civically engaged Israeli citizens and adjacent reporters such as Democracy Now's Amy Goodman, without careful and unpolitical analysis. Zionism is a political movement involving American Christians in addition to numerous other backgrounds. In aligning it with features students or faculty cannot change about themselves without reasonable distress (ethnic markers, physical appearance, names, ancestry, nationality, or heritage), the university will politicize the fight against hate.
Declan Rees	Student	Conflating criticisms of Zionism as racist will only make the campus less safe. Zionism, unlike the Jewish faith, is an ideology. It is young, only coming into the world stage in the 20th century. It's creation was an attempt to answer the "Jewish Question" and many of its founding members cooperated with known Nazi sympathizers during the holocaust. In its innate principles it pushes for the development and maintenance of Ethno-state in the holy land, an area where many different peoples call to. The subjugation and genocidal aggression to the native Palestinian population sense the Nakba, especially in the past year, has been demoralizing. If you try to make it impossible to criticize the state of Israel or the ideology of Zionism you will be putting countless students in danger. I cannot express it more fervently, do not do this
Robert Zigmund	Staff	I am writing to oppose Jeff Rosen's proposal regarding criticism of Zionism. This proposal is a disgraceful and authoritarian attempt to censor our students in their opposition to genocide.
sara babb	alum	Anti-Zionism is anti-Apartheid. Do not conflate anti-semitism with anti-Zionism. Protect the right to fight for human rights. Reject the proposal of defining anti-

		zionism as racism. The truth is that zionism is racist and led to a genocide of Palestinians.
Laurie B.	Concerned citizen	Anti-zionism is Not racism!
Ryan Nary	Community Member	I am an Arlington resident and thus I share neighborhood space with GMU's Ballston campus. I want to express in the strongest possible terms my opposition to GMU adopting the IHRA definitions of antisemitism, which dangerously conflates criticism of Israel with antisemitism.
Sofia Nicholas	Student	Anti-Zionism is just and necessary. It is resistance to the hegemonic powers trying to steal Palestinian land and life. Anti-Zionism is not antisemitic and conflating the two is dangerous.
Siwar Masannat	Alumnus	The conflation of Zionism with a protected identity, on the one hand, and with Judaism as a religious identity, on the other, is not only erroneous but also dangerous. Zionism is a settler colonial ideology and systematic practice that has resulted in the genocide and successive mass displacement of Palestinians for more than seventy years. Zionism endangers Jewish people and Palestinians alike, and many Jewish people in our GMU community oppose Zionism based on the facts gathered by international agencies and bodies that have found Israel to be guilty of ethnic cleansing, genocide, apartheid, war crimes and torture based on meticulously gathered evidence and verified testimonies. Criminalizing the brave and conscientious actions of students, staff, and faculty who critique and oppose settler colonialism and genocide endangers them, their educational journeys and livelihoods. GMU, this is a shameful and unconscionable measure meant to stifle dissent against genocide and dispossession at a moment of heightened US fascism. Do better.
Stephen D'Alessio	Student	I am writing to oppose the measure from Jeff Rosen to equate all criticism of Zionism with antisemitism. As a George Mason student it is important to me that we oppose antisemitism and make sure that students of all backgrounds are welcomed and empowered. However, all criticism of Zionism is not antisemitic and the rights of students who want to fight for Palestinian rights need to be respected as well. Please oppose this proposal.
Anonymously	Alum and CVPA Board Member	I strongly oppose the proposed adoption of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance(IHRA) Working Definition of Anti-Semitism which conflates Zionism with anti-semitism. Leader across universities and institutions across the country are wary of this definition because of its intention to suppress criticism of Israel. It would shameful and misguided for GMU to adopt a policy which will in turn suppress free speech and any anti-Israel criticism which is not a criticism of Jewishness.
K Hoffman	Community Member	<p>As an institution of higher learning, the inclusion of anti-Zionism in a definition of anti-Semitic activities is a far reach. Please remove all mentions of Zionism in your DEI initiatives.</p> <p>Claiming that Zionism is a Jewish identity is an insult to many Jewish people. That's like saying that all Christians identify as MAGA Republicans. No religion is a political monolith and this argument is exactly why the USA is predicated on the principle that we must separate church and state.</p> <p>GMU should encourage debate about politics and support free speech when bad policies are harming people. Stepping on the free speech of students in the USA in order to defend a foreign state's willful acts of genocide and apartheid is not a smart decision. Do better, GMU.</p>

Anonymous	Staff	Anti-Zionism cannot be equated to racism or anti-semitism. To think so is to be greatly uninformed. Recognizing the livelihood and rights of the Palestinian people is not anti-semitism (see work by scholar Edward Said to learn more). Criminalizing, punishing, or otherwise preventing pro-Palestinian speech is suppression, and it is especially harsh coming from a university that lauds itself for its diversity and inclusion.
Ruby Hayes	Student	Comment regarding the antisemitism resolution: The safety of Jewish people and keeping anti-Semitism off campus is important. However, anti-Zionist beliefs are not inherently anti-Semitic. Being anti-Zionist is to oppose the State of Israel that has been occupying Palestinian land and killing thousands of Palestinians for decades.
Jacqueline Green	Alumna	<p>Hello, I am writing to urge you to vote NO on the resolution brought forward by Jeffrey Rosen to criminalize critiques of Zionism and genocide both on and off GMU campus.</p> <p>This resolution, if passed, would open the door for school officials to harass and persecute students and student organizations with whom they disagree, or based on their race, religion or ethnicity. Based on the violent assault on student peace protests during the 2023-2024 school year, this is likely to embolden further harassment and persecution of peace and human rights activists, and those who oppose genocide and apartheid.</p> <p>Students have the right to freely advocate and express their opinions, particularly in academic settings that are intended for free thought and inquiry. For example, targeting students for supporting Palestinian rights is a serious violation of freedom of speech, as enshrined in the first amendment of the constitution. If passed, this resolution would violate those rights. Historically, resolutions like this have been disproportionately used against minority and marginalized communities, and particularly targeted against Palestinian-American, Arab-American and Muslim-American communities.</p> <p>The ACLU has responded to resolutions like this across the country in the “Open Letter to Colleges and University Leaders: Reject Efforts to Restrict Constitutionally Protected Speech on Campuses.” (https://www.aclu.org/documents/open-letter-to-colleges-and-university-leaders-reject-efforts-to-restrict-constitutionally-protected-speech-on-campuses).</p> <p>Like the ACLU, I urge you to vote NO on this resolution and protect ALL GMU students' right to free speech both on and off campus.</p> <p>Thank you for your time.</p>
Roxanne Freeman	Student	Anti-zionism is not anti-Semitism and the suppression of pro Palestine voices is a violation of our rights to free speech.
Omar Abaza	Student	The definition of Zionism, a noun, “a movement for (originally) the re-establishment and (now) the development and protection of a Jewish nation in what is now Israel.” The same thing is real that is now wanted by the International criminal court for crimes against humanity. This decision alone , by definition, would be considered anti-Zionist. So you gonna be able to talk about the ICC ruling without being called anti-Zionist? They Can’t Criticize Israel without being called anti-Zionist? How is it that students can criticize the American government but not the Israeli one? This is all, besides the fact that Zionism is founded by The British government and the ethnic cleansing of the native people Palestine.

Anonymous	Alumni	It is unacceptable to criminalize free speech on any US campus. We have the right to a voice and we the right to be heard, please don't let your decision betray the values and foundational principles of our beautiful university.
Jude Schroder	Community Member	I advise the board to swiftly reject Jeffrey Rosen's proposed resolution regarding "antisemitism." Anti-Zionism is not antisemitism, and yet this resolution dangerously equates the two. This resolution will not make GMU safer. In fact, it will silence and exclude anyone in support of Palestinian liberation and autonomy. Furthermore, there are many, many Anti-Zionist Jewish people, however, this resolution mischaracterizes "Jewish identity" as Zionist. If this resolution passes, it would solidify GMU's institutional stance that it is in support of genocide and willing to punish anyone who dares to question the atrocities committed against the Palestinian people. This resolution hides behind language of DEI. I urge the board to consider the students, faculty, and community members it would be silencing and excluding with this resolution.
Jill DeWitt	Alumni	This resolution is a violation of free speech. The board should be ashamed of even considering an anti-human rights restriction on the freedom of students, faculty, and staff to support a free Palestine. This action would make me ashamed to be an alumni and I will never donate to any institution that restricts free speech.
Janet Freeman	Alumni	It is unconstitutional to bar free speech. Please reject Rosen's proposal.
Kristin Samuelian	Faculty	<p>Dear APDUC Committee Members,</p> <p>I am writing to strongly object to Visitor Rosen's proposed resolution (titled "Antisemitism Resolution") under consideration at the February 13th APDUC Committee Meeting.</p> <p>Like all people of good will, I reject antisemitism and antisemitic ideologies, and I support including protections based on ethnic identity and shared heritage in GMU's anti-discrimination policy. But this resolution is not about protecting faculty and students from discrimination. It is about chilling critical discussions of Israel and Israeli state policy and stigmatizing speech that supports the human rights of Palestinians. As such, this resolution must be rejected, and I call on all Board members on the APDUC Committee to vote "NO" when the resolution comes up for debate on February 13th. Then, with this politicized attempt to criminalize legitimate speech and inquiry behind us, we can get to the real work of including ethnic identity and shared heritage into Mason's anti-discrimination policy.</p>
S Hamdani	Faculty	Discussing policies of any state is fundamental to the principles of free speech and intellectual inquiry fundamental to society and to any university mission. Doing so does not constitute racism of any kind, or antisemitism. I therefore oppose this resolution for censoring any discussion of the state of Israel's policy with regard to the human rights or right to self-determination of Palestinians.

Michael Chang	Faculty	<p>Dear APDUC Committee Members,</p> <p>I am writing to strongly object to Visitor Rosen's proposed resolution (titled "Antisemitism Resolution") under consideration at the February 13th APDUC Committee Meeting.</p> <p>Like all people of good will, I reject antisemitism and antisemitic ideologies, and I support including protections based on ethnic identity and shared heritage in GMU's anti-discrimination policy. But this resolution is not about protecting faculty and students from discrimination. It is about chilling critical discussions of Israel and Israeli state policy and stigmatizing speech that supports the human rights of Palestinians. As such, this resolution must be rejected, and I call on all Board members on the APDUC Committee to vote "NO" when the resolution comes up for debate on February 13th. Then, with this politicized attempt to criminalize legitimate speech and inquiry behind us, we can get to the real work of including ethnic identity and shared heritage into Mason's anti-discrimination policy.</p> <p>Thank you, as always, for taking action. As we just learned from our victory blocking three additional partisan extremists from the BOV, we have a lot of power when we join together and fight!</p>
Eli Nguyen	Staff	<p>Forbidding any criticism of Zionism is a flagrant disregard for our right to free speech. In the current political climate protecting our fundamental rights should be of the utmost importance. No ideology is above critique, no ideology warrants being held away from any discussion. Who does it benefit to prohibit critique of an ideology? What other ideologies are given this same privilege?</p> <p>As a student of the Jimmy and Roslyn Carter School for Peace and Conflict Resolution I think it's imperative that we are able to have open discussion about political ideologies and their geopolitical consequences. Restricting this by prohibiting anything that may be construed as criticism of Zionism as a political ideology is reckless, and a restriction on the academic study being done at Mason. It's alarming to me that GMU, a school which prides itself on its diversity and open mindedness would consider a resolution that so clearly seeks to negate its own core values.</p>
Samirah Alkassim	Faculty	<p>Dear APDUC Committee Members,</p> <p>I strongly object to Visitor Rosen's proposed resolution (titled "Antisemitism Resolution") under consideration at the February 13th APDUC Committee Meeting.</p> <p>I reject antisemitism and antisemitic ideologies, and I support including protections based on ethnic identity and shared heritage in GMU's anti-discrimination policy. But this resolution is not about protecting faculty and students from discrimination. It is about chilling critical discussions of Israel and Israeli state policy and stigmatizing speech that supports the human rights of Palestinians. This resolution must be rejected, and I urge all Board members on the APDUC Committee to vote "NO" when the resolution comes up for debate on February 13th. Once this politicized attempt to criminalize legitimate speech and inquiry is behind us, we can get to the real work of including ethnic identity and shared heritage into Mason's anti-discrimination policy.</p>
Angelica Zayid	Student	<p>Antisemitism and Zionism are not the same. Supporting Palestinians is about advocating for equality, not discrimination. No matter their faith—Jewish, Muslim, Christian, atheist, or otherwise—people should treat each other with love and respect. There is nothing antisemitic about expressing concern for the thousands of innocent children caught in the crossfire.</p>

Benjamin Steger	Faculty	<p>Dear APDUC Committee Members,</p> <p>I am writing to strongly object to Visitor Rosen's proposed resolution (titled "Antisemitism Resolution") under consideration at the February 13th APDUC Committee Meeting.</p> <p>Like all people of good will, I reject antisemitism and antisemitic ideologies, and I support including protections based on ethnic identity and shared heritage in GMU's anti-discrimination policy. But this resolution is not about protecting faculty and students from discrimination. It is about chilling critical discussions of Israel and Israeli state policy and stigmatizing speech that supports the human rights of Palestinians. As such, this resolution must be rejected, and I call on all Board members on the APDUC Committee to vote "NO" when the resolution comes up for debate on February 13th. Then, with this politicized attempt to criminalize legitimate speech and inquiry behind us, we can get to the real work of including ethnic identity and shared heritage into Mason's anti-discrimination policy.</p>
Rose Cherubin	Faculty	<p>I strongly reject antisemitism and antisemitic ideologies, and I strongly support including protections based on ethnic identity and shared heritage in GMU's anti-discrimination policy. But this resolution is not about protecting faculty and students from discrimination. It is about chilling critical discussions of Israel and Israeli state policy and stigmatizing speech that supports the human rights of Palestinians. Criticism of the current state of Israel is not equivalent to criticizing the idea of a Jewish state, for the idea of a Jewish state does not imply adherence to the current state's policies, and can include the recognition of a Palestinian (also a semitic group) state alongside it. Indeed, many Israelis support the idea of a Jewish state and a Paletstinian state coexisting, and strongly oppose their own government's policies.</p> <p>In its current form, this resolution must be rejected, and I call on all Board members on the APDUC Committee to vote "NO" when the resolution comes up for debate on February 13th. Then, with this politicized attempt to criminalize legitimate speech and inquiry behind us, we can move ahead to crafting just and effective language that include ethnic identity and shared heritage in Mason's anti-discrimination policy.</p>
Alexander Monea	Faculty	<p>Dear APDUC Committee Members,</p> <p>I am writing to strongly object to Visitor Rosen's proposed resolution (titled "Antisemitism Resolution") under consideration at the February 13th APDUC Committee Meeting.</p> <p>Like all people of good will, I reject antisemitism and antisemitic ideologies, and I support including protections based on ethnic identity and shared heritage in GMU's anti-discrimination policy. But this resolution is not about protecting faculty and students from discrimination. It is about chilling critical discussions of Israel and Israeli state policy and stigmatizing speech that supports the human rights of Palestinians. As such, this resolution must be rejected, and I call on all Board members on the APDUC Committee to vote "NO" when the resolution comes up for debate on February 13th. Then, with this politicized attempt to criminalize legitimate speech and inquiry behind us, we can get to the real work of including ethnic identity and shared heritage into Mason's anti-discrimination policy.</p>
Ella Duncan-High	Student	<p>Anti-Zionism is not racism. Protect free speech. How dare you try and silence students on campus.</p>

Carlin Decker	Staff	On the Topic of the recent resolution proposed by Jeffery Rosen, to criminalize criticism of Zionism, this resolution should be struck down. Being critical of a nation or a political philosophy it practices is a form a free speech protected under the First Amendment. Limiting the community's freedom of speech is a direct violation of their First Amendment rights.
Ellen Gurung	Alumni	I am writing to express my frustration about the recent GMU Board of Visitors Resolution regarding the condemnation of students who engage in anti-Zionist language, behavior, and activism. Zionism is not an integral part of Jewish identity nor should be considered antisemitic as explained by numerous Jewish activists. Israel is a colonial project that is currently responsible for an ongoing genocide against Palestinian people, and with GMU having such a large West Asian/Middle-Eastern population I would hope that GMU would consider the many students whose family and friends are deeply impacted by the atrocities that Israel is committing. As an alumni I will not financially support GMU in any donation or fundraising activities if this resolution is put in place. This is not the first time that GMU has worked to shut down leftist student activism efforts and I am ashamed to call GMU my alma mater.
Anonymous Staff Member	Staff	I would like to put forth a condemnation of Jeffrey Rosen's resolution to classify criticism of Israel as hate speech. Israel and Judaism are not one and the same. Judaism is a beautiful and ancient faith. Israel is a nation, which should not be exempt from the same criticisms other nations face. Jewish people do not unilaterally support Israel, and for the university to criminalize the discussion of the topic is to decide for those people what is acceptable speech from Jews. The university also runs the risk of having to enforce penalties for "antisemitism" on community members who are Jewish. This initiative is such a misstep from the University, please do not try to prevent our university from being a forum for such important conversation.
Mackenzie Liu	Student	As a Jewish individual, Israel is a key part of my identity. The prayers I say everyday mention Israel and its people. I'm a proud Zionist who believes that the Jewish people have the right to live in Israel. The harassment I have received on campus for the past year and a half has been nonstop. Often acts of anti-semitism like calling the Star of David offensive is stated to be anti-Zionist by people on this campus. My friends and I have been called countless names that are inappropriate and harmful. Again they were disguised under the name of anti-Zionism. I was left in tears one day after painting the star on one of Wilkins Plaza paintable walls. Six people yelled and circled around me, but claimed they were anti-Zionist and not anti-Semitic. The student government DEI committee has shown clear bias and refuses to acknowledge anti-semitism. Instead their meeting notes consist of anti-Zionist and anti-Israel rhetoric. The chairs of the committee even labeled a presentation on antisemitism as something that didn't involve them. Being a Zionist goes beyond the Jewish community. I have friends who are not Jewish and have received anti-Semitic harassment for supporting Israel. This further proves that the Jewish people and Zionism are linked. The climate on campus has been extremely hostile for Jewish and Zionist students. Our voices are being silenced by people who think we shouldn't exist or that a Jewish student born in Israel is a colonizer. We have been left out of student government meetings and communications about anti-Zionist legislative decisions.

Elizabeth DeMulder	Faculty	<p>Dear APDUC Committee Members,</p> <p>I am writing to strongly object to Visitor Rosen's proposed resolution (titled "Antisemitism Resolution") under consideration at the February 13th APDUC Committee Meeting.</p> <p>Like all people of good will, I reject antisemitism and antisemitic ideologies, and I support including protections based on ethnic identity and shared heritage in GMU's anti-discrimination policy. But this resolution is not about protecting faculty and students from discrimination. It is about chilling critical discussions of Israel and Israeli state policy and stigmatizing speech that supports the human rights of Palestinians. As such, this resolution must be rejected, and I call on all Board members on the APDUC Committee to vote "NO" when the resolution comes up for debate on February 13th. Then, with this politicized attempt to criminalize legitimate speech and inquiry behind us, we can get to the real work of including ethnic identity and shared heritage into Mason's anti-discrimination policy.</p>
Betty Aquino	Community Member	<p>I've heard that Mason is considering a proposal to criminalize the criticism of Zionism on campus and I am deeply concerned by this proposal as it infringes on the students right to free speech.</p>
Grace Larsen	Student	<p>Please pass it, I often don't feel safe on campus because I am an open Zionist. I have received antisemitic messages, snide remarks, and have been given long glares at GMU.</p>
Laura Buckwald	Faculty	<p>Dear APDUC Committee Members,</p> <p>I am writing to strongly object to Visitor Rosen's proposed resolution (titled "Antisemitism Resolution") under consideration at the February 13th APDUC Committee meeting.</p> <p>I reject antisemitism and antisemitic ideologies and I support including protections based on ethnic identity and shared heritage in GMU's anti-discrimination policy. However, this resolution is not about protecting students and faculty from discrimination. It is about chilling critical discussions of Israel and Israeli state policy and stigmatizing and blocking free speech that supports the human rights of Palestinians. The policies of any nation need to be open to free discussion and debate. Any criticisms of Israeli state policies have nothing to do with antisemitism, just as criticisms of U.S. policy do not make one anti-American.</p> <p>As such, this resolution must be rejected, and I call on all Board members on the APDUC Committee to vote "NO" when the resolution comes up for debate on February 13th. Then, with this politicized attempt to criminalize legitimate free speech and inquiry behind us, we can get to the real work of including ethnic identity and shared heritage into Mason's anti-discrimination policy.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
Hannah Landsberger	Alumni	<p>I am deeply concerned about the antisemitism resolution and urge the committee not to approve it. The conflation of all Jewish people with the state of Israel is a dangerous and incorrect assumption to codify into policy on campus, and will be used to restrict free speech and students' rights to protest. As a Jewish descendant of Holocaust survivors, I can testify to the fact that the duty to protest injustice, including against governments that are executing a genocide not dissimilar to the one that my grandparents survived, is a critical part of Judaism. Students, including Jewish students, must not have their right to protest curtailed.</p>

Ana	Student	Mason is suppressing Arab and Palestinian students, prohibiting them from criticizing Zionism, which is a belief system that is accountable for the deaths of hundreds of thousands of people. This complacency in conflating Zionism with racism will tarnish Mason's already tumultuous history. Students should have the right to oppose a system that negatively impacts their homes as well as work towards disclosure and divestment. George Mason has praised itself for its diversity and consistently brands students of color on its websites; however, it appears to lack the resources and commitment to support these students adequately. This proposal, even being considered, highlights how Mason falls short in its alleged pursuit of genuine equity; approving it will only further isolate students. Regardless of administrative decisions, students will persist in making their voices heard.
Elizabeth Ann Kelly	Community Member	Zionism is an idea, not an identity. Just as criticizing our own government is a basic part of freedom of speech, criticizing another government or the actions of another nation is a basic part of freedom of speech. Students must be free to criticize the philosophy of Zionism and the actions of the government and nation of Israel (and the actions of all other governments and nations).
Emily Haines	Community Member	<p>I am writing to express concern and opposition to the proposal before the Board of Visitors that suggests adding Zionism protection to university policy as part of the University's protections from antisemitism.</p> <p>I personally have family and friends who are Jewish and who have even been harassed, so I am completely sympathetic to the desire to protect Jewish students and community members from antisemitic attacks. However, Zionism is very specifically a political ideology, not an identity, and it must be open to debate on a college campus where difficult ideas are meant to be discussed. Zionism is an ideology that can be extremely harmful, and has inherent racist and colonial roots, asserting that Jewish people have an absolute right to land that Palestinian people already owned before they arrive, and even that violence is acceptable to secure that land. The University's place in such debate, if it has one, is only to ensure all sides are respectful and that discussion is around beliefs and actions, not ad hominem attacks on who someone is that cannot be changed- Zionism is not unchanging, it is a political position. The assertion that Zionism is central to many Jewish people's identity, therefore Zionism must be protected, is a false equivalence. Many Catholics believe deeply that abortion is murder and define themselves as pro-life, but we do not consider pro-choice rhetoric, even against the Catholic Church establishment, to be anti-Catholic hate speech no matter how deeply held those beliefs may be. Zionism is the same. Just because it uses religious reasoning does not place it above reproach.</p> <p>It may be uncomfortable to allow such discussions on campus, but it doesn't make them less important to have, and groups that are already being silenced elsewhere such as Arabs and Palestinians, and even pacifists like Quakers, need academic spaces to be protected venues for free speech.</p> <p>The University, in specifically protecting Zionism, would be taking a racist and biased position itself under the guise of protecting one group from another. Please, reject this proposal, and use other methods to protect your Jewish students and faculty from direct antisemitism, without silencing legitimate criticism of a foreign government's ideology.</p>

Laura Dempsey	Community Member	It's come to my attention that this board is considering criminalizing the criticism of Zionism. This nationalistic movement should not be above criticism, just like we love and honor our country enough to criticize if we should be able to do so for a foreign country too.
Kieron Rust	Community Member	<p>It's dangerous when institutions of knowledge put guardrails on intellectual criticism. It goes against the very essence of your mission and purpose as a university.</p> <p>I am deeply concerned by the proposal to ban criticism of Israel and Zionism from campus. Students are expressing legitimate concerns about the actions of a state's government, and their conduct in war, which led to an arrest warrant in the ICC. This is vastly different from hatred based on religion, which we all condemn. These two things are not the same.</p> <p>Countries can still be criticized even when they are deeply tied to religious minorities. We spoke out against Saudi Arabia over the Khashoggi murder, which was not only protected speech, but encouraged. Calling out Israel's deeply immoral conduct is no different.</p> <p>Protect student's right to protest. Protect free speech.</p>
Pua Ali'i Lum	Community Member	There is no greater disservice to humanity than to conflate lies about antisemitism. Regardless of how many lies, court cases, threats and removing/revoking visas of students standing with Palestinians', human beings, rights. In some cases, they are Palestinians who are constantly suffering at the hands of Zionism Yt supremacy. You can't make a lie the truth. Shame on you.
Jackie Jones	Community Member	The least Jewish thing you can do is not share opinions and argue the points of founding principles of Zionism. Withholding love is a form of abuse and not caring about the rights and humanity of other's is anti-Jewish. We all should be standing tall in solidarity with Palestinian's.
Anne Komer	Community Member	I'm of Jewish descent and I do not support the genocide and lands stolen from the Palestinian people. There's a difference between antisemitism and anti-Zionism, and that distinction is a very important one. It is of utmost importance that we do not swing from no hate speech against a people who Hitler tried to ethnically cleanse to no hate speech against a government that is ethnically cleansing another people.

Concerned Community Member	Community Member	<p data-bbox="505 100 889 132">To the Board of Visitors at GMU,</p> <p data-bbox="505 174 1511 447">I am writing as a concerned local community member and family member of a GMU alum about the proposal to revise University Policy Number 1201 (“Non-Discrimination Policy”) to criminalize all criticism of Zionism on and off campus. I think that the proposal should not be approved on the basis of protecting GMU students’ 1st Amendment right to freedom of expression. To me, this proposal to adopt the IHRA definition of antisemitism seems concerned about protecting a specific political position and not at all about protecting Jewish students, faculty, and staff.</p> <p data-bbox="505 495 1511 699">For example, indeed it would be antisemitic to “[a]ccus[e] the Jews as a people, or Israel as a state, of inventing or exaggerating the Holocaust,” as stated in the IHRA examples of antisemitism. It also would indeed be antisemitic to “[hold all] Jews collectively responsible for actions of the state of Israel.” Accusing Jews as a people or Israel as a state of making up the Holocaust are examples of antisemitism because they show exaggeration and stereotyping of the entire Jewish community.</p> <p data-bbox="505 747 1511 1308">However, there are several contemporary examples listed in the IHRA definition of antisemitism that are notably not antisemitic. It is extremely alarming to hear that GMU might implement a rule to punish students who are actually exercising their 1st Amendment right to freedom of expression by adopting this definition and its examples. For instance, it would NOT be antisemitic or denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination to “[claim] that the existence of a State of Israel is a racist endeavor.” The State of Israel does not represent Jewish people as a whole, so it would not be antisemitic to criticize Israel as a racist endeavor. Students, faculty, and staff raising concerns about Israel, for example about Israel being a modern colonialist state or “a racist endeavor”, would not be antisemitic because it does not attack Jewish people, and instead is criticizing the government and history of Israel. It’s conveniently vague that another IHRA example of antisemitism is “[a]pplying double standards [to Israel] by requiring of it a behavior not expected or demanded of any other democratic nation.” Who or what decides what is a double standard, and what is or is not expected of “any other democratic nation”? This does not seem like something that can be objectively enforced.</p> <p data-bbox="505 1356 1511 1734">I also have concerns about the language used in the proposal. It’s interesting that instead of Jewish people being explicitly the center of the intended expanded protections, the word “Zionist” is used. While white supremacists do use phrases like “Zionist” to spread antisemitism (for example, “Zionist-controlled government”), Zionist does not equal Jewish. There are many Zionist Christians in the world who are not Jewish. There are many Jewish people in the world who do not identify as Zionist. There are many Jewish people around the world, but especially here in the DC area, who are critical about Israel who would be labelled as antisemites by this change. Again, this proposal seems concerned about protecting a specific political position and not at all about protecting Jewish students, faculty, and staff on and off campus from actual antisemitism.</p> <p data-bbox="505 1782 1511 1875">I urge the Board of Visitors to reject this proposed change. There are better ways to protect Jewish students, faculty, and staff that do not need to revolve around the idea of protecting “Zionists” more than the Jewish community as a whole.</p>
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Allan Gluck	Community Member	Evaluating whether an act is genocide is objective. Applying the definition of the act of genocide to what Israel has done is objective, affirmed by the international criminal court and numerous other organizations and countries. Thus, to say that Israel is undertaking genocide is in no way antisemitic, and in fact denying this is antisemitic for it is antisemitic to think that Jews condone genocide.
Mariam C	Alumna	<p>To whom it may concern,</p> <p>As an alumna of GMU, I am writing to express my concerns regarding Jeff Rosen's proposal for George Mason's Board of Visitors that would aim to criminalize all criticism of Zionism on campus. This outrageous proposal is an assault on free speech and is a gross violation of our first amendment rights. Institutions of higher education should represent tolerance and growth, fostering environments where diverse perspectives, ideas and identities can thrive. Universities are indicators of social progress, making it crucial that they uphold principles of inclusivity, open discourse and freedom of expression.</p> <p>From my years at the university, both in and off campus, I know that George Mason University prides itself on its diverse student population yet continues to harm and marginalize their very own students. This proposal seeks to silence and censor any criticism of Zionism within ALL University departments. Zionism is a colonialist and racist ideology rooted in the violent dispossession and displacement of Palestinians. Equating antisemitism to anti-Zionism is dangerous and allows fascism and white supremacy to strengthen their roots - especially if endorsed by a university that claims to "honor freedom of thought and expression". This is not only a direct attack on Palestinian and Arab students; it endangers the fundamental rights of every individual to express their views freely. Marginalized groups rely on academic spaces to challenge dominant narratives and advocate for change, yet the University continues to repress activism and silence the very voices that it should uplift.</p> <p>I urge you to consider the grave consequences of this proposal which seeks to undermine freedom of expression, critical thinking and diverse discourse which are essential attributes of higher education. Suppressing these freedoms would not only diminish the educational experience but would also set a dangerous precedent for censorship, marginalization and the erosion of democratic values within academic institutions.</p>

Nezha Selloum	Community Member	<p>To whom it may concern,</p> <p>I am writing to express my concerns regarding Jeff Rosen’s proposal for George Mason’s Board of Visitors that would aim to criminalize all criticism of Zionism on campus. This outrageous proposal is an assault on free speech and is a gross violation of our first amendment rights. Institutions of higher education should represent tolerance and growth, fostering environments where diverse perspectives, ideas and identities can thrive. Universities are indicators of social progress, making it crucial that they uphold principles of inclusivity, open discourse and freedom of expression.</p> <p>George Mason University prides itself on its diverse student population yet continues to harm and marginalize their very own students. This proposal seeks to silence and censor any criticism of Zionism within ALL University departments. Zionism is a colonialist and racist ideology rooted in the violent dispossession and displacement of Palestinians. Equating antisemitism to anti-zionism is dangerous, allowing fascism and white supremacy to strengthen their roots, especially if endorsed by a University that claims to “honor freedom of thought and expression”. This is not only a direct attack on Palestinian and Arab students; it endangers the fundamental rights of every individual to express their views freely. Marginalized groups rely on academic spaces to challenge dominant narratives and advocate for change, yet the University continues to repress activism and silence the very voices that it should uplift.</p> <p>I urge you to consider the grave consequences of this proposal which seeks to undermine freedom of expression, critical thinking and diverse discourse which are essential attributes of higher education. Suppressing these freedoms would not only diminish the educational experience but would also set a dangerous precedent for censorship, marginalization and the erosion of democratic values within academic institutions.</p>
Kelby Gibson	PhD candidate and GTA	<p>Dear APDUC Committee Members,</p> <p>I am writing to strongly object to Visitor Rosen's proposed resolution (titled "Antisemitism Resolution") under consideration at the February 13th APDUC Committee Meeting.</p> <p>Like all people of good will, I reject antisemitism and antisemitic ideologies, and I support including protections based on ethnic identity and shared heritage in GMU's anti-discrimination policy. But this resolution is not about protecting faculty and students from discrimination. It is about chilling critical discussions of Israel and Israeli state policy and stigmatizing speech that supports the human rights of Palestinians. As such, this resolution must be rejected, and I call on all Board members on the APDUC Committee to vote "NO" when the resolution comes up for debate on February 13th. Then, with this politicized attempt to criminalize legitimate speech and inquiry behind us, we can get to the real work of including ethnic identity and shared heritage into Mason's anti-discrimination policy.</p>

Terri Ginsberg	Community Member	<p>Dear APDUC Committee Members,</p> <p>I am writing to strongly object to Visitor Rosen's proposed resolution (titled "Antisemitism Resolution") under consideration at the February 13th APDUC Committee Meeting.</p> <p>Like all people of good will, I reject antisemitism and antisemitic ideologies, and I support including protections based on ethnic identity and shared heritage in GMU's anti-discrimination policy. But this resolution is not about protecting faculty and students from discrimination. It is about chilling critical discussions of Israel and Israeli state policy and stigmatizing speech that supports the human rights of Palestinians. As such, this resolution must be rejected, and I call on all Board members on the APDUC Committee to vote "NO" when the resolution comes up for debate on February 13th. Then, with this politicized attempt to criminalize legitimate speech and inquiry behind us, we can get to the real work of including ethnic identity and shared heritage into Mason's anti-discrimination policy.</p>
Community Member	Community Member	<p>To whom it may concern,</p> <p>I am writing to express my concerns regarding Jeff Rosen's proposal for George Mason's Board of Visitors that would aim to criminalize all criticism of Zionism on campus. This outrageous proposal is an assault on free speech and is a gross violation of our first amendment rights. Institutions of higher education should represent tolerance and growth, fostering environments where diverse perspectives, ideas and identities can thrive. Universities are indicators of social progress, making it crucial that they uphold principles of inclusivity, open discourse and freedom of expression.</p> <p>George Mason University prides itself on its diverse student population yet continues to harm and marginalize their very own students. This proposal seeks to silence and censor any criticism of Zionism within ALL University departments. Zionism is a colonialist and racist ideology rooted in the violent dispossession and displacement of Palestinians. Equating antisemitism to anti-Zionism is dangerous and allows fascism and white supremacy to strengthen their roots - especially if endorsed by a university that claims to "honor freedom of thought and expression". This is not only a direct attack on Palestinian and Arab students; it endangers the fundamental rights of every individual to express their views freely. Marginalized groups rely on academic spaces to challenge dominant narratives and advocate for change, yet the University continues to repress activism and silence the very voices that it should uplift.</p> <p>I urge you to consider the grave consequences of this proposal which seeks to undermine freedom of expression, critical thinking and diverse discourse which are essential attributes of higher education. Suppressing these freedoms would not only diminish the educational experience but would also set a dangerous precedent for censorship, marginalization and the erosion of democratic values within academic institutions.</p>

James H.
Finkelstein

Emeritus
Professor of
Public Policy

I'm Jim Finkelstein, Professor Emeritus of Public Policy and was the founding Vice Dean of the School of Public Policy, now part of the Schar School.

According to the Association of Governing Boards (AGB), the first Principle of Trusteeship is to "Embrace the full scope of your responsibilities." The foremost of these responsibilities is to "Fulfill your fiduciary responsibilities. As a fiduciary, you are charged with acting on behalf of the public to further the best interests of the organization on whose board you serve." I am concerned that at least one member of the Board of Visitors (BOV) may not be upholding this responsibility.

On February 11, 2025, Dr. Lindsey Burke reposted a multipart tweet by her Heritage Foundation subordinate, Jay Greene, in which he strongly advocated for reducing the NIH indirect cost recovery rate. Earlier, she shared a February 7, 2025, tweet by Elon Musk:

"Can you believe that universities with tens of billions in endowments were siphoning off 60% of research award money for 'overhead'? What a ripoff!"

Dr. Burke's engagement with these posts suggests support for a policy that would significantly cut Mason's federal funding—a conservative estimate places the loss at over \$2 million per year if such changes were enacted. It is difficult to see how advocating for such cuts aligns with Mason's best interests.

This is not the first time Visitor Burke has used X to express views that, in my view, conflict with her duty of care and fiduciary responsibility as a member of the Mason BOV and chair of its Academic Programs, Diversity, and University Community Committee.

I urge Dr. Burke to step down from the BOV to uphold the integrity of the board and protect the university. This move would serve the best interests of Dr. Burke, the university community, the Commonwealth, , and even the Heritage Foundation.

Respectfully,

James H. Finkelstein, Ph.D.
Professor Emeritus of Public Policy
Schar School of Policy and Government

Bethany Letiecq	Faculty	<p>Dear APDUC Committee Members,</p> <p>As the president of the GMU chapter of the American Association of University Professors and a Professor in CEHD, I am writing to strongly object to Visitor Rosen's proposed resolution (titled "Antisemitism Resolution") under consideration at the February 13th APDUC Committee Meeting. This resolution is an overreach of the BOV and threatens both free speech and academic freedom.</p> <p>Like all people of good will, I reject antisemitism and antisemitic ideologies, and I support including protections based on ethnic identity and shared heritage in GMU's anti-discrimination policy. But this resolution is not about protecting faculty and students from discrimination. It is about chilling if not repressing critical discussions of Israel and Israeli state policy and stigmatizing speech that supports the human rights of Palestinians.</p> <p>As such, this resolution must be rejected, and I call on all Board members on the APDUC Committee to vote "NO" when the resolution comes up for debate on February 13th.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration. Bethany Letiecq, President, GMU-AAUP</p>
Sammy Alqasem	MD resident	<p>To whom it may concern,</p> <p>I am writing to express my concerns regarding Jeff Rosen's proposal for George Mason's Board of Visitors that would aim to criminalize all criticism of Zionism on campus. This outrageous proposal is an assault on free speech and is a gross violation of our first amendment rights. Institutions of higher education should represent tolerance and growth, fostering environments where diverse perspectives, ideas and identities can thrive. Universities are indicators of social progress, making it crucial that they uphold principles of inclusivity, open discourse and freedom of expression.</p> <p>George Mason University prides itself on its diverse student population yet continues to harm and marginalize their very own students. This proposal seeks to silence and censor any criticism of Zionism within ALL University departments. Zionism is a colonialist and racist ideology rooted in the violent dispossession and displacement of Palestinians. Equating antisemitism to anti-Zionism is dangerous and allows fascism and white supremacy to strengthen their roots - especially if endorsed by a university that claims to "honor freedom of thought and expression". This is not only a direct attack on Palestinian and Arab students; it endangers the fundamental rights of every individual to express their views freely. Marginalized groups rely on academic spaces to challenge dominant narratives and advocate for change, yet the University continues to repress activism and silence the very voices that it should uplift.</p> <p>I urge you to consider the grave consequences of this proposal which seeks to undermine freedom of expression, critical thinking and diverse discourse which are essential attributes of higher education. Suppressing these freedoms would not only diminish the educational experience but would also set a dangerous precedent for censorship, marginalization and the erosion of democratic values within academic institutions.</p>

Natalie Johnson	Community Member	Protect freedom of speech. Do not adopt Jeff Rosen's proposal to ban all anti-Zionist speech. Zionism is a racist colonial ideology that is predicated on the genocide of Palestinians. Anti-Zionism is NOT anti-Semitism. If you ban anti-Zionist speech, then you are trampling free speech and making all students less safe, especially Palestinian, Arab, and Muslim students.
Nora Mona	Community Member	<p>To whom it may concern,</p> <p>I am writing to express my concerns regarding Jeff Rosen's proposal for George Mason's Board of Visitors that would aim to criminalize all criticism of Zionism on campus. This outrageous proposal is an assault on free speech and is a gross violation of our first amendment rights. Institutions of higher education should represent tolerance and growth, fostering environments where diverse perspectives, ideas and identities can thrive. Universities are indicators of social progress, making it crucial that they uphold principles of inclusivity, open discourse and freedom of expression.</p> <p>George Mason University prides itself on its diverse student population yet continues to harm and marginalize their very own students. This proposal seeks to silence and censor any criticism of Zionism within ALL University departments. Zionism is a colonialist and racist ideology rooted in the violent dispossession and displacement of Palestinians. Equating antisemitism to anti-Zionism is dangerous and allows fascism and white supremacy to strengthen their roots - especially if endorsed by a university that claims to "honor freedom of thought and expression". This is not only a direct attack on Palestinian and Arab students; it endangers the fundamental rights of every individual to express their views freely. Marginalized groups rely on academic spaces to challenge dominant narratives and advocate for change, yet the University continues to repress activism and silence the very voices that it should uplift.</p> <p>I urge you to consider the grave consequences of this proposal which seeks to undermine freedom of expression, critical thinking and diverse discourse which are essential attributes of higher education. Suppressing these freedoms would not only diminish the educational experience but would also set a dangerous precedent for censorship, marginalization and the erosion of democratic values within academic institutions.</p>

Alison OConnell	Alumni	<p>Dear Board of Visitors,</p> <p>The IHRA definition of antisemitism is flagrantly untrue, racist, seeks to suppress free speech, and is in itself antisemitic.</p> <p>Kenneth Stern, who drafted it, says he regrets creating it because of how it has been weaponized by the right to suppress free speech, especially on college campuses: https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/dec/13/antisemitism-executive-order-trump-chilling-effect</p> <p>Many Jewish organizations, including but not limited to, J-Street, T'ruah, Diaspora Alliance, Jewish Voice for Peace and Partners for Progressive Israel oppose this definition.</p> <p>Conflating all Jewish people with Zionism and the state of Israel is both inaccurate and antisemitic. The first anti-Zionists were Jewish people, long prior to 1948. Many Jews today are anti-Zionist and seeking to suppress their voices does not make this any less true. Yes, even Jewish people with family in Israel, who have lived in Israel, visited Israel - many of them also conclude the state of Israel is committing apartheid and genocide, and therefore oppose it.</p> <p>It is also appallingly racist and very transparent to try to suppress Palestinian students and professors from speaking honestly about their own experiences of colonization, racism and oppression.</p> <p>This Resolution is a shameful move on the part of Mason, and as an alumni I strongly encourage you to vote against it.</p>
Michael Beer	spouse is alumni. I am also a Virginia taxpayer	<p>As a person of Jewish heritage, and relatives who were killed and hostaged on Oct 7, as well as the descendant of Holocaust victims, I ask you to oppose the proposal by Jeff Rosen to criminalize and/or stigmatize criticism of Zionism on campus. Many many Jews are critical or oppose Zionism. Are you seriously going to equate (or link) antisemitism with anti-zionism? And please don't refer or promote the IHRA definition of antisemitism, which also equates criticism of Zionism with Judaism. Academic freedom is coming under attack by the Trump administration. LGBTQ, immigrants, gender studies, racism/ethnicity studies, people with disabilities and DEI. The issue of Israel and Palestine is a canary bird in the coal mine. Stand firm for academic freedom and the universal right to free speech and assembly as guaranteed under Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.</p>
Anonymous	Student	<p>Restricting students' free speech against the genocide against thousands of innocent Palestinians is a deeply disturbing proposition by a body meant to reflect the student voice. The IHRA's Definition of Antisemitism has a prominent history of being weaponized to silence criticism of Israel, and it's profoundly disappointing to see this institution do the same.</p>

Anonymous	Community Member	<p>Zionism, the idea that Jewish people have a right to all land that exists in a certain part of the Levant is highly damaging to not only to all non-Jewish people but as well as all Jewish people all over the world. By trying to legitimize this claim you are legitimizing all claims of old lost land, are we supposed to go back to the borders of the 16th century and entertain such nationalism? I think not.</p> <p>Even worse, if you were to legitimize such claims you are condemning the people that live in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank to being ethnically cleaned and removed from where they live, which will result in lives lost and extreme unnecessary agitation.</p> <p>Also, in suppressing the freedom of speech of people against Zionism is against human rights, especially the right of freedom of speech. To be against Zionism is not to be against Jewish people, in fact it's a standpoint that is rooted in creating a better world, as validating nationalistic claims to ethnically cleanse and settle land is highly anti-human.</p>
Q Garcia	Community Member	<p>Freedom of speech and expression is a foundational right in this country, and should be upheld by our collegiate institutions. Of course hate speech should not be tolerated, but trying to broaden the definition of "hate speech" for political purposes is an insult to all of us, and threatens our right to speak up against injustice. We are not claiming that Jewish community members should be attacked for their identity and beliefs, hate speech should continue to be banned. But broadening the definition of hate speech to include all good faith critiques of Israel as a settler-colonial nation, is not only false, but immoral and a threat to our freedoms.</p> <p>Many Jewish community members and leaders have differing views and opinions around Israel, and to reduce the Jewish community to one stance is anti-Jewish and hateful in itself.</p> <p>A commitment to honest and open dialogue about the issues of our time is desperately needed on our college campuses, and I urge you to rethink your assertions and definitions of hate speech and anti-semitism. Your current plans do not reflect American or Jewish values and instead threaten other groups of people being directly impacted by ongoing wars and displacement. This move seeks to divide us further, by silencing and forcing out voices that you don't agree with, further marginalizing already intentionally marginalized groups.</p> <p>It is your responsibility to advance truth and honesty in your rules and policies, not to punish students for views you disagree with.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p>
Grace Nina	Community Member	<p>Freedom of speech Freedom of assembly</p> <p>Respect our rights</p>
Anonymous	Faculty	<p>Please do not double down on policies that conflate criticism of Israel or Zionism with antisemitism. Almost every Jewish person I know feels less safe because of ISRAEL's actions over the last 15+ months, not because of Palestinians'. Equating antizionism and antisemitism makes Jews LESS safe, not more safe. The IHRA definition of antisemitism is counterproductive and compromises Jewish safety. Never again means never again for anyone.</p>

Jessica Schwalb	Student	None
Quinn Chapman	Community Member	<p>To whom it may concern,</p> <p>I am writing to express my concerns regarding Jeff Rosen's proposal for George Mason's Board of Visitors that would aim to criminalize all criticism of Zionism on campus. This outrageous proposal is an assault on free speech and is a gross violation of our first amendment rights. Institutions of higher education should represent tolerance and growth, fostering environments where diverse perspectives, ideas and identities can thrive. Universities are indicators of social progress, making it crucial that they uphold principles of inclusivity, open discourse and freedom of expression.</p> <p>George Mason University prides itself on its diverse student population yet continues to harm and marginalize their very own students. This proposal seeks to silence and censor any criticism of Zionism within ALL University departments. Zionism is a colonialist and racist ideology rooted in the violent dispossession and displacement of Palestinians. Equating antisemitism to anti-Zionism is dangerous and allows fascism and white supremacy to strengthen their roots - especially if endorsed by a university that claims to "honor freedom of thought and expression". This is not only a direct attack on Palestinian and Arab students; it endangers the fundamental rights of every individual to express their views freely. Marginalized groups rely on academic spaces to challenge dominant narratives and advocate for change, yet the University continues to repress activism and silence the very voices that it should uplift.</p> <p>I urge you to consider the grave consequences of this proposal which seeks to undermine freedom of expression, critical thinking and diverse discourse which are essential attributes of higher education. Suppressing these freedoms would not only diminish the educational experience but would also set a dangerous precedent for censorship, marginalization and the erosion of democratic values within academic institutions.</p>
Evelyn Rose Johnston	Staff	<p>As a member of the now protected identity of "Zionist", and a member of the GMU SSI board, I am happy to see that anti Israel hatred will not be tolerated. Students Supporting Israel at GMU fully supports this decision by the Board of Visitors, and will make SURE we are accepted into every space on campus. This prestigious university should no longer allow the violence that stems from the palestinian community to prosper on our campus. palestinians and pro palestinians are EXTREMELY violent, and full of terror and hatred. I personally am glad to see that they are no longer allowed to spread their filth and their lies about a FAKE genocide. They started a war, and now they cry because they can't finish it. Ban kuffiyehs next. Those rape rags are a filthy symbol for terrorism.</p>
Zahra Hilmi	Community Member	<p>This is an extremely dangerous motion that not only violates free speech, but censors hundreds of students, faculty, staff, and more. GMU claims to be an institution that values its students and diversity, while simultaneously suppressing those it promises to uplift. GMU only cares about its image, and if this motion passes, GMU will be forever remembered as an institution that sides with the oppressor, only using its power to uplift itself and that takes advantage of its students.</p>

Sara Sallaj	Community Member	Everyone in the United States has the right of free speech. Calling out complicity in genocide is in our rights and shame on George Mason University for trying to take that away from us. Shame on you George Mason, I would never want to represent a University as disgusting and dishonest as this one.
Susu e	Student	GMU needs to ACKNOWLEDGE the Palestinian community at gmu and support the movement for the HUMAN RIGHTS of Palestinians DONT PROTECT people who call for VIOLENCE towards Palestinians
Ashley	Faculty	GMU needs to ACKNOWLEDGE the Palestinian community at gmu and support the movement for the HUMAN RIGHTS of Palestinians DONT PROTECT people who call for VIOLENCE towards Palestinians
Chad	Staff	GMU needs to ACKNOWLEDGE the Palestinian community at gmu and support the movement for the HUMAN RIGHTS of Palestinians DONT PROTECT people who call for VIOLENCE towards Palestinians
Alex	Community Member	GMU needs to ACKNOWLEDGE the Palestinian community at gmu and support the movement for the HUMAN RIGHTS of Palestinians DONT PROTECT people who call for VIOLENCE towards Palestinians
President	Student	GMU needs to ACKNOWLEDGE the Palestinian community at gmu and support the movement for the HUMAN RIGHTS of Palestinians DONT PROTECT people who call for VIOLENCE towards Palestinians
Fear God	Staff	GMU needs to ACKNOWLEDGE the Palestinian community at gmu and support the movement for the HUMAN RIGHTS of Palestinians DONT PROTECT people who call for VIOLENCE towards Palestinians
Sheima Amara	GMU Alumna	Removing students' abilities to critique government and political organizations is terrifying. This is a public institution that prides itself on diversity, encourages political dialogue and criticism, and understands the sanctity of protecting our constitutional rights. This would be a disastrous mistake for the university and university students of all backgrounds and ideologies.

Conner Moses	Student	<p>I am writing to express my concerns regarding Jeff Rosen’s proposal for George Mason’s Board of Visitors that would aim to criminalize all criticism of Zionism on campus. This outrageous proposal is an assault on free speech and is a gross violation of our first amendment rights. Institutions of higher education should represent tolerance and growth, fostering environments where diverse perspectives, ideas and identities can thrive. Universities are indicators of social progress, making it crucial that they uphold principles of inclusivity, open discourse and freedom of expression.</p> <p>George Mason University prides itself on its diverse student population yet continues to harm and marginalize their very own students. This proposal seeks to silence and censor any criticism of Zionism within ALL University departments. Zionism is a colonialist and racist ideology rooted in the violent dispossession and displacement of Palestinians. Equating antisemitism to anti-zionism is dangerous, allowing fascism and white supremacy to strengthen their roots, especially if endorsed by a University that claims to “honor freedom of thought and expression”. This is not only a direct attack on Palestinian and Arab students; it endangers the fundamental rights of every individual to express their views freely. Marginalized groups rely on academic spaces to challenge dominant narratives and advocate for change, yet the University continues to repress activism and silence the very voices that it should uplift.</p> <p>I urge you to consider the grave consequences of this proposal which seeks to undermine freedom of expression, critical thinking and diverse discourse which are essential attributes of higher education. Suppressing these freedoms would not only diminish the educational experience but would also set a dangerous precedent for censorship, marginalization and the erosion of democratic values within academic institutions.</p>
Elisabeth Bodin	Student	<p>These ongoing resolutions are not what will protect Jewish students on campus. As a part-Jewish student on campus, I have witnessed a rise in anti-semitism with deep concern - and yet I think there are better ways to address the issue. Criminalizing certain discourse surrounding Israel and its policies to "protect" against this does not just go against free speech, it unfairly conflates all Jews with the decisions made by a state that they may or may not have ever stepped foot in, and may even lead to condemnation of Palestinian students practicing their own cultural identity or discussing concerns for their people if the rules are made too vague. Jewish and other students should be permitted the capacity to engage with Zionism critically; as a modern political ideology, it is just as applicable for discourse - positive or negative - as any other belief. It is of course inappropriate to harass Jewish students for their views on what is happening in Palestine - and it is also inappropriate to bar Jewish students from stating views that may descent from the popular on notions of Zionism.</p> <p>It is also odd to me that to protect Mason's student body, more is not being done to combat certain perceivable threats to the Jewish student population here at GMU. I specifically refer to an incident of a student dressing a nazi, something that makes me and others feel unsafe, but the university decided was "protected" under free speech. How come to dress and present one's self as those who would kill us is protected by free speech, but diverse discussion on a political belief from the 19th century is not? There are several other incidents I can think of where hate speech was left protected by the university - from anti-Trans protestors to some certain missionary folk with a history of harassing non-Christian students on campus.</p>

		<p>George Mason tries to present itself as an institution where any can be whoever they want, and discuss what they must to make the world a better place; what does it mean for the university when political speech is controlled, but dangerous symbolism and hate speech are allowed to flourish?</p>
Denise Albanese	Faculty	<p>I write to enter my objection to Visitor Rosen's resolution, due for consideration at the meeting on the 13th of February.</p> <p>It is demonstrable that anti-semitism is a real danger and that, horrifyingly, it is on the rise in the US: as I do with all forms of discrimination, I want to register my detestation of it. However, the proposed resolution risks obscuring this real danger by eliding it with a legitimate (if, to some, unpalatable) position concerning the rights of Palestinians. There is real work to do at Mason concerning myriad forms of anti-discrimination. This resolution, however, does nothing to advance that work. I urge you to vote no.</p>
Sojourner Davidson	Community Member	<p>To whom it may concern,</p> <p>I am writing to express my concerns regarding Jeff Rosen's proposal for George Mason's Board of Visitors that would aim to criminalize all criticism of Zionism on campus. The proposal is an assault on free speech and a gross violation of our first amendment rights. Institutions of higher education should represent tolerance and growth, fostering environments where diverse perspectives, ideas and identities can thrive. Universities are indicators of social progress, making it crucial that they uphold principles of inclusivity, open discourse and freedom of expression.</p> <p>George Mason University prides itself on its diverse student population yet continues to harm and marginalize their very own students. This proposal seeks to silence and censor any criticism of Zionism within ALL University departments. Zionism is a colonialist and racist ideology rooted in the violent dispossession and displacement of Palestinians. Equating antisemitism to anti-Zionism is dangerous and allows fascism and white supremacy to strengthen their roots - especially if endorsed by a university that claims to "honor freedom of thought and expression". This is not only a direct attack on Palestinian and Arab students; it endangers the fundamental rights of every individual to express their views freely.</p> <p>I urge you to consider the negative effects this proposal would pose to freedom of expression, critical thinking and diverse discourse which are essential attributes of higher education. Suppressing these freedoms would not only diminish the educational experience but would also set a dangerous precedent for censorship, marginalization and the erosion of democratic values within academic institutions.</p>

Anonymous	Community Member	<p>I strongly disapprove of any attempt whatsoever to criminalize the criticism of Zionism. This is a reprehensible thing to do.</p> <p>I'd like to draw to your attention that numerous credible human rights and humanitarian organizations have cited, using primary sources, countless human rights violations committed by Israel, in the name of Zionism. Here are two particularly powerful, in-depth, primary-resource-filled reports that I read through, and that you should also read through:</p> <p>280-page report from Amnesty International: "Israel's apartheid against Palestinians: Cruel system of domination and crime against humanity" - https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde15/5141/2022/en/</p> <p>296-page report from Amnesty International: "'You Feel Like You Are Subhuman': Israel's Genocide Against Palestinians in Gaza" - https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde15/8668/2024/en/</p> <p>While there are articles floating around out there that try to argue against these points, keep in mind that QUALITY matters over QUANTITY. A high-quality, in-depth, primary-source-filled report is exponentially more valuable than a false claim repeated numerous times. And as a higher education institution, you should know and understand this very well.</p> <p>Criminalizing the criticism of Zionism will disproportionately hurt some of the most marginalized members of the GMU community who care deeply about human rights & social justice.</p>
Anonymous	Alumnus	<p>As an alumnus of George Mason University, one of the things I most appreciated about GMU in my time as a student was the space it gave to Students Against Israeli Apartheid, empowering it to speak out freely against the genocide of Palestinians and the racist, colonial ideology of Zionism. That this proposal to ban such speech is even being considered is utterly disgusting to me, and makes me ashamed to have attended this university.</p>
Grace Venes-Escaffi	Alumna	<p>After 16 months of publicly broadcasted genocide, it disappoints me as a George Mason alumna to think that my alma mater would contemplate passing such a harmful resolution based on protecting supremacist ideology. Anti-Zionist Jewish people from around the world have been saying for decades that association with Zionism is a desecration of their faith. This resolution posits that for many Jewish people support Zionism and Israel are integral part of their identities and that those identities will be protected under anti-discrimination policy - "many" is first arbitrary and second not representative of any majority. By the logic of "many" as stated in this resolution, if a sizable number of students identified as white supremacists this too should be protected ideology. I think we can all agree supremacy of any kind is not conducive to the progress we hope to see and facilitate in our educational environments.</p> <p>Anti-Zionism is Anti-Racism. Israel is a genocidal apartheid state, the global audience has seen it with their own eyes. To silence its criticism is to silence truth, and minimize the severity of the many human rights violations which make up Israel's history.</p>

M S	Community Member	<p>To whom it may concern,</p> <p>I am writing to express my concerns regarding Jeff Rosen’s proposal for George Mason’s Board of Visitors to adopt the IHRA's definition of anti-semitism that would aim to criminalize all criticism of Zionism on campus. This outrageous proposal is an assault on free speech and is a gross violation of our first amendment rights. Institutions of higher education should represent tolerance and growth, fostering environments where diverse perspectives, ideas and identities can thrive. Universities are indicators of social progress, making it crucial that they uphold principles of inclusivity, open discourse and freedom of expression.</p> <p>George Mason University prides itself on its diverse student population yet continues to harm and marginalize their very own students. This proposal seeks to silence and censor any criticism of Zionism within ALL University departments. Zionism is a colonialist and racist ideology rooted in the violent dispossession and displacement of Palestinians. Equating antisemitism to anti-Zionism is dangerous and allows fascism and white supremacy to strengthen their roots - especially if endorsed by a university that claims to “honor freedom of thought and expression”. This is not only a direct attack on Palestinian and Arab students; it endangers the fundamental rights of every individual to express their views freely. Marginalized groups rely on academic spaces to challenge dominant narratives and advocate for change, yet the University continues to repress activism and silence the very voices that it should uplift.</p> <p>I urge you to consider the grave consequences of this proposal which seeks to undermine freedom of expression, critical thinking and diverse discourse which are essential attributes of higher education. Suppressing these freedoms would not only diminish the educational experience but would also set a dangerous precedent for censorship, marginalization and the erosion of democratic values within academic institutions.</p>
Catherine Saunders	Faculty	<p>To the APDUC Committee:</p> <p>I am writing to express concern about the Antisemitism Resolution that you will be considering during your meeting today. While I appreciate that antisemitism, along with islamophobia and other forms of stereotype-based discrimination, is currently increasing in the United States, I worry that this resolution will have the unintended effect of suppressing academic inquiry and free speech, including the speech of Jewish faculty, students, and staff who are critical of the policies of the present Israeli government. There is also a very real possibility that curtailing opportunities for civil, in-depth, discussion of all the issues and ideas surrounding Israel, Palestine, and American policy toward the conflicts in that region will ultimately increase conflict and expressions of antisemitism by forestalling the possibility of difficult dialogue that could lead to greater understanding and decreased instances of stereotyping. While I’m sure the proposed resolution is well-intentioned, it ultimately strikes me as antithetical both to the university’s mission and to its intended purpose.</p>
Anonymous	Alumni	I am concerned that this policy would prohibit any criticism of the Israeli government’s actions against the Palestinian people. While antisemitism should be condemned, this should not be done in a way that excludes the plight of Palestinians.
.	Community Member	Don't support the IHRA definition

.	Student	Anti-Zionism is not Racism in the same way DEI is not anti-white
Ellie Fox	Student	<p>I'm president of Jewish Voice for Peace at George Mason University, and I urge against the adaptation of the APDUCC Antisemitism resolution.</p> <p>First, insisting that Zionism is an integral part of Jewish identity plays into the antisemitic trope that Jews have split loyalty between the United States and Israel. This is an unacceptable basis for University policy, and the Board of Visitors should be ashamed.</p> <p>Any antisemitism that happens to overlap with anti-Israel rhetoric (example: the usage of the term Zionist Occupied Government) could be taken care of with an antisemitism policy that doesn't equate antizionism with antisemitism by default. The examples of antisemitism to be given in the IHRA fact sheet, are far too broad and will be weaponized exclusively against the Palestine solidarity movement at George Mason University. I know this because the University has not taken action on actual examples of antisemitism from evangelical Christian protestors and Nazi cosplayers, being protected under free speech. I ask, what about our free speech? Will Jewish Voice for Peace be prosecuted for hurting the feelings of Zionists by calling out Apartheid conditions in Israel?</p> <p>This resolution must rejected, and we must shift away from the IHRA Definition of Antisemitism to policies that will serve jews and the rest of the student body.</p>
Sara van der Horst	Alumni	<p>As an alumna of George Mason University, I would like to register my opposition to the proposed anti-semitism resolution. To conflate Jewish identity with the state of Israel is a reductive and false assertion that is offensive to many Jews who do not feel an affiliation with Israel or the project of Zionism. While I am opposed to harassment based on identity, that is not the same as criticism of Israel as a state. To stifle criticism of a state and its actions seems to me to be contrary to the university's stated commitment to upholding the first amendment rights of its community members. I strongly urge the board to uphold its commitment to free speech by voting against this resolution.</p>

Wonmai
Punksungka

Student

Dear APDUC Committee Members,

I am writing to strongly object to Visitor Rosen's proposed resolution (titled "Antisemitism Resolution") under consideration at the February 13th APDUC Committee Meeting.

Like all people of good will, I reject antisemitism and antisemitic ideologies, and I support including protections based on ethnic identity and shared heritage in GMU's anti-discrimination policy. But this resolution is not about protecting faculty and students from discrimination. It is about chilling critical discussions of Israel and Israeli state policy and stigmatizing speech that supports the human rights of Palestinians. As such, this resolution must be rejected, and I call on all Board members on the APDUC Committee to vote "NO" when the resolution comes up for debate on February 13th. Then, with this politicized attempt to criminalize legitimate speech and inquiry behind us, we can get to the real work of including ethnic identity and shared heritage into Mason's anti-discrimination policy.

Thank you, as always, for taking action. As we just learned from our victory blocking three additional partisan extremists from the BOV, we have a lot of power when we join together and fight!

Also - hot off the GMU-AAUP presses - we want to call to your attention a two-part article we just published in Academe, the AAUP's blog, entitled "The Transformation of George Mason University's Board." Part 1 provides some historical context and focuses on the Antisemitism resolution. Part 2 discusses the University of Chicago's "Shils Report" and how the BOV's fascination with this report could affect GMU professors, particularly with regard to the report's recommended (and, in our view, exceedingly narrow and rigid) criteria for tenure and promotion. Indeed, the Board's upcoming discussion of this report is an ominous sign that visitors may soon try to exert influence over GMU's tenure process. We urge you to read both of our Academe blog posts when you have time.

Sincerely,
The GMU-AAUP Executive Committee

Norma Rantisi	Professor, Concordia University	<p>Dear APDUC Committee Members,</p> <p>I am writing to strongly object to Visitor Rosen's proposed resolution (titled "Antisemitism Resolution") under consideration at the February 13th APDUC Committee Meeting.</p> <p>Like all people of good will, I reject antisemitism and antisemitic ideologies, and I support including protections based on ethnic identity and shared heritage in GMU's anti-discrimination policy. But this resolution is not about protecting faculty and students from discrimination. It is about chilling critical discussions of Israel and Israeli state policy and stigmatizing speech that supports the human rights of Palestinians. As such, this resolution must be rejected, and I call on all Board members on the APDUC Committee to vote "NO" when the resolution comes up for debate on February 13th. Then, with this politicized attempt to criminalize legitimate speech and inquiry behind us, we can get to the real work of including ethnic identity and shared heritage into Mason's anti-discrimination policy.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Norma Rantisi</p>
Madeline Portnoy	Staff	<p>As a Jewish staff member at this institution, I am writing to strongly object to Visitor Rosen's proposed resolution (titled "Antisemitism Resolution") under consideration at the February 13th APDUC Committee Meeting.</p> <p>This resolution is not about protecting Jewish students, staff, and faculty from discrimination - it is about chilling critical discussions of Israel and Israeli state policy and stigmatizing speech that supports the human rights of Palestinians. This policy will be used to discriminate against anyone critical of the state of Israel, even Jews like myself. This policy also uses arbitrary examples of antisemitism, rejecting the lived experiences of Jews in modern, historical, and societal contexts.</p> <p>This resolution must be rejected, and I call on all Board members on the APDUC Committee to vote "NO" when the resolution comes up for debate on February 13th.</p>

Anonymous	Student	<p>Greetings to the board,</p> <p>I am a student and TA at GMU. But first and foremost, I am a Jew who loves her culture, religion, and is not ashamed of her ethnicity. I am a proud Zionist. I fear that many of my peers do not know much about Jewish people or Zionism. I know some of these students very well and yet they never ask me anything about Zionism or even about Israel. These students claim to be fighting for peace but refuse to do the hard work that peace entails. Communication, compassion, reevaluation and understanding. But I am committed to the work because I truly wish to see a day where Israelis and Palestinians, Jews and Arabs see themselves as friends, as family who recognize just how much we both have in common. History shows us that Jews are indigenous to the land but that we aren't the only ones! By protecting the rights to include Zionists in this discussion of peace you protect peace itself. You give others the opportunities to learn, to ask questions. You give me the opportunity to learn, to coexist, to grow! Thank you for protecting your Jewish students and thank you for protecting peace. I encourage you to ask more questions. To learn more about the side you don't understand. I beg of my fellow TA's and faculty on campus to be a role model for your students. You know what it means to cross reference. You know the importance of concession, of an open mind. Show your students this. Do your research talk to real people, real Jews, real Zionists in person. Zionism is inherit to Jewish people. It is a part of us. Israel is a part of us. Zionism does not mean war nor does it mean evil. It is our indigenous right to live on the land that we come from. The land that our ancestors dreamed of in the diaspora. To discriminate against any other indigenous people would not be tolerated on a liberal college campus. Why do you make an exception for Jews? Why have you not talked to us? What are you afraid you'll learn?</p> <p>Peace is not one sided.</p> <p>Thank you</p>
Martha Molinaro	Student	<p>I am in the Arabic department. Many of the people here are Palestinians. Over the past year, some of them have pretty much had their bloodlines wiped out and all of them have lived their entire life under the oppressive chokehold of Zionism in all its real world applications. It is absurd to say that they cannot criticize or protest the very ideology that has been used to systemically oppress their entire people and kill their families and community members. It is also absurd to say that allies of all faiths and ethnicities and nationalities cannot criticize an ideology (Zionism), which is separate from an identity. With such large Palestinian, Arab and Muslim populations on your campus, it is your job to protect them instead of marginalizing them further in this environment where their rights and even some students' visa and immigration statuses are under attack. The defense of this policy seems to be that it is fighting anti-semitism, which not only equates Judaism with Zionism, but erases the very people most impacted by Zionism, Palestinians. Their voices should be THE center of conversations about Zionism, as its victims. Prohibiting them from voicing their own struggles only succeeds in cutting productive conversation entirely. Additionally, the school already has policies against discrimination based on identity or religion, including anti-semitism. Instead of enforcing those policies, you are changing the definition of anti-semitism in order to target another vulnerable community whose genocide Mason has helped fund for 15 months, essentially scapegoating them and their allies for the scourge of anti-Jewishness in this country while simultaneously promoting negative stereotypes of the Arabs as hostile Jew-haters. That is so deeply wrong I don't even know where to begin with it. Even if you don't name Palestinians in this policy to obscure its intentions, we know what you are doing because it is obvious who will be realistically most affected by this, and who is being targeted by policies like these being adapted at schools across the</p>

nation. We in the Mason community must keep the Heritage Foundation, Project Esther, and other anti-democratic, anti-immigrant, and anti-DEI policies off of our campus.

Serena
Abdallah

Student

I am writing to you regarding the proposed resolution to change the definition of antisemitism, which will include critiques of Zionism. This is a very concerning matter, as the ability to critique and analyze governments, ideologies, and ways of thinking is part of an academic environment, and this resolution will impact academic integrity and freedoms at our university.

Last year, President Washington sent us an email that claimed hate speech is also free speech, and that people have differing opinions and beliefs, and I sent an email back that hate speech can incite real acts of violence against people and should be addressed as such. Hatred towards Jewish people and targeting someone simply because they are Jewish is wrong. Zionism is separate from this, especially as it is used as a means to punish and control people, not just Palestinians, but people all over the world who do not agree with a Zionist ideology.

Freedom of speech is not speech without consequences - just as prejudice towards Jewish people is wrong, so is the admonishing of a person's character by labeling them as an antisemite because they speak out against or debate the treatment of people by the Israeli government and their military. Just because some people conflate Judaism with Zionism, does not mean they always coexist in the same spaces or conversations. Unless you want to tell me that just because some people conflate Islam with terrorism, it means the two must always be banded together? That is something that I'm sure many members of the student body would not be pleased to hear.

While I would have loved to take this opportunity to argue my own politics, I assure you, that is not my intention. Because if it starts with conflating critiquing Zionism with antisemitism, then where does it end? This will spread into other areas of knowledge and discussion, and people who may support this resolution could realize it has seeped into something that now silences and demonizes them as well. Again, I reiterate that it is true that freedom of speech is not speech without consequences - but are you leaving us with freedom?

Evan Belcher	Mason Alumnus	<p>As a proud Mason alum who is passionate about the stated values of the university, particularly its protection of free speech and diversity, I vehemently oppose this proposed resolution.</p> <p>By adopting the overbroad IHRA definition of anti-semitism, this University would knowingly have a chilling effect on productive and vital conversations regarding Israel and Palestine. In its breadth, the definition obscures and trivializes the very real problem of anti-semitism, conflating it with mere criticism of the state of Israel. Criticism of the government of Israel is no more inherently anti-Semitic than criticism of the US government is anti-Christian or criticism of Saudi Arabia's government is islamophobic. We can — and must — allow discourse critical of any government to stand at face value, without assuming or inventing ulterior motive. Adopting this resolution would align this University with a dangerous double-standard.</p> <p>In addition, it would materially oppress Palestinian-Americans in the student body, faculty, and wider community, whose lived experience over the past year and a half — not to mention the 75 years prior — have been filled with deep personal loss and cultural trauma. They should share the rights enjoyed by all others, to speak about their trauma (and indeed, name its cause) without fear of official reproach or retaliation. In the same vein, other pro-Palestinian advocates (many of them Jewish) should be able to express their views without fear.</p> <p>Finally, as the arc of history bends towards justice with the recent ceasefire deal and issuance of ICC arrest warrants for both Hamas and Israeli leaders for their respective atrocities, it is important that Mason leadership take a strong stance towards free and open debate rather than one-sided sanctions. Mason should position itself as an impartial champion of civil liberties, freedom, and diversity in this time.</p> <p>As a proud and active member of the Mason community, I ask that you thoroughly consider the above and reject this resolution.</p>
Christopher Lowder	Faculty	<p>In regards to the Antisemitism Resolution, board members often said "not intended" with the reading of the text. However, it has been interpreted by a large number of faculty, staff, and students that it might indeed impact speech. This would be a chilling effect on speech. First Amendment and 14th amendment protections not only protect the intention, but the real world impact. If enough folks read this resolution as prevention speech, even if not intentional, this chilling effect is unconstitutional. With the current writing of the text, this chilling effect would be unconstitutional and could open the university up to legal action in regards to suspension and termination of faculty.</p>
Hannah Wing-Bonica	Alumni	<p>As a GMU Alumnus, I am concerned about antisemitism and do not want students to experience discrimination for being Jewish. However, I believe that this resolution should not be approved as it prevents students from protesting against the state of Israel. A recent investigation by Amnesty International concluded that Israel is committing genocide against Palestinians in Gaza. Students should not have their right to protest against Israel's war crimes taken away.</p>

Hannah Landsberger	Alumni	<p>I want to address Visitor Rosen's assertion that the antisemitism resolution will not restrict free speech on campus. The equation of criticism of the government of Israel with antisemitism will absolutely be used to restrict the free speech of students who are advocating for Palestinian rights. He claims that Anti Zionism sentiment will be allowed as long as it is not being used to target Jewish students. Who will make this distinction? Who will decide if a protest against the government of Israel is actually antisemitism? The definition is so vague as to allow any acts of free speech critical of Israel to be labeled as antisemitic. This will be used to shut down peaceful protest, academic debate, curriculum that features Palestinian history, and funding for student organizations that support Palestinian students. It is very clear to me that this resolution is actually an anti-Palestinian resolution in disguise as an antisemitism resolution. In addition, the proposed "wordsmithing" he is asking for will take up valuable time and energy from the board and from the DEI offices that are under so much stress because of the current executive orders. I do not see a productive definition of antisemitism arriving from such "wordsmithing"; in fact I worry that this will be used simply to create loopholes that will allow anti-zionism and support of Palestinian rights to be more restricted on campus. I would urge the board to not pass this resolution in any form.</p>
Anonymous	Alumnus	<p>Criticizing a government (no matter the religion of the country itself) does not ever equate to hate speech towards a religion or ethnicity. Those are separate things. We should be able to criticize the actions of a government. Criticizing the government of Pakistan has never meant "hating Muslims" or Islamophobia. It's the same idea here. Students on campus should be able to speak up for the rights of Palestinians and not be punished for it. Do not encroach on their first amendment right.</p>

ITEM III. B.:

FY 2026 University Budget (ACTION)

PURPOSE OF ITEM:

The FY 2026 University Budget reflects revenue and expense plans that include proposed tuition and fee rates.

APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE: FINANCE AND LAND USE

BRIEF NARRATIVE:

An FY 2026 University Budget budget is being recommended that includes a 2.5% increase in tuition rates and mandatory student fees. The tuition revenue is needed to meet critical university needs including the State's compensation increases, inflationary costs, and strategic reinvestments including Grand Challenges, infrastructure and market compensation.

Since the General Assembly has not finalized the Commonwealth's FY 2026 budget, George Mason's E&G Operating Budget includes both the current proposed budget amendments and the biennium budget adopted in May 2024.

The E&G Operating Budget would be balanced with the additional appropriations included in the current proposed budget amendments. Without the recommended tuition increase, there would be a \$5M - \$17M shortfall, depending on the final Commonwealth budget. Any anticipated shortfalls will be actively managed to reflect a balanced budget.

George Mason's proposed FY 2026 All-Funds Operating Budget continues to reflect a more positive margin trajectory, primarily driven by Auxiliary Enterprises. A positive margin will continue to support AE critical capital projects and infrastructure.

The FY 2026 Capital Budget is \$133M covering debt service and spending on previously approved capital projects, annual capital, and ongoing maintenance.

The FY 2026 In-State annual rates reflect a flat 2.5% increase. The Out-of-State annual rate increases for Undergraduate, Graduate and Law are \$528, \$720, and \$1,022, respectively.

The total price for an FY 2026 undergraduate student living on-campus (including tuition, fees, room, and board) is

proposed at \$29,020 for in-state and \$53,752 for out-of-state.

Detailed tuition rates are provided in the presentation materials.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends Board of Visitors approval of the FY 2026 University All-Funds and E&G Operating Budgets, including Commonwealth scenarios, with a 2.5% increase in Tuition Rates and Mandatory Student Fees.

ITEM NUMBER IV.A.:**SIX-YEAR CAPITAL PLAN (ACTION)****PURPOSE OF ITEM:**

This item provides information on the upcoming annual submission of the University's Six-Year Capital Plan for Board approval.

APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE:

FINANCE AND LAND USE

BRIEF NARRATIVE:

This is the annual evaluation of the University's Six-Year Capital Plan. Authorization is only for FY26 projects to begin execution or include as part of the Commonwealth request. There are two actions that take place:

- Project Initiation in FY26: Projects only utilizing Mason funding (non-general fund).
- Project Submission to Commonwealth: Projects submitted to the Commonwealth for general fund (GF) support or debt sold by the Commonwealth. Requires subsequent Commonwealth approval.

Projects planning for an FY26 start include the first components of the newly launched Mason2050 plan, the first element of the Student Space Efficiency Analysis, and deferred maintenance items.

Mason 2050 is aimed at a redesigned main campus, expanded residential on Mason Square Campus, and a community integrated SciTech Campus. Particular emphasis is placed upon the development of the premier living/learning communities in the region. The 4 projects requested to be the catalyst for this plan are:

- a pedestrian bridge over Route 123 to better link east and west campuses while improving pedestrian safety;
- a phased renovation to the lower bowl of EagleBank Arena to separate basketball and EBA operations and enhance fan experience by moving current storage space, creating new entertainer locker rooms, and consolidating Monumental operations;
- the creation of Faculty Staff Housing adjacent the Sci Tech campus; and
- the construction of 650 additional beds on the Fairfax Campus as part of the first Living Learning Village.

The Student Space Efficiency Analysis is an ongoing effort to better utilize spaces within our student centers. It is envisioned that the first project upon completion will be a renovation to a large space within the Johnson Center that we quickly adapted

into a covid testing area now no longer needed to function as such.

Finally, Mason has a commitment to maintain our assets. There are elements of deferred maintenance that are now applicable for the use of general fund and exceed the major capital project threshold. There are 3 such requests in this capital plan. The first of which is a replacement of Potomac Height's roof. It is a combination of membrane and singles that has met the end of its useful life and shows signs of deterioration. Without replacement, leaks will for causing additional interior repairs. The second request a combination a series of projects to be completed in Mason Pond Parking Deck. This includes the repair of expansion joints, sealant, precast clips, spalling concrete, ponding and traffic membranes. The third such request is a phased renovation to Masonvale. Masonvale is in need of cosmetic renovations. This is planned to be phased over 3 years as units are vacated.

Projects planned for Commonwealth submission have been previously approved by the BOV and are presented as an advisory for Mason's proposed FY26 Commonwealth funding request. Mason annually submits a six-year capital plan to the Virginia Department of Planning and Budget (DPB). The deadline for submission typically occurs between July and September. Building projects and critical deferred maintenance requests submitted in FY22, FY23, and FY24 will be resubmitted for FY25 Capital Budget Requests (CBRs), and will remain on Mason's prospective project list pending confirmation of funding approval. Projects proposed for FY25 Commonwealth funding approval include the following:

- Interdisciplinary Science & Engineering Building 1
- Costello College of Business Building
- Critical Deferred E&G Maintenance

Interdisciplinary Science & Engineering Building (ISEB)

This project was first included as part of the University's Commonwealth Capital Plan in FY22. Pre-planning was authorized in FY25 by the Commonwealth and that effort is nearing completion. It is now a \$216.2M request that includes an approximately 150K GSF interdisciplinary science and engineering building on the Fairfax campus. Prior to the ISEB submission, Mason's capital improvement plan has had projects for full renovations of Planetary Hall (formally Science and Tech Building I) and David King Hall for nearly 2 decades without approval. This building would provide replacement space for the future demolition or repurpose of

David King and Planetary Halls, and be the second phase of development needed to address a critical specialized instructional laboratory deficiency identified as part of Mason's recent 20-year Master Planning study. A renovation of the spaces within Planetary Hall and David King Hall would not be achievable without taking the spaces offline for a period of 1-2 years and we cannot simply replicate the labs elsewhere on campus. Given the growth of the STEM majors at Mason, we would not be able to serve the needs of our students without these spaces remaining active.

The building program includes predominantly specialized instructional wet and dry laboratory spaces, along with classrooms, collaboration and academic support spaces. The primary occupants of this new interdisciplinary building would be the College of Engineering and Computing, the College of Science, the College of Education & Human Development and the College of Visual and Performing Arts. The building would be 5-7 stories in height, and would respond to architectural elements of existing academic buildings within the campus core. If constructed as originally envisioned, it would frame a new central quad as a primary gathering space in the heart of the Fairfax campus, opposite the Johnson Student Center. Site selection allows for construction of the new building prior to a potential demolition of 2 adjacent buildings (David King and Planetary Science Halls) with critical facility indices. Demolition of these 2 adjacent buildings is not included in the scope of this request and if determined to be the best option for the buildings would be phased in to reveal the new central quad. Circulation elements would be integrated with the new building program, based on concepts identified in Mason's 20-year Master Plan as part of the vision for the central quad.

An alternate site selection is being explored to allow for the ISEB to be the anchor of the first Living Learning Village. If this direction is selected, there will be a tie to this project and the Living Learning Village I project.

Costello College of Business Building

The Costello College of Business boasts Mason's fourth largest enrollment and second largest projected growth of the ten academic units. The Costello College additionally supports the second largest undergraduate online program, the largest unit represented in Mason Korea, INTO and Advance programs. However, The Costello College notably lacks a dedicated building to support their operations, enrollment and growth, as other smaller units have. The Costello College maintains a significant presence on Fairfax for undergraduate programs

and Arlington's Mason Square for graduate programs. The Costello College at Fairfax presently relies on 44K assignable square feet (ASF) in four shared buildings on-campus and 12K ASF in off-campus lease space, all of which have reached capacity.

The proposed new \$165M building will be approximately 150K gross square feet (GSF), currently proposed to be centrally located to facilitate interdisciplinary collaboration between The Costello College and other Mason Units, and a defining element of the northern quad envisioned in Mason's Master Plan. However, multiple sites are being evaluated to allow for the building to be an anchor for a Living Learning Village. The proximity to land for housing is necessary. This new building would provide dedicated space to support approximately 6,500 full-time equivalent (FTE) students including approximately 2,000 FTE business majors, approximately 2,000 non-business students and 4% annual planned growth.

The building program would include dedicated teaching, collaboration and student engagement space for The Costello College, plus replacement space as a result of demolition of Lecture Hall to accommodate the new building site. Replacement space would include one approximately 3,000 ASF and two approximately 1,000 ASF university shared classrooms, along with support space for those classrooms. In 2018, The Costello College developed an initial space program for the building, which includes the following elements:

- Teaching spaces
 - Technology-rich classrooms
 - Trading rooms
 - Lecture halls
- Student service spaces
 - Career services
 - Student success
 - Maker space
 - Student organizations
- Engagement spaces
 - Executive development suite
 - Incubator/start-up space
 - Behavioral research lab
 - Video studio

Building elements identified during the 2018 study will inform the conceptual planning study including a Detailed Project Program and cost estimates to support project implementation currently in the procurement stage.

Critical Deferred Maintenance

This project was first included as part of the University's Commonwealth Capital Plan in FY23. The University's buildings are nearing a 30-year average age and major building systems are reaching the end of their useful life. Mason Facilities has implemented a Facility Condition Assessment Program (FCAP) to physically inspect each campus building on a three-year cycle. Based upon the FCAP's review and assuming annual maintenance reserve allocations from the Commonwealth remain consistent, Mason will have a deficit in funding for critical deferred maintenance of E&G buildings of \$56 million in the next biennium. This will be adjusted before submission to account for any supplemental funding included in the current Commonwealth budget process. The University is again requesting a capital project to aggregate the critical deferred maintenance. Funding would be used for replacement and repair projects for all E&G buildings for the following building elements:

- Aging roofs, windows, exterior doors, and repairs to exterior wall systems
- Interior doors, flooring, and ceilings; repairs to existing fire walls; and refresh of interior painting.
- Main electrical equipment, fire alarm systems, fire pumps, and generators; and repairs to existing plumbing and fire suppression systems.
- Heating, cooling, and ventilation equipment, controls, and distribution systems at the end or beyond their useful life.
- Elevators and lifts at or beyond their useful life.
- Sidewalks and ADA repairs

The University will also take the opportunity to look for energy efficiency with the replacement of systems. These efficiencies will be assessed in the electrical equipment, HVAC equipment, and building envelope. Without the investment into these buildings, the buildings will continue to depreciate to the point where replacement will be necessary.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Board approval of the proposed Six-Year Capital Plan.

ITEM NUMBER IV.B.:**LAND USE CERTIFICATION (ACTION)****PURPOSE OF ITEM:**

This item requests BOV certification that the university has a need for the land it owns.

APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE:**FINANCE AND LAND USE**

Virginia Code §2.2-1153 requires agencies and institutions to submit a Land Use Plan annually to the Department of General Services (DGS) showing present and planned uses of each property owned. This is primarily for the purpose of identifying whether the Commonwealth should declare any such property surplus. The code requires certification by the Board of Visitors.

In order to comply, the Department of General Services (DGS) requested institutions and agencies update the DGS database provided on the attached spreadsheet. The attached spreadsheet provides the land use information requested by DGS. Note this report does not include land owned by the George Mason University Foundation which may in the future be transferred to the university.

The report accurately reflects current land use for the university-owned properties.

The significant changes since last year's report are a waterline connection easement between George Mason University (Grantor) and Fairfax Water on the Fairfax Campus related to the Student Engagement and Well-Being Building and two waterline connection easement between George Mason University (Grantor) and the Prince William County Service Authority on the Sci Tech Campus related to the total campus distribution system and the infrastructure installed to support LSEB respectively providing easements and rights of way to install, lay, construct, operate, maintain, repair, add to alter or replace the water distribution system.

A future easement is proposed between George Mason University (Grantor) and Dominion Virginia

Power to extend DVP's distribution system on the Sci Tech Campus providing easements and rights of way to install, lay, construct, operate, maintain, repair, add to alter or replace the overhead power lines. If approved, this will be included in the FY25 Land Use Certification.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Approve submission of the attached spreadsheet to DGS.

ITEM NUMBER IV C.: EASEMENT BETWEEN GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY AND DOMINION VIRGINIA POWER AT THE SCITECH CAMPUS (ACTION)

PURPOSE OF ITEM: Review of requested Dominion Virginia Power easement to extend the overhead power line distribution along the border of the SciTech Campus to serve the new substation immediately to the North of the Campus.

APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE: FINANCE AND LAND USE

BRIEF NARRATIVE: Dominion Virginia Power (DVP) by way of the Peterson Companies has requested an easement to install Overhead powerline distribution along the border of the Campus. This easement will allow for the connection of the proposed DVP substation to the existing infrastructure. Facilities and Real Estate departments have reviewed the easement and have determined that it is not intrusive.

Per Commonwealth of Virginia requirements an appraisal of the easement was completed by Robert Paul Jones Company to determine value as the easement does not provide any direct benefit to the university. The appraised value was determined to be \$104,730 and the Commonwealth will be compensated for that amount plus the cost of appraisal services for a total of \$110,230.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: The staff recommends BOV approval of this easement request.

Capital Projects Review

This section provides the regular report on the status of capital construction projects on all three university campuses. The project “stoplight” chart provides a summary review. For purposes of black and white printing, all stoplights are “Green” unless otherwise noted. Scoring definitions:

- “Red”: Likely to exceed approved budget, schedule, or scope
- “Yellow”: At risk to exceed approved budget, schedule, or scope, but can still recover
- “Green”: Within approved budget, schedule, or scope

Scoring is reset at the time of preliminary design completion and construction contract execution.

Changes/updates since the February 2025 report include:

- Fuse at Mason Square (IDIA HQ) – Design is completed and full building construction reached Substantial Completion on Feb 7, 2025. Final Completion is projected for April 7, 2025. Core and shell achieved substantial completion on November 8, 2024. Core and Shell spaces include lobby, property management suite, building core spaces such as restrooms, electrical, telecom rooms and egress stairs, etc. The fit out of the Mason Spaces, which includes about 2/3’s of the full building, is currently in process. The AV and Furniture installation will be substantially complete by May 1 of 2025. Mason will install fixtures and equipment including signs, door hardware and access control, appliances and other items in the Spring of 2025 with full occupancy planned for summer of 2025. Move coordination planning is currently in process with moves into the building expected during June and July 2025.
- Life Sciences Engineering Building (Bull Run Hall IIIB) – Design is completed and the construction is complete except for punch list items including the completion of HVAC Commissioning. The construction period was 24 months and the project was completed on schedule. We received the temporary occupancy permit for the building on Friday January 10th, 2025. Classes and Laboratory instruction started in the building on January 21st. As such, the schedule was turned back to green. There are a few more labs and fabrication spaces that will move in later in the year after completing research and projects in their existing spaces. Training on the building systems is ongoing. Finalization of Building Commissioning and LEED certifications is ingoing. We are working to negotiate change orders; however, we have been successful in reducing the cost and finding additional savings. As such, budget status was changed back to green.
- Telecom Infrastructure Phase 1 – Design is completed and the construction continues on site. Work on Packages 1 (work inside buildings) and Package 3 (new West Campus Core Switch Building) is substantially complete. Package 2 for outside plant (new IT duct banks) is awaiting verifying test results on fiber and warmer weather to complete landscaping.
- Johnson Center HVAC Repairs – Installation for AHUs #1, #2 and #3 are complete. Commissioning for AHUs #1 & #2 is complete, and Commissioning for AHU #3 is underway. Assembly of AHU #4 is underway, and the unit will be completely installed in early April. Project is on track to be completed May of 2025.

- Expand Central Plant Capacity – Design is completed and construction has started. The new cooling tower has been set and assembled. The pumps, filters, and heat exchanger associated with the chilled water expansion have been set and associated piping installed. Awaiting other long lead-time equipment for chiller and high temperature water generator (boiler) which has been ordered. Anticipated project completion is January 2026.
- Housing Renovations Phase 1 – Internal authorization to proceed was granted. Request for Proposals (RFP) for A/E Services is open. Responses are due the 17th of April.
- Aquatic & Fitness Center Capital Renewal – All construction work for the project is complete, and the Competition Pool is back in use. Work on the rooftop PRUs to make them ready for final Commissioning continues and is targeted to complete by the end of March. All other punch list corrections are complete as well as Graphics & stenciling work in the Competition Pool area. Because of recent weather the IR scan to complete the roof inspection is rescheduled for the first week in April pending approval from FAA for drone flyover. Project Closeout is underway.
- Telecom Infrastructure Phase 2 – Design is underway. The Preliminary design has been reviewed by OUBO and Land Development; the architectural/engineering firm is addressing review comments for the next design submission. The estimate was completed in October 2024 and confirms our construction budget. The next submission of drawings is anticipated in May.
- Telecom Infrastructure Phase 3 – The scope for this phase has been finalized in concert with ITS. The design contract has been executed and the schematic design is scheduled to be submitted in August of 2025 (due to scope refinement). Surveys have started on site.
- Student Activities & Engagement Building (Activities Building) – A Design/Build contract was awarded to Hoar Construction. Design is complete and construction is underway. The center tilt wall construction is complete and the fabric sections are 95% complete. Interior electrical, mechanical, plumbing, and framing are underway in all three areas of the building. The project is on target for substantial completion in spring 2025.
- Basketball and Academic Performance Center (RAC Addition) – The architectural/engineering firm, Perkins & Will (P&W), has continue to work on the Preliminary Design. Whiting-Turner is fully engaged, ensuring a collaborative approach to both design and estimating. Estimating efforts remain ongoing to validate and confirm our construction budget, align with project goals and financial expectations. Initial estimates exceeded the construction budget and the design team is working to document pathways to bring the project back within budget. As such, the budget is note as yellow
- Tech Talent Bachelors Capital – This is the capital funding identified in the MOU with the Commonwealth to support Bachelor's degrees in the tech talent pipeline. More specifically, it is a series of projects: Advanced Computational Research (data center upgrades to support high performance computing), a data visualization/ VR Lab creation, classroom refresh, and the pilot space in Vernon Smith Hall. The Advanced Computational Research has been completed and additional capacity was included in the Data Center with liquid cooling. The data visualization/ VR Lab was completed in Research Hall. The classroom refresh is ongoing and anticipated to be

completed over 6 years. This upcoming summer will be the 5th summer of the 6 total. Finally, the renovation to create the pilot space on the 1st floor of Vernon Smith Hall as well as the conversion of the Bank Space was completed.

- Interdisciplinary Science and Engineering Building – Project was approved for pre-planning in the Commonwealth's FY25-FY26 biennium budget. Mason has selected a consultant to lead the pre-planning phase and has started the pre-planning effort. Mason is nearing the completion of the pre-planning effort.
- Address Priority Facility Improvements - Project was approved in the Commonwealth's FY25-FY26 biennium budget for \$8M to go towards Mason's critical deferred maintenance deficit. Mason has identified five projects for the use of these funds: Hazel Hall Chiller Replacement, Colgan Hall Chiller Replacement, Discovery Hall Roof Replacement, Enterprise Hall Elevator Replacement, and the Performing Art Building Bridge Replacement. Mason has received the appropriation. Task orders for the A/E services have been issued and design work is beginning for each project.
- EagleBank Arena Air Handler Unit Replacements – Project was approved in the May BOV meeting. Mason has received proposals in response to the RFP for solicitation of the designer of record and interviews of the short-listed firms were held at the end of January. A selection was made and we are working towards the design contract.
- Real Estate Acquisitions Phase 1 (Arlington) – Mason has purchased lot 6 and 11 and the purchase of lot 8 was completed in December 2023. This project will remain open as there is additional authority included to allow for more purchases in the future should the opportunities arise.
- Real Estate Acquisitions Phase 4 (Strategic Acquisitions) – HECO authority approved to proceed with up to \$50M strategic acquisitions. The specific acquisitions are undefined at this point and could be located adjacent any of the Mason Campuses.
- Academic VIII – Project approved for planning only and contingent upon Mason providing seed funding. Project awaiting internal authorization to proceed.
- Point of View Cottages – Commonwealth has approved \$4M of funding for this project to match a target of \$4M of fundraising. Project is awaiting funding and internal authorization to proceed.
- Renovations Concert Hall – HECO authority approved to proceed on a \$25M renovation to the Concert Hall on the Fairfax Campus. The funding is based upon donations. Project is awaiting funding and internal authorization to proceed.
- Costello College of Business Building – HECO authority approved to proceed on a \$165M and 200K GSF building for the School of Business on the Fairfax Campus. The funding is based upon donations. Project is awaiting funding and internal authorization to proceed.
- Energy Efficiency Investments – HECO authority approved to proceed on a \$7.5M umbrella project to allow for energy efficiency upgrades to proceed. The specific investments are undefined

but could consist of equipment replacement, solar panel installation, or geothermal infrastructure. Project is awaiting funding and internal authorization to proceed.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

For Board Information Only

FY25 CAPITAL PROJECT STOPLIGHT CHART

	Total Project Authorization (A)	Expenditures				Future Project Spend (=A-B-C)	Budget Status	Schedule Status	Scope Status	Construction % Complete	Occupancy/ Completion Date
		As of FY24 (B)	Fiscal Year 2025								
			Budget	YTD	Full-year Forecast (C)						
Planning Phase											
Interdisciplinary Sci. & Engr. Building	0.5	0.0	0.5	0.2	0.5	0.0				0.0%	TBD
Housing Renovations Phase 1	25.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	25.0				0.0%	TBD
Design Phase											
Address Priority Facility Improvements	8.0	0.0	1.7	0.0	1.7	6.3	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	0.0%	TBD
Basketball and Academic Performance Center	30.0	0.3	1.8	0.6	1.1	28.6	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	0.0%	12/2/2026
EagleBank Arena AHU Replacements	11.7	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.2	11.5	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	0.0%	TBD
Telecom Infrastructure, Ph 2	23.3	0.5	2.7	0.7	1.1	21.6	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	0.0%	4/16/2026
Telecom Infrastructure, Ph 3	24.0	0.0	1.6	0.1	0.7	23.3	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	0.0%	TBD
Construction Phase											
Student Activities & Engagement Building	11.0	1.7	9.3	6.2	8.3	1.0	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	80.3%	5/4/2025
Aquatic & Fitness Center Capital Renewal	13.5	8.1	5.4	3.6	4.7	0.7	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	99.0%	9/1/2024
Expand Central Plant Capacity	8.2	1.2	6.0	2.6	4.5	2.5	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	48.3%	1/26/2026
Johnson Center HVAC Repairs	8.0	2.7	4.5	3.6	4.5	0.8	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	90.3%	5/15/2025
FUSE at Mason Square	253.8	173.3	69.2	42.8	56.5	24.0	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	99.0%	7/1/2025
Tech Talent Bachelors Capital	23.0	16.3	1.7	1.0	1.7	5.0	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	N/A	N/A
Close-Out											
Life Science Engineering Building	107.0	70.3	34.3	27.4	34.3	2.4	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	95.7%	1/10/2025
Telecom Infrastructure, Ph 1	10.5	5.2	4.2	4.0	4.2	1.1	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	97.9%	2/17/2025
Umbrella (On-going)											
Maintenance Reserve	3.4	N/A	3.4	1.6	3.4	N/A				N/A	N/A
Annual Capital	6.7	N/A	6.7	14.2	15.0	N/A				N/A	N/A
Authorized (Pending Funding)											
Academic VIII	200.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	200.0				0.0%	TBD
Point of View Cottages	8.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	8.0				0.0%	TBD
Renovations Concert Hall	25.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	25.0				0.0%	TBD
Costello College of Business Building	165.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	165.0				0.0%	TBD
Energy Efficiency Investments	7.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.5				0.0%	TBD
Real Estate Acquisitions Phase 1 (Arlington)	40.0	24.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	15.9				100.0%	Complete
Real Estate Acquisitions Phase 4 (TBD)	50.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	50.0				0.0%	TBD
Total	1,063.0	303.6	153.4	108.8	142.3 ⁽¹⁾	625.3					

(millions)

(1) This amount (excluding P3) is prediction of the audited statement of cash flows "purchases of capital assets."



BOARD OF VISITORS

Finance & Land Use Committee

Office of the EVP for Finance & Administration | April 10, 2025

Agenda

Financial Matters

- A. FY 2025 Financial Report Through February
- B. FY 2026 University Budget (ACTION)

Capital Matters

- A. Six-Year Capital Plan (ACTION)
- B. Land Use Certification (ACTION)
- C. SciTech Dominion Transmission Easement (ACTION)

Appendix I: Capital Project Review (Stoplight)

Appendix II: Detailed Tuition & Fee Rates

Appendix III: Supplemental Financial Information

Appendix IV: Six-Year Capital Plan Outyear Projects



FY 2025 Financial Report Through February

Financial Matters

FY 2025 Financial Report Through February - E&G Operating

FY25 E&G Operating Budget and YTD actuals are aligned as of February.

- Revenues are trending ahead of budget due to additional State Support and Net Tuition & Fees.
- Ongoing State support provides funding to stabilize E&G operations and invest in strategic initiatives.
- Expenses are trending slightly higher than budget primarily due to the timing of activity. Expenses are expected to normalize by year-end.
- Favorable year-end results are contingent on continued mitigation strategies.

Cash basis, in \$M's	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Budget ⁽¹⁾	FY 2025 YTD Actual (Feb) ⁽²⁾	FY 2025 YTD Actual as a % of Budget ⁽³⁾
Revenues				
Net Tuition and Fees	515	529	508	
State Appropriations	245	274	187	
Auxiliary Enterprises	1	-	-	
Other Operating Revenue	16	20	15	
Total Revenues	777	823	710	86%
Expenses				
Compensation	626	659	444	
Contractual Services	83	84	56	
Direct Expenses/Other	81	80	72	
Total Expenses	790	823	572	69%
E&G Surplus/(Shortfall)	(13)	-	138	
Strategic Use of Reserves	-	-	-	
Balancing Mitigation Strategies	13	-	-	
Strategic Reinvestment	-	-	-	
Adjusted E&G Surplus/(Shortfall)	-	-	-	

⁽¹⁾ FY25 Recalibrated Budget presented at the February BOV FLUC meeting.

⁽²⁾ YTD Surplus is not indicative of projected year-end results. This amount will continuously change as additional expenses are incurred and aligned with revenues through FY25 year-end.

⁽³⁾ Straight-line benchmark as of February: Revenue achieved ~67% and Expenses utilized ~67%. This methodology does not incorporate specific trends or seasonality.

FY 2025 Financial Report Through February - Operating

FY25 Operating Budget and YTD actuals are aligned as of February.

- Revenues are trending ahead of budget and anticipated to continue.
- Primary revenue drivers are State support, Research volume, Interest income and Net tuition & fees.
- Expenses are trending slightly higher than budget but expected to normalize by year-end.
- Anticipated year-end surplus primarily attributed to Auxiliary Enterprises.
- Strategic reinvestments will address AE critical capital projects and infrastructure.

Cash basis, in \$M's	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Budget ⁽¹⁾	FY 2025 YTD Actual (Feb) ⁽²⁾	FY 2025 YTD Actual as a % of Budget ⁽³⁾
Revenues				
Net Tuition and Fees	518	531	511	
State Appropriations	328	359	273	
Grants & Contracts	294	286	226	
Auxiliary Enterprises	288	290	272	
Other Operating Revenue	38	39	35	
Total Revenues	1,466	1,505	1,317	87%
Expenses				
Compensation	819	865	588	
Contractual Services	235	242	171	
Direct Expenses/Other	380	381	317	
Total Expenses	1,433	1,488	1,076	72%
Surplus/(Shortfall)	33	17	241	
Strategic Use of Reserves	-	-	-	
Balancing Mitigation Strategies	-	-	-	
Strategic Reinvestment	(33)	(17)	-	
Adjusted Surplus/(Shortfall)	-	-	-	

⁽¹⁾ FY25 Recalibrated Budget presented at the February BOV FLUC meeting.

⁽²⁾ YTD Surplus is not indicative of projected year-end results. This amount will continuously change as additional expenses are incurred and aligned with revenues through FY25 year-end.

⁽³⁾ Straight-line benchmark as of February: Revenue achieved ~67% and Expenses utilized ~67%. This methodology does not incorporate specific trends or seasonality.

Note: Operating includes the following funds: Education and General (E&G), Auxiliary Enterprises, Sponsored Research, Indirects, Financial Aid, Other Restricted and Other Unrestricted. **Capital Funds are EXCLUDED.**

Budget Mitigation Update

Mitigation Savings Achieved

George Mason is reflecting an Operating “All-Funds” budget surplus and a balanced E&G budget. This was accomplished through a two-year mitigation plan that included cost reductions/savings and revenue enhancements.

Mitigation Savings Ongoing

As of February, expenses are continuing to trend on-budget, which is indicative of the successful cost savings and revenue enhancement mitigation strategies, including disciplined workforce planning, improved operational processes and efficiency, and strategic realignments across key areas.

The Senior Leadership Team conducts a monthly financial review of operations, demonstrating strong financial management oversight and stewardship of university financial operations.

Budget Mitigation Update

Achieved Budget Mitigations

Revenue Enhancements

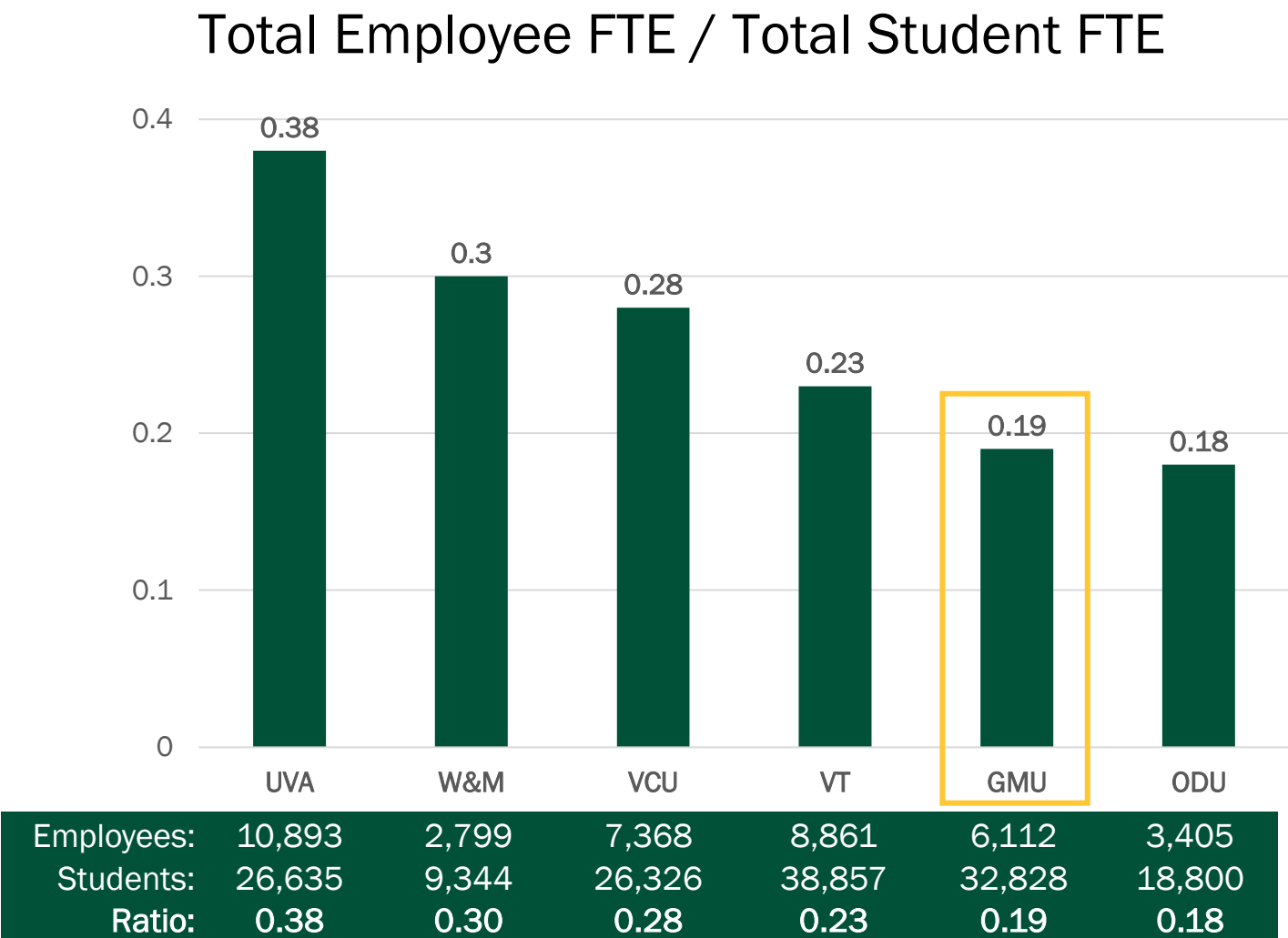
- Patriot Investment Fund - \$2.2M in FY24, \$3.9M projected in FY25
- Masonvale ground lease termination - \$3M annual
- Vernon Smith Hall acquisition - \$12M in FY24 (one-time), \$2.3M annual

Cost Savings/Cost Avoidance

- 64 positions not filled through Critical Vacancy Review - \$9.2M
- Vernon Smith Hall rent expense elimination - \$4M annual
- Faculty Incentive Retirement Plan - \$3M (*5-year period*)
- Freedom Aquatic & Fitness Center renegotiation - \$2.1M (*5-year period*)
- Parking contract savings - \$1.1M annual
- Janitorial service adjustments - \$775K annual
- Library material reduction (duplicate & underutilized) - \$750K annual
- Energy efficiency improvements - \$475K annual

George Mason Is Efficient

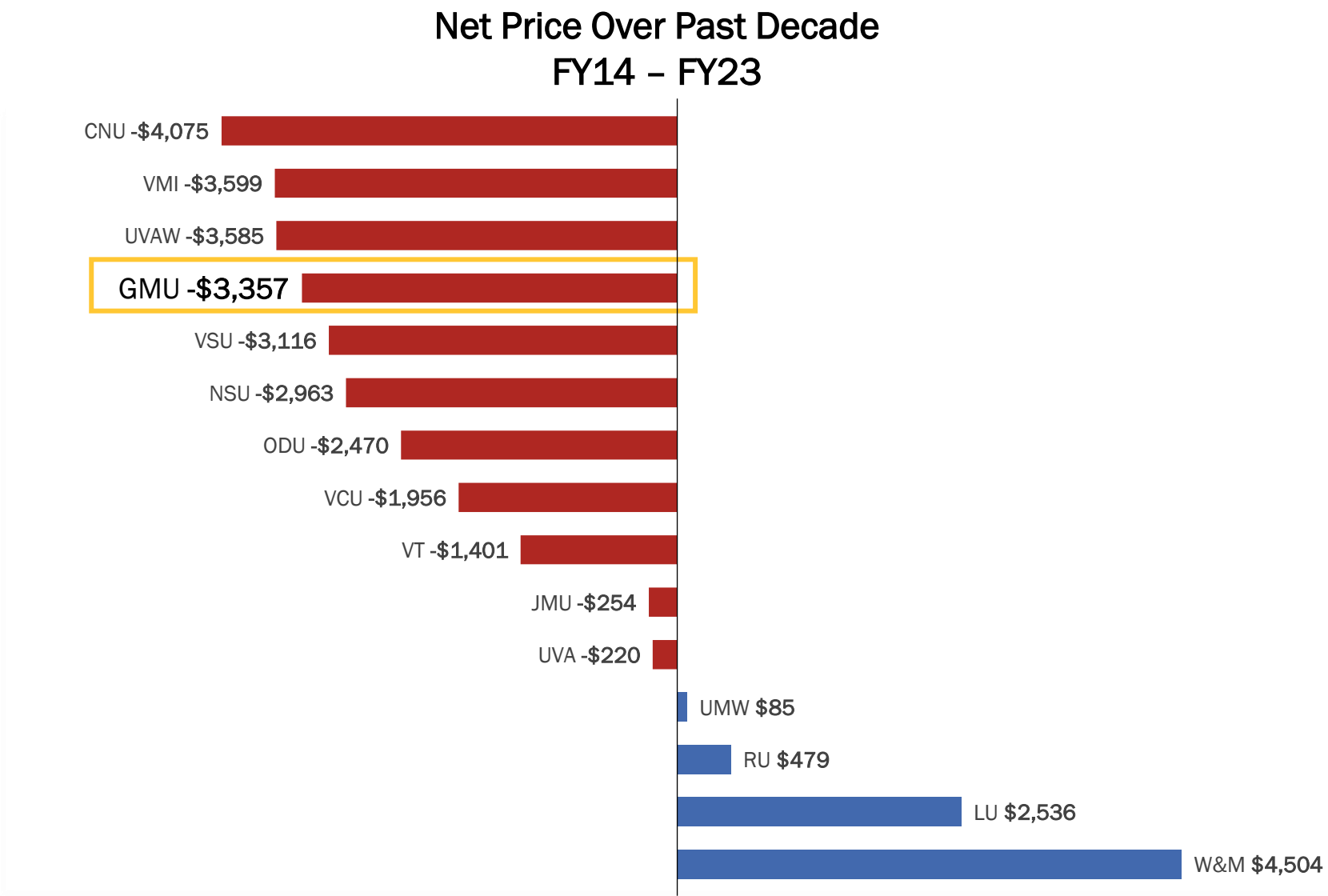
- George Mason has fewer employees per student than nearly all Virginia doctoral peers
- George Mason continues to improve and invest in operational infrastructure and technology efficiencies
- This level of leanness is unsustainable



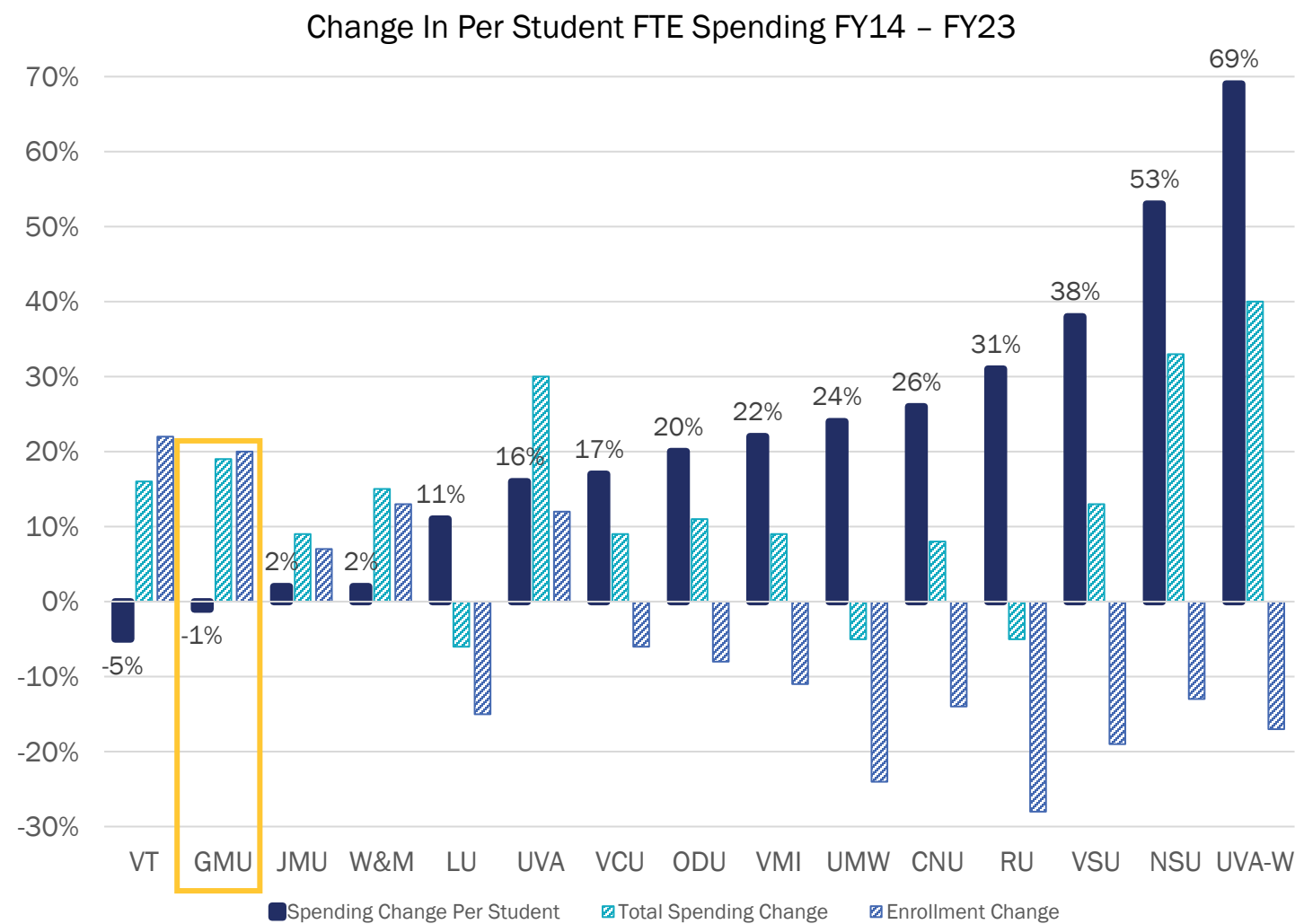
Source: SCHEV Enrollment – Annual FTE report: E05: Annualized Student FTE and Credit Hours
IPEDS FY23 Employee Headcount (FY24 data is not available yet)

Reduced Net Price

- George Mason has reduced its Net Price by 15% over the past decade
- Students who receive aid continue to pay considerably less than the published Cost of Attendance



Decreased Per Student Spending



- George Mason was one of only two universities that reduced per student spending over the past decade
- Universities with enrollment growth generally had lower per student spending growth



FY 2026 University Budget

Financial Matters

Commonwealth Budget Status

- **Proposed Budget Amendments are on the Governor's Desk**

- **Mason's FY25 Allocation:**

- Historic second-year funding allocations in budget amendments maintained by General Assembly during April 2 Reconvened Session
- Increased appropriations proposed are a recognition of high performance and efficiency
- With proposed funding still below need, recommended tuition increase generates revenue to address critical needs

- **Final Budget Timeline**

- Governor expected to accept or reject proposed budget by May 2.
- If he rejects the proposed budget, the Commonwealth will continue to operate under the previously adopted biennium budget from May 2024.

FY 2026 Planning Scenarios - E&G Operating

George Mason reflects a balanced E&G budget to a slight shortfall under the current Commonwealth proposed budget.

- E&G budget will stabilize due to increases in State Appropriations (Operating) and Net Tuition & Fee Revenue.
- Lack of State Support and Net Tuition & Fee Revenue will create a need for alternative funding strategies & solutions.
- Tuition increase of 2.5% is needed to provide support for the following:
 - 3% State compensation increases
 - Inflationary costs (e.g. contracts, equipment, utilities & other)
 - Strategic reinvestments (e.g. Grand Challenges Cluster Hires, market compensation, infrastructure, etc.).
- Expense escalations include salaries & wages, contractual services (e.g. LSEB/FUSE, IT Infrastructure, etc.) and other direct expenses (e.g. scholarships & fellowships, equipment, etc.)

			FY 2026 Proposed Budget ⁽¹⁾ Under Governor's Consideration		FY 2026 Adopted Biennium Budget ⁽¹⁾ Approved in May 2024	
Cash basis, in \$M's	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Budget ⁽²⁾	Recommended 2.5% Tuition Increase	0% Tuition Increase	Recommended 2.5% Tuition Increase	0% Tuition Increase
Revenues						
Net Tuition & Fees	515	529	536	531	536	531
State Appropriations	245	274	283	283	283	283
Auxiliary Enterprises	1	-	-	-	-	-
Other Operating Revenue	16	20	21	21	21	21
Total Revenues	777	823	840	835	840	835
Expenses						
Salaries & Wages	484	509	521	521	521	521
Fringe Benefits	142	151	157	157	157	157
Contractual Services	83	84	93	93	93	93
Direct Expenses/Other	81	79	81	81	81	81
Total Expenses	790	823	852	852	852	852
Surplus/(Shortfall) before New Appropriations	(13)	-	(12)	(17)	(12)	(17)
Proposed Additional Appropriations⁽³⁾	13	-	12	12	-	-
Adjusted Surplus/(Shortfall) before Balancing Mitigation Strategies	-	-	-	(5)	(12)	(17)
Balancing Mitigation Strategies	-	-	-	5	12	17
Strategic Reinvestment	-	-	-	-	-	-

⁽¹⁾ Both scenarios reflect 1.5% enrollment growth

⁽²⁾ FY25 Recalibrated Budget presented at the February BOV FLUC meeting.

⁽³⁾ Appropriations generally expected to be recurring.

FY 2026 Planning Scenarios - Operating

George Mason's Operating budget largely reflects a more positive margin trajectory under the current Commonwealth proposed budget.

- Favorability primarily attributed to Auxiliary Enterprises' (AE) margin surplus.
- State Appropriations and a tuition increase of 2.5% are needed to reflect an E&G balanced budget.
- Expense escalations include salaries & wages (3%), contractual services (LSEB/FUSE, IT Infrastructure, etc.) and other direct expenses (3%).
- Strategic reinvestment primarily used to support AE critical capital projects and infrastructure.

Cash basis, in \$M's	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Budget ⁽²⁾	FY 2026 Proposed Budget ⁽¹⁾ Under Governor's Consideration		FY 2026 Adopted Biennium Budget ⁽¹⁾ Approved in May 2024	
			Recommended 2.5% Tuition Increase	0% Tuition Increase	Recommended 2.5% Tuition Increase	0% Tuition Increase
Revenues						
Net Tuition & Fees	518	531	539	534	539	534
State Appropriations	328	359	366	366	366	366
Grants & Contracts	294	286	295	295	295	295
Auxiliary Enterprises	288	290	299	299	299	299
Other Operating Revenue	38	39	43	43	43	43
Total Revenues	1,466	1,505	1,542	1,537	1,542	1,537
Expenses						
Salaries & Wages	643	668	685	685	685	685
Fringe Benefits	176	198	198	198	198	198
Contractual Services	235	242	268	268	268	268
Direct Expenses/Other	379	380	389	389	389	389
Total Expenses	1,433	1,488	1,540	1,540	1,540	1,540
Surplus/(Shortfall) before New Appropriations	33	17	2	(3)	2	(3)
Proposed Additional Appropriations⁽³⁾	-	-	14	14	-	-
Adjusted Surplus/(Shortfall) before Balancing Mitigation Strategies	33	17	16	11	2	(3)
Balancing Mitigation Strategies	-	-	-	-	-	3
Strategic Reinvestment	(33)	(17)	(16)	(11)	(2)	-

⁽¹⁾ Both scenarios reflect 1.5% enrollment growth

⁽²⁾ FY25 Recalibrated Budget presented at the February BOV FLUC meeting.

⁽³⁾ Appropriations generally expected to be recurring.

Note: Operating includes the following funds: Education and General (E&G), Auxiliary Enterprises, Sponsored Research, Indirects, Financial Aid, Other Restricted and Other Unrestricted. **Capital Funds are EXCLUDED.**

Potential Budget Risks

- **We are operating an environment of almost unprecedented financial uncertainty – arguably greater than the pandemic.**
- **Potential risk factors:**
 - Research cost recovery limitations
 - Reduced or withdrawn Federal/State appropriations
 - Indirect impact of reduced Federal/State funding for our external partners
 - Declining international enrollment
 - General economic uncertainty
- **Tuition revenue is an even more important funding source in this uncertain economic climate**

Tuition Recommendation

In-State	FY 2025 Tuition
Undergraduate	\$10,392
Graduate	\$14,136
Law (non-JD)	\$24,864
Out-of-State	FY 2025 Tuition
Undergraduate	\$34,860
Graduate	\$36,480
Law (non-JD)	\$40,978

Scenario #1	
FY 2026	
(2.5% Incr)	Tuition
\$264	\$10,656
\$360	\$14,496
\$616	\$25,480
FY 2026	
(\$ Incr)	Tuition
\$528	\$35,388
\$720	\$37,200
\$1,022	\$42,000

Scenario #2			
FY 2026		FY 2027	
(0% Incr)	Tuition	(2.5% Incr)	Tuition
\$0	\$10,392	\$264	\$10,656
\$0	\$14,136	\$360	\$14,496
\$616	\$25,480	\$644	\$26,124
FY 2026		FY 2027	
(\$ Incr)	Tuition	(\$ Incr)	Tuition
\$0	\$34,860	\$528	\$35,388
\$0	\$36,480	\$720	\$37,200
\$1,022	\$42,000	\$1,050	\$43,050

- George Mason is recommending a 2.5% increase in FY26 tuition to support critical infrastructure investments, rising costs and market compensation

NOTE: OOS increases based on double the IS \$ increase amounts
 Law (JD) tuition is not proposed to increase
 Proposed increases are adjusted from round numbers to enable billing by credit hour

Mandatory Student Fee Recommendation

In-State		FY 2026	
		2.5% Incr	Fee
Undergraduate	FY 2025 \$3,828	\$96	\$3,924
Graduate	\$3,828	\$96	\$3,924
Law	\$2,898	\$72	\$2,970
Out-of-State		FY 2026	
		2.5% Incr	Fee
Undergraduate	FY 2025 \$3,828	\$96	\$3,924
Graduate	\$3,828	\$96	\$3,924
Law	\$2,898	\$72	\$2,970

- George Mason is recommending a 2.5% increase in FY26 mandatory student fees
- Without a fee increase, critical investments in student infrastructure will be delayed and student service levels may be reduced

FY 2026 Capital Summary

CAPITAL BUDGET (in millions)	
Expenditure	
Major Capital	74
Annual Capital	10
Deferred Maintenance	20
Annual Debt Service	45
Sub-Total	149
Developer Cost Included Above	(16)
Total	133
Funding Sources	
State Appropriations Received in Current FY	43
State Appropriations Received in Prior FY	2
Debt	0
Gifts	0
Sponsored Grants	0
Central Operations / Reserves	27
School or Dep't Operations / Reserves	0
Transfers in from Operating	61
Total	133

- Total projections are less than last year due to the substantial completion of **FUSE** and **Life Science Engineering Building**. Detailed schedule of all projects on following slide.
- Annual Capital and Deferred Maintenance represent on-going routine projects.
- Annual Debt represents debt service (principal and interest) scheduled to be paid during FY 2026, funded from operations.
- Developer Costs to be paid by P3 partner have been removed from total projected Mason capital spending.
- New format identifies the various funding sources expected to cover FY 2026 capital project expenditures and debt service.

FY 2026 Capital Detail

- New projects from last year include Interdisciplinary Sci. and Engr. Building (ISEB), Housing Renovations Phase 1 (Pres. Park), and Address Priority Facility Improvements
- Basketball and Academic Performance Center is the former RAC Addition.
- Student Activities & Engagement Building is the former Activities Building (Community, Well-Being)
- Aquatic & Fitness Center Capital Renewal is the former Aquatic & Fitness Center Reno
- Interdisciplinary Sci. and Engr. Building (ISEB) shows a negative future spend as we are assuming this project will proceed but have not received additional authority.

FY26 CAPITAL EXPENDITURE-TO-DATE BY PROJECT						
	Total Project Authorization (A)	Expenditures				Future Project Spend (=A-B-C)
		As of FY25 (B)	Fiscal Year 2026			
			Budget	YTD	Full-year Forecast (C)	
Planning Phase						
Interdisciplinary Sci. & Engr. Building	0.5	0.5	10.5	0.0	10.5	(10.5)
Housing Renovations Phase 1	25.0	0.0	1.5	0.0	1.5	23.4
Design Phase						
Address Priority Facility Improvements	8.0	1.7	6.2	0.0	6.2	0.2
Basketball and Academic Performance Center	30.0	1.4	10.4	0.0	10.4	18.2
EagleBank Arena AHU Replacements	11.7	0.2	1.2	0.0	1.2	10.4
Telecom Infrastructure, Ph 2	23.3	1.6	13.0	0.0	13.0	8.7
Telecom Infrastructure, Ph 3	24.0	0.7	1.9	0.0	1.9	21.4
Construction Phase						
Student Activities & Engagement Building	11.0	10.0	1.0	0.0	1.0	0.0
Aquatic & Fitness Center Capital Renewal	13.5	12.8	0.7	0.0	0.7	0.0
Expand Central Plant Capacity	8.2	5.7	2.5	0.0	2.5	0.0
Johnson Center HVAC Repairs	8.0	7.2	0.8	0.0	0.8	0.0
FUSE at Mason Square	253.8	227.1	26.6	0.0	26.6	0.0
Tech Talent Bachelors Capital	23.0	18.0	3.1	0.0	3.1	2.0
Close-Out						
Life Science Engineering Building	107.1	104.6	2.5	0.0	2.5	0.0
Telecom Infrastructure, Ph 1	10.5	9.4	1.1	0.0	1.1	0.0
Umbrella (On-going)						
Maintenance Reserve	5.4	N/A	5.4	0.0	5.4	N/A
Annual Capital	15.5	N/A	15.5	0.0	15.5	N/A
Total	578.5	400.9	103.9	0.0	103.9	73.8
Annual Debt Service			45.0		45.0	
Sub-total			148.9	0.0	148.9	
Developer Cost Included Above			(16.0)	0.0	(16.0)	
Adj. Total			132.9	0.0	132.9	

Student & Board Budget Engagement

- ☒ **December 5 - Finance & Land Committee:**
 - Draft Tuition & Fee Scenarios
- ☒ **February 13 - Finance & Land Committee:**
 - Revised Tuition & Fee Scenarios
 - Room & Board Rates Approved (Full Board Approved 2/27)
- ☒ **Open Public Comment Portal**
- ☒ **March 20 - Student Government Hosted Town Hall**
- ☒ **April 1 - BOV Public Comment Session**
 - Proposed Tuition & Fees
- ☒ **April 10 - Finance & Land Use Committee:**
 - Proposed FY 2026 Budget (Committee Approval)
- ☐ **May 1 - BOV Meeting:**
 - Proposed FY 2026 Budget (Full Board Approval)

Staff Recommendation

Approval of the FY 2026 University Budget, including Commonwealth scenarios, with FY 2026 tuition rates and mandatory student fees as detailed in the meeting materials.

- **2.5% increase in FY 2026 in-state tuition**
- **2.5% increase in FY 2026 mandatory student fee**



Six-Year Capital Plan

Capital Matters

Six-Year Capital Plan

■ **Annual Approval of Six-Year Capital Plan:**

- Today's approval request is only for FY26 projects to begin execution or include as part of the Commonwealth request.
- Projects identified for FY27 and beyond are illustrative and subject to change. The list of these projects are included in the appendix.
- Projects are brought before the BOV for approval each May for execution or inclusion as part of the Commonwealth request in the following FY.

■ **Actions After BOV Approval :**

- **Project Initiation in FY26:** Projects only utilizing Mason funding (non-general fund).
- **Project Submission to Commonwealth:** Projects submitted to the Commonwealth for general fund (GF) support or debt sold by the Commonwealth. Requires subsequent Commonwealth approval.

Framework for Board Approval and Review of Capital Projects

Each major capital project must be approved by the Board at the following stages, as identified in George Mason's Higher Education Capital Outlay (HECO) Manual*:

- Project Approval (Annual Capital Plan)
- Schematic Design Approval
- Significant Change Approval
 - Required for changes greater than 10% in Budget (\$) or Scope (GSF)

Routine Board Review of Ongoing Project Review

- Stoplight Chart (in each BOV meeting book)
- Completion report (upon each major capital project completion)

Capital Project Planning & Prioritization

Capital Plan Initiatives

1. Academic Priority:
 - Expand student-centric space, modernize teaching facilities, and strengthen research
2. Mason 2050:
 - Redesigned Main Campus, expanded residential Mason Square Campus, and community integrated SciTech Campus
 - Emphasis on the development of the premier living/learning communities in the region
3. Deferred Maintenance:
 - Address priority facility improvements

Capital Planning Resource Considerations

1. Prioritize Capital Investments that Maximize On-Campus Space Efficiency
2. Advance Student-Centric Capital Projects
3. Phase Out External Leases Through Strategic Campus Development
4. Embed Lifecycle Deferred Maintenance into Capital Planning
5. Ensure Financial Sustainability By Managing Debt Capacity and Reserves

FY26 Capital Projects: Academic Priority

		GF Authorization	NGF Authorization	Total Authorization	Authority Needed
Academic Priority	Student Space Reno Phase I	\$0.00	\$6.00	\$6.00	BOV
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">This will be the first phase of renovations identified in the current Student Space Efficiency Analysis.It will likely take place in the Johnson Center and will provide a home for Mason's e-Sports.				
	Interdisciplinary Sci. & Eng. Building (ISEB) (Living Learning Village I)	\$216.20	\$0.00	\$216.20	BOV+Commonwealth
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">First submitted in University's FY22 Commonwealth Capital Plan submission. Resubmitted in FY24 as a \$165M project and in FY25 as \$216.2M.The ISEB is proposed as 150K GSF building that will modernize and replicate the spaces within David King Hall and Planetary Hall to allow Mason to repurpose or demolish the two antiquated facilities in accordance with the Master Plan.Anticipated to be the anchor building of the first Living Learning village on campus and has a direct relation with the Living Learning Village I project.				
	Costello College of Business Building (Living Learning Village II)	\$165.00	\$0.00	\$165.00	BOV+Commonwealth
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Project previously approved by BOV in May 2019 with \$165M NGF budget. Project first submitted as part of the University's FY23 Commonwealth Capital Plan submission. If approved, funding will be converted to GF.The approximately 150K GSF building program is anticipated to collocate the Costello College of Business operations, include dedicated teaching space, include collaboration and include student engagement space.Anticipated anchor building of the second Living Learning village on campus and has a direct relation with the Living Learning Village II project noted in the appendix slides.				
	Subtotal	\$381.20	\$6.00	\$387.20	

(millions)

FY26 Capital Projects: Mason 2050

		GF Authorization	NGF Authorization	Total Authorization	Authority Needed
Mason 2050	University Drive/Ox Road (123) Pedestrian Bridge	\$0.00	\$8.00	\$8.00	BOV
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will improve pedestrian safety crossing Route 123. Increased pedestrian load is anticipated with new student housing and continue expansion on West Campus. 				
	EagleBank Arena Athletics & Admin Offices	\$0.00	\$10.00	\$10.00	BOV
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phased renovation to separate Basketball and EBA operations and enhance fan experience by moving current storage space, creating new entertainer locker rooms, and consolidating Monumental operations. Cannot be completed until Basketball coaches move to Basketball and Academic Performance Center. 				
	Faculty / Staff Housing PH 1 (Sci Tech)	\$0.00	\$10.00	\$10.00	BOV
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expansion of current stock of housing units for Faculty and Staff through purchase of units adjacent SciTech Campus. The additional housing will help with the recruitment and retention of Faculty and Staff. 				
	Living Learning Village I (Engineering Village)	\$0.00	\$110.00	\$110.00	BOV
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction of approximately 650 beds in conjunction with the ISEB project (contingent upon ISEB approval). Likely funded by debt to be paid back by housing revenue. Possibility to be pursued as a public-private partnership. 				
	Subtotal	\$0.00	\$138.00	\$138.00	

(millions)

FY26 Capital Projects: Deferred Maintenance

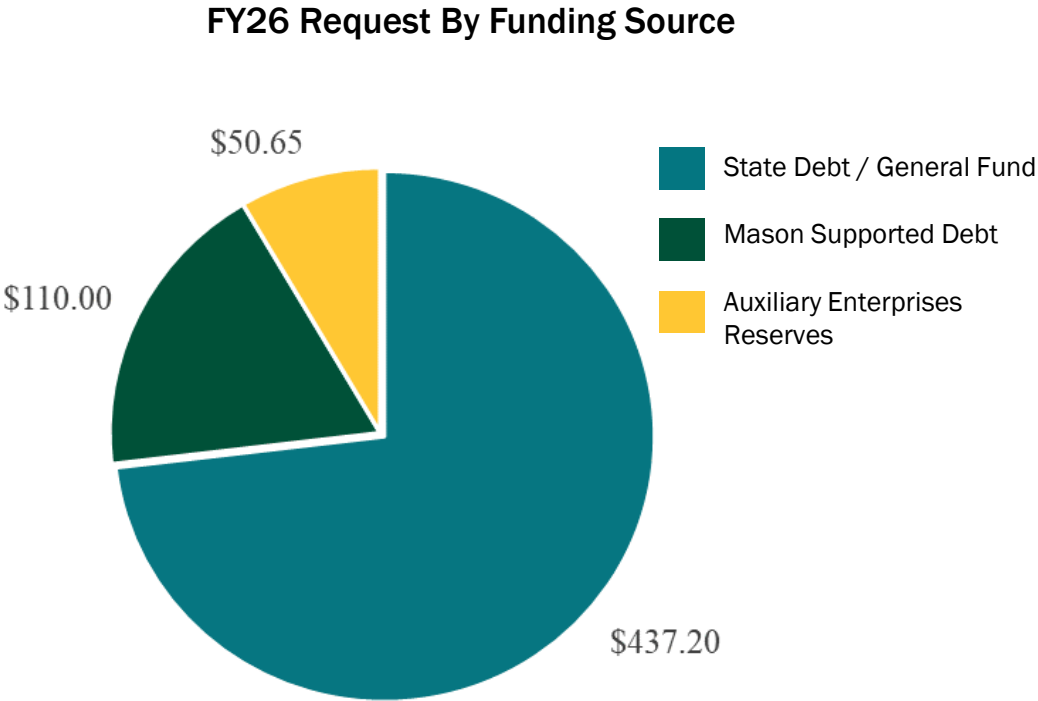
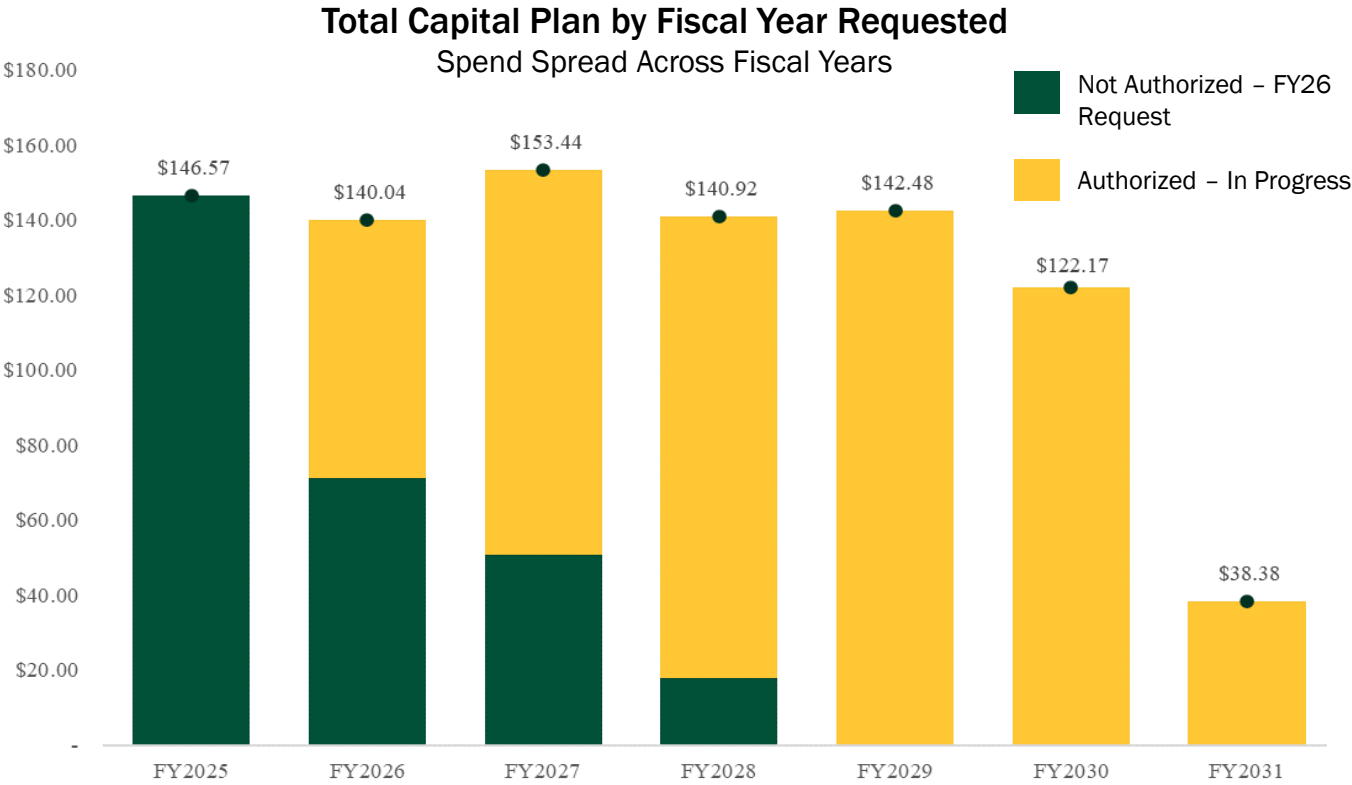
		GF Authorization	NGF Authorization	Total Authorization	Authority Needed
Deferred Maintenance	Critical Deferred E&G Maintenance	\$56.00	\$0.00	\$56.00	BOV+Commonwealth
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First submitted as part of FY23 Commonwealth Capital Plan submission. Resubmitted in FY24 as \$36M project, and in FY25 as a \$96.4M project, based upon updated projected needs. The reduction to a \$56M request is the gap between anticipated funding and need for the next biennium (FY27 & FY28) and assumes no additional funding in the budget still under consideration. If \$12M noted in current budget update prevails, this value will be reduced accordingly. The Commonwealth's annual maintenance reserve allocation is woefully underfunded to address the University's critical deferred maintenance needs in E&G buildings. 				
	Potomac Height Roof	\$0.00	\$5.75	\$5.75	BOV
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deferred maintenance project which has an aggregate sum that exceeds \$3M. It is necessary due to the deterioration of the shingled and membrane roofs and is budgeted for by Housing. 				
	Mason Pond Garage Repair Phase I	\$0.00	\$3.40	\$3.40	BOV
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deferred maintenance project which has an aggregate sum that exceeds \$3M. It is necessary due to the deterioration of items such as expansion joints, sealant, precast clips, spalling concrete, ponding and traffic membranes. It is budgeted for by Parking and Transportation. 				
	Masonvale Renovation	\$0.00	\$7.50	\$7.50	BOV
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project will be phased over 3 years. Cosmetic upgrades to all units will likely be completed as units are vacated. 				
	Subtotal	\$56.00	\$16.65	\$72.65	

(millions)

FY26 Capital Projects: Total

	GF Authorization	NGF Authorization	Total Authorization
Academic Priorities	\$381.20	\$6.00	\$387.20
Mason 2050	\$0.00	\$138.00	\$138.00
Deferred Maintenance	\$56.00	\$16.65	\$72.65
Total	\$437.20	\$160.65	\$597.85

(millions)



Staff Recommendation

Approval of the Six-Year Capital Plan as detailed in the meeting materials.



Land Use Certification

Capital Matters

FY 2025 Land Use Certification

Virginia Code §2.2-1153 requires agencies and institutions to submit a Land Use Plan annually for all Commonwealth/University-owned land.

- Principal information desired by Department of General Services is identifying what land the Commonwealth may be able to surplus.
- The significant changes since last year's report are:
 - Waterline Connection Easement with Fairfax Water – Easement on Fairfax Campus related to the Student Engagement and Well-Being Building
 - Waterline Connection Easement with Prince William County Service Authority – Easement on SciTech Campus for distribution system
 - Waterline Connection Easement with Prince William County Service Authority – Easement on SciTech campus related to LSEB connection
- Potential Future Easement in FY25
 - Power Transmission Easement with Dominion Power – Easement on SciTech campus related to electrical power distribution

Staff Recommendation

Approval of the Land Use Certification spreadsheet included in the meeting materials.



SciTech Dominion Transmission Easement Capital Matters

SciTech Dominion Transmission Easement

- Requested to extend existing power distribution to adjacent Dominion Power substation developments.
- Associated land is at the property border of our campus, contains areas of wetlands and is unlikely to be developed.
- Developer will compensate the Commonwealth \$110,230
 - \$104,730 for appraised value
 - \$5,500 cost of appraisal



Staff Recommendation

Approval of the SciTech Dominion Transmission Easement as detailed in the meeting materials.

Committee Vote:

Motion: To approve the following items as they are outlined in the meeting materials:

- **FY 2026 University Budget, including Commonwealth scenarios, with FY 2026 tuition rates and mandatory student fees:**
 - 2.5% increase in FY 2026 in-state tuition and
 - 2.5% increase in the FY 2026 mandatory student fee
- **Six-Year Capital Plan**
- **Land Use Certification**
- **SciTech Dominion Transmission Easement**



Appendix I

Capital Project Review

Capital Project Review (Stoplight)

FY25 CAPITAL PROJECT STOPLIGHT CHART											
	Total Project Authorization (A)	Expenditures				Future Project Spend (= A - B - C)	Budget Status	Schedule Status	Scope Status	Construction % Complete	Occupancy/ Completion Date
		As of FY24 (B)	Fiscal Year 2025								
			Budget	YTD	Full-year Forecast (C)						
Planning Phase											
Interdisciplinary Sci. & Engr. Building	0.5	0.0	0.5	0.2	0.5	0.0				0.0%	TBD
Housing Renovations Phase 1	25.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	25.0				0.0%	TBD
Design Phase											
Address Priority Facility Improvements	8.0	0.0	1.7	0.0	1.7	6.3	🟢	🟢	🟢	0.0%	TBD
Basketball and Academic Performance Center	30.0	0.3	1.8	0.6	1.1	28.6	🟢	🟢	🟢	0.0%	12/2/26
EagleBank Arena AHU Replacements	11.7	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.2	11.5	🟢	🟢	🟢	0.0%	TBD
Telecom Infrastructure, Ph 2	23.3	0.5	2.7	0.7	1.1	21.6	🟢	🟢	🟢	0.0%	4/16/26
Telecom Infrastructure, Ph 3	24.0	0.0	1.6	0.1	0.7	23.3	🟢	🟢	🟢	0.0%	TBD
Construction Phase											
Student Activities & Engagement Building	11.0	1.7	9.3	6.2	8.3	1.0	🟡	🟡	🟢	80.3%	5/4/25
Aquatic & Fitness Center Capital Renewal	13.5	8.1	5.4	3.6	4.7	0.7	🟢	🟢	🟢	99.0%	9/1/24
Expand Central Plant Capacity	8.2	1.2	6.0	2.6	4.5	2.5	🟢	🟢	🟢	48.3%	1/26/26
Johnson Center HVAC Repairs	8.0	2.7	4.5	3.6	4.5	0.8	🟢	🟢	🟢	90.3%	5/15/25
FUSE at Mason Square	253.8	173.3	69.2	42.8	56.5	24.0	🟢	🟢	🟢	99.0%	7/1/25
Tech Talent Bachelors Capital	23.0	16.3	1.7	1.0	1.7	5.0	🟢	🟢	🟢	N/A	N/A
Close-Out											
Life Science Engineering Building	107.0	70.3	34.3	27.4	34.3	2.4	🟢	🟢	🟢	95.7%	1/10/25
Telecom Infrastructure, Ph 1	10.5	5.2	4.2	4.0	4.2	1.1	🟢	🔴	🟢	97.9%	2/17/25
Umbrella (On-going)											
Maintenance Reserve	3.4	N/A	3.4	1.6	3.4	N/A				N/A	N/A
Annual Capital	6.7	N/A	6.7	14.2	15.0	N/A				N/A	N/A
Authorized (Pending Funding)											
Academic VIII	200.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	200.0				0.0%	TBD
Point of View Cottages	8.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	8.0				0.0%	TBD
Renovations Concert Hall	25.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	25.0				0.0%	TBD
Costello College of Business Building	165.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	165.0				0.0%	TBD
Energy Efficiency Investments	7.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.5				0.0%	TBD
Real Estate Acquisitions Phase 1 (Arlington)	40.0	24.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	15.9				100.0%	Complete
Real Estate Acquisitions Phase 4 (TBD)	50.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	50.0				0.0%	TBD
Total	1,063.0	303.6	153.4	108.8	142.3 ⁽¹⁾	625.3					

(1) This amount (excluding P3) is prediction of the audited statement of cash flows "purchases of capital assets."

(millions)



Appendix II

Detailed Proposed Tuition and Fees

Proposed Tuition & Fees: Annual Rates

FY26 PROPOSED TUITION AND FEE RATES

Classification	FY26 Tuition	FY26 MSF	FY26 Tuition & Fees
In-State			
Undergraduate	\$10,656	\$3,924	\$14,580
Graduate	\$14,496	\$3,924	\$18,420
Law (excl/JD)	\$25,480	\$2,968	\$28,448
Out-of-State			
Undergraduate	\$35,388	\$3,924	\$39,312
Graduate	\$37,200	\$3,924	\$41,124
Law (excl/JD)	\$42,000	\$2,968	\$44,968

FY27 PROPOSED TUITION RATES ONLY

Classification	FY26 Tuition	FY27 Increase	FY27 Tuition
In-State			
Undergraduate	\$10,656	\$264	\$10,920
Graduate	\$14,496	\$360	\$14,856
Law (excl/JD)	\$25,480	\$644	\$26,124
Out-of-State			
Undergraduate	\$35,388	\$528	\$35,916
Graduate	\$37,200	\$720	\$37,920
Law (excl/JD)	\$42,000	\$1,050	\$43,050

Note: FY27 Increases

- In-State reflects a 2.5% increase
- Out-of State increases are based on In-State "\$" increases doubled
- Law (JD) tuition is not proposed to increase
- All proposed increases are adjusted from round numbers to enable billing by credit hour

Proposed Tuition & Fees: Hourly Rates

FY26 PROPOSED TUITION AND FEES

Classification	FY26 Tuition	FY26 MSF	FY26 Tuition & Fees
In-State			
Undergraduate	\$444.00	\$163.50	\$607.50
Graduate	\$604.00	\$163.50	\$767.50
Law (excl/JD)	\$910.00	\$106.00	\$1,016.00
Out-of-State			
Undergraduate	\$1,474.50	\$163.50	\$1,638.00
Graduate	\$1,550.00	\$163.50	\$1,713.50
Law (excl/JD)	\$1,500.00	\$106.00	\$1,606.00

FY27 PROPOSED TUITION ONLY

Classification	FY27 Tuition
In-State	
Undergraduate	\$455.00
Graduate	\$619.00
Law (excl/JD)	\$933.00
Out-of-State	
Undergraduate	\$1,496.50
Graduate	\$1,580.00
Law (excl/JD)	\$1,537.50

Proposed Program-Specific Graduate Rates

	Per-Credit-Hour Rate	
	In State	Out of State
Carter School for Peace and Conflict Resolution		
All Carter programs, except below	\$604.00	\$1,558.00
Regional discount for MD/DC students in eligible programs	n/a	\$1,230.00
Conflict Analysis and Resolution, MS (online)	\$604.00	\$847.00
Contemporary Dispute Resolution Certificate Program (online)	\$604.00	\$847.00
Mass Atrocity and Genocide Prevention Certificate Program (online)	\$604.00	\$847.00
College of Education & Human Development		
All CEHD programs, except below	\$604.00	\$804.00
Virginia Educators Discount for all CEHD programs, except below	\$489.00	n/a
MEd, Curriculum & Instruction, concentration in Teaching (online)	\$805.00	\$805.00
MS, Learning Design & Technology (online)	\$805.00	\$805.00
Certificate in Learning Technology, eLearning (online)	\$805.00	\$805.00
Certificate in Autism Spectrum Disorders (online)	\$805.00	\$805.00
Certificate in Applied Behavior Analysis (online)	\$805.00	\$805.00
MEd, Special Education (online)	\$805.00	\$805.00
College of Engineering and Computing		
All CEC programs, except below	\$724.00	\$1,558.00
MS Data Analytics Engineering (online)	\$930.00	\$930.00
Certificate in Data Analytics (online)	\$930.00	\$930.00
MS Applied Information Technology (online)	\$950.00	\$950.00
MS Computer Science (online)	\$950.00	\$950.00

Proposed Program-Specific Graduate Rates (cont'd)

	Per-Credit-Hour Rate	
	In State	Out of State
College of Humanities and Social Sciences		
All CHSS programs, except below	\$604.00	\$1,558.00
MS, Criminal Justice	\$804.00	\$1,758.00
MPS, Applied Industrial/Organizational Psychology (online)	\$815.00	\$815.00
MA, Economics (online)	\$1,065.00	\$1,065.00
College of Public Health		
All CPH programs, except below	\$661.00	\$1,615.00
MHA, Health System Management (online)	\$895.00	\$895.00
MS, Health Informatics (online)	\$800.00	\$800.00
Certificate in Health Informatics & Data Analytics (online)	\$800.00	\$800.00
MS, Social Work (online)	\$795.00	\$795.00
MSN, Nursing - Family Nurse Practitioner (online)	\$850.00	\$850.00
Masters of Public Health (online)	\$725.00	\$725.00
College of Science		
All COS programs, except below	\$604.00	\$1,558.00
Advanced Biomedical Sciences Certificate	\$1,545.50	\$1,545.50
Bioinformatics and Computational Biology Certificates	\$704.00	\$1,658.00
Nanotech and Nanoscience Certificates	\$704.00	\$1,658.00
Forensics Programs	\$704.00	\$1,658.00
Geographic Information Sciences Certificate	\$804.00	\$1,758.00
Geospatial Intelligence and Remote Sensing Certificates	\$804.00	\$1,758.00
Cellular and Molecular Biology Certificate	\$704.00	\$1,658.00

Proposed Program-Specific Graduate Rates (cont'd)

	Per-Credit-Hour Rate	
	In State	Out of State
College of Visual and Performing Arts		
All CVPA programs, except below	\$604.00	\$1,558.00
MM, Concentration in Music Education (online)	\$840.00	\$840.00
Costello College of Business		
Accounting Degrees/Certificate Programs	\$925.00	\$1,616.00
Regional discount for MD/DC students in Accounting Degrees/Certificate Programs	n/a	\$925.00
Accounting Degrees/Certificate Programs (online)	\$925.00	\$925.00
MBA/Certificate programs	\$961.00	\$1,907.00
Regional discount for MD/DC students in MBA/Certificate Programs	n/a	\$961.00
MBA (online)	\$1,124.50	\$1,124.50
MS, Business Analytics	\$961.00	\$1,907.00
Regional discount for MD/DC students in MS, Business Analytics Programs	n/a	\$961.00
Certificate in Business Analytics (online)	\$1,124.50	\$1,124.50
MS, Finance	\$1,126.00	\$1,592.00
Regional discount for MD/DC students in MS, Finance Programs	n/a	\$1,126.00
MS, Management	\$922.00	\$1,613.00
Regional discount for MD/DC students in MS, Management Programs	n/a	\$922.00
MS, Real Estate Development	\$924.00	\$1,084.00
Regional discount for MD/DC students in MS, Real Estate Programs	n/a	\$924.00

Proposed Program-Specific Graduate Rates (cont'd)

	Per-Credit-Hour Rate	
	In State	Out of State
Schar School of Policy and Government		
All Schar programs (except Masters and PhD in Political Science)	\$804.00	\$1,658.00
Masters and PhD in Political Science	\$604.00	\$1,558.00
Regional discount for MD/DC students in Masters of Political Science	n/a	\$604.00
Regional discount for MD/DC students in all other eligible programs	n/a	\$804.00
Antonin Scalia Law School		
All programs, except those below		
Per credit hour rate	\$910.00	\$1,500.00
Regional discount to eligible public sector employees (part-time only)	n/a	\$910.00
LLM, Global Antitrust Law & Economics (online)	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00
LLM, U.S. Law (online)	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00

Total Tuition, Fees, Room & Board: Scenario #1

FY26: 2.5% IS UG Tuition

		In-State			Out-of-State**		
		Undergrad	Graduate	Law (non-JD)	Undergrad	Graduate	Law (non-JD)
Projected FTE	FY26	22,156	3,544	187	4,335	2,656	364
Tuition (IS--FY26-2.5%) (Law Non-JD--FY26-2.5%)	FY25	\$10,392	\$14,136	\$24,864	\$34,860	\$36,480	\$40,978
	Increase	\$264	\$360	\$616	\$528	\$720	\$1,022
	FY26	\$10,656	\$14,496	\$25,480	\$35,388	\$37,200	\$42,000
MSF (FY26 - 2.5%)	FY25	\$3,828	\$3,828	\$2,898	\$3,828	\$3,828	\$2,898
	Increase	\$96	\$96	\$70	\$96	\$96	\$70
	FY26	\$3,924	\$3,924	\$2,968	\$3,924	\$3,924	\$2,968
Total: Tuition + MSF	FY26	\$14,580	\$18,420	\$28,448	\$39,312	\$41,124	\$44,968
Room* (FY26 -1.5%)	FY25	\$8,270	\$9,100	\$9,100	\$8,270	\$9,100	\$9,100
	Increase	\$120	\$430	\$430	\$120	\$430	\$430
	FY26	\$8,390	\$9,530	\$9,530	\$8,390	\$9,530	\$9,530
Board* (FY26 - 4.0%)	FY25	\$5,820	\$5,820	\$5,820	\$5,820	\$5,820	\$5,820
	Increase	\$230	\$230	\$230	\$230	\$230	\$230
	FY26	\$6,050	\$6,050	\$6,050	\$6,050	\$6,050	\$6,050
Total: Tuition + MSF + Room* + Board*	FY26	\$29,020	\$34,000	\$44,028	\$53,752	\$56,704	\$60,548

* FY26 room & board rates were approved in Feb 2025. Undergrad room rates are based on traditional freshman double, Grad/Law room rates on Beacon Hall double. Board rates are based on the Independence meal plan.

** OOS increases are based on the IS "\$" increase doubled.

Note: All proposed increases are adjusted from round numbers to enable billing by credit hour; Law (JD) tuition is not proposed to increase

Office of the Executive Vice President

Total Tuition, Fees, Room & Board: Scenario #2

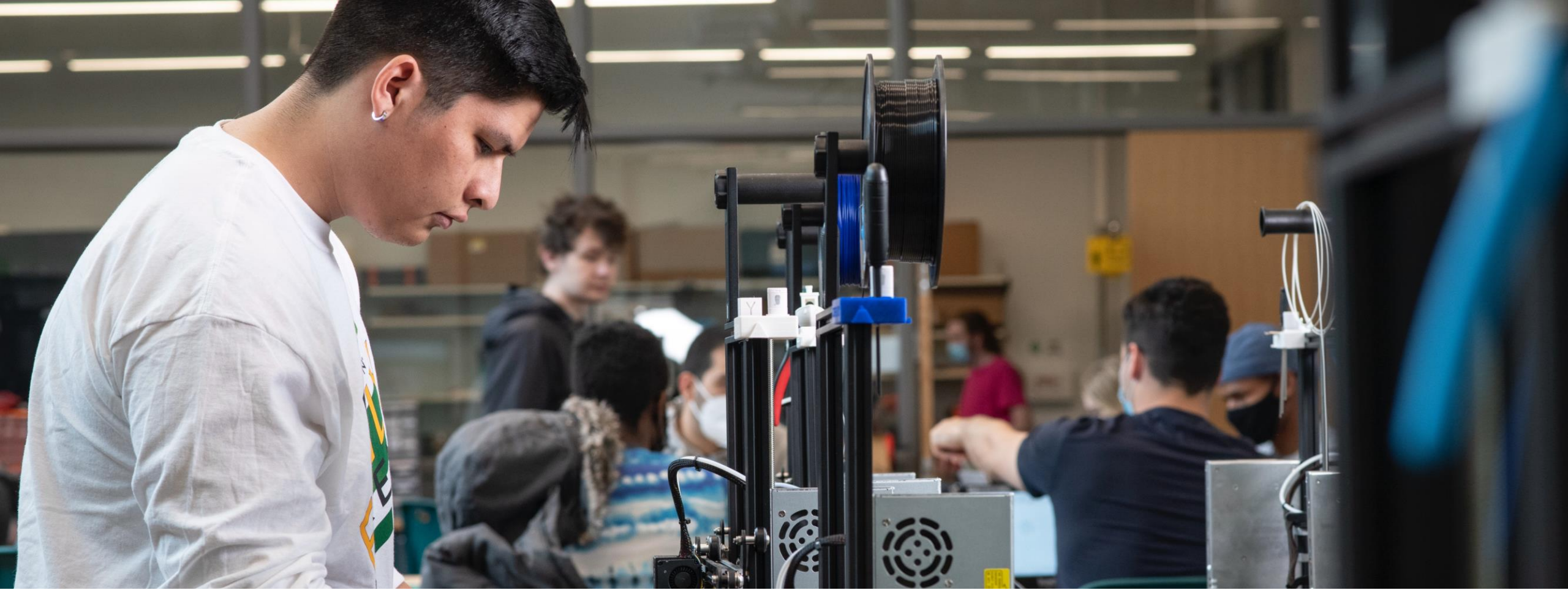
FY27: 2.5% IS UG Tuition

		In-State			Out-of-State**		
		Undergrad	Graduate	Law (non-JD)	Undergrad	Graduate	Law (non-JD)
Projected FTE	FY26	22,156	3,544	187	4,335	2,656	364
Tuition <i>(IS--FY26 - 0%; FY27- 2.5%)</i> <i>(Law Non-JD--FY26 & FY27- 2.5%)</i>	FY25	\$10,392	\$14,136	\$24,864	\$34,860	\$36,480	\$40,978
	Increase	\$0	\$0	\$616	\$0	\$0	\$1,022
	FY26	\$10,392	\$14,136	\$25,480	\$34,860	\$36,480	\$42,000
	FY27	\$10,656	\$14,496	\$26,124	\$35,388	\$37,200	\$43,050
MSF <i>(FY26 - 2.5%)</i>	FY25	\$3,828	\$3,828	\$2,898	\$3,828	\$3,828	\$2,898
	Increase	\$96	\$96	\$70	\$96	\$96	\$70
	FY26	\$3,924	\$3,924	\$2,968	\$3,924	\$3,924	\$2,968
<u>Total:</u> Tuition + MSF	FY26	\$14,316	\$18,060	\$28,448	\$38,784	\$40,404	\$44,968
Room* <i>(FY26 -1.5%)</i>	FY25	\$8,270	\$9,100	\$9,100	\$8,270	\$9,100	\$9,100
	Increase	\$120	\$430	\$430	\$120	\$430	\$430
	FY26	\$8,390	\$9,530	\$9,530	\$8,390	\$9,530	\$9,530
Board* <i>(FY26 - 4.0%)</i>	FY25	\$5,820	\$5,820	\$5,820	\$5,820	\$5,820	\$5,820
	Increase	\$230	\$230	\$230	\$230	\$230	\$230
	FY26	\$6,050	\$6,050	\$6,050	\$6,050	\$6,050	\$6,050
<u>Total:</u> Tuition + MSF + Room* + Board*	FY26	\$28,756	\$33,640	\$44,028	\$53,224	\$55,984	\$60,548

* FY26 room & board rates were approved in Feb 2025. Undergrad room rates are based on traditional freshman double, Grad/Law room rates on Beacon Hall double. Board rates are based on the Independence meal plan.

** OOS increases are based on the IS "\$" increase doubled.

Note: Proposed increases are adjusted from round numbers to enable billing by credit hour; Law (JD) tuition is not proposed to increase



Appendix III

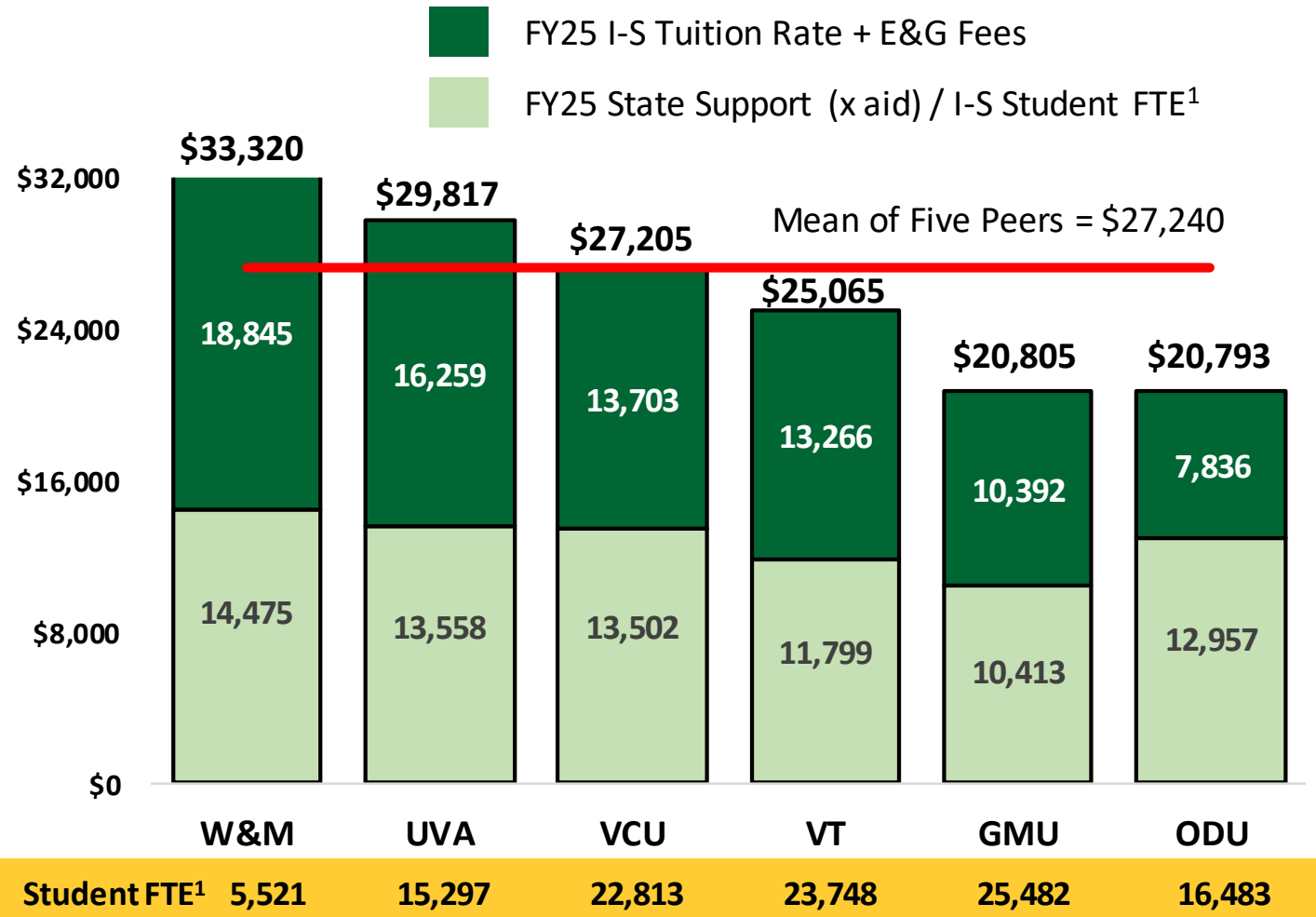
Supplemental Information

Finance & Land Use Committee Overview

- Funding Categories:
 - **Education and General (E&G) Operating Funds** includes Tuition, Fees, Financial Aid, State Appropriations and other E&G revenue and expenses
 - **Operating Funds** includes E&G Funds, Auxiliary Enterprises, Grant & Contract Revenue and Expenses (Research), and all other non-E&G funds
 - **Capital Funds** includes capital expenditures, deferred maintenance and debt service
- Annual Operating Budget development begins each fall with final votes in Spring
 - **Room & Board Rates** (February)
 - **Tuition & Mandatory Student Fees** (April/May)
 - **Six-Year Capital Plan** (April/May)
 - Cash Basis Financial Results and Budget Updates are provided at each FLUC meeting
- Major Capital Project Review & Approval:
 - Project Approval (Annual Capital Plan)
 - Schematic Design Approval
 - Significant Change Approval (greater than 10% in Budget (\$) or Scope (GSF))
 - Ongoing Project Review (Stoplight Chart in each BOV meeting Board Book)
 - Completion Report (upon project completion)
- Commonwealth & SCHEV Six-Year Plans submitted every two years (with updates in alternate years), which require BOV approval.

George Mason Is Underfunded

- George Mason is more than \$6,000 per in-state student FTE below the mean of five doctoral peer institutions when state and tuition funding are combined
- George Mason continues to prioritize access and affordability despite rising costs and operating in the most expensive region in the Commonwealth

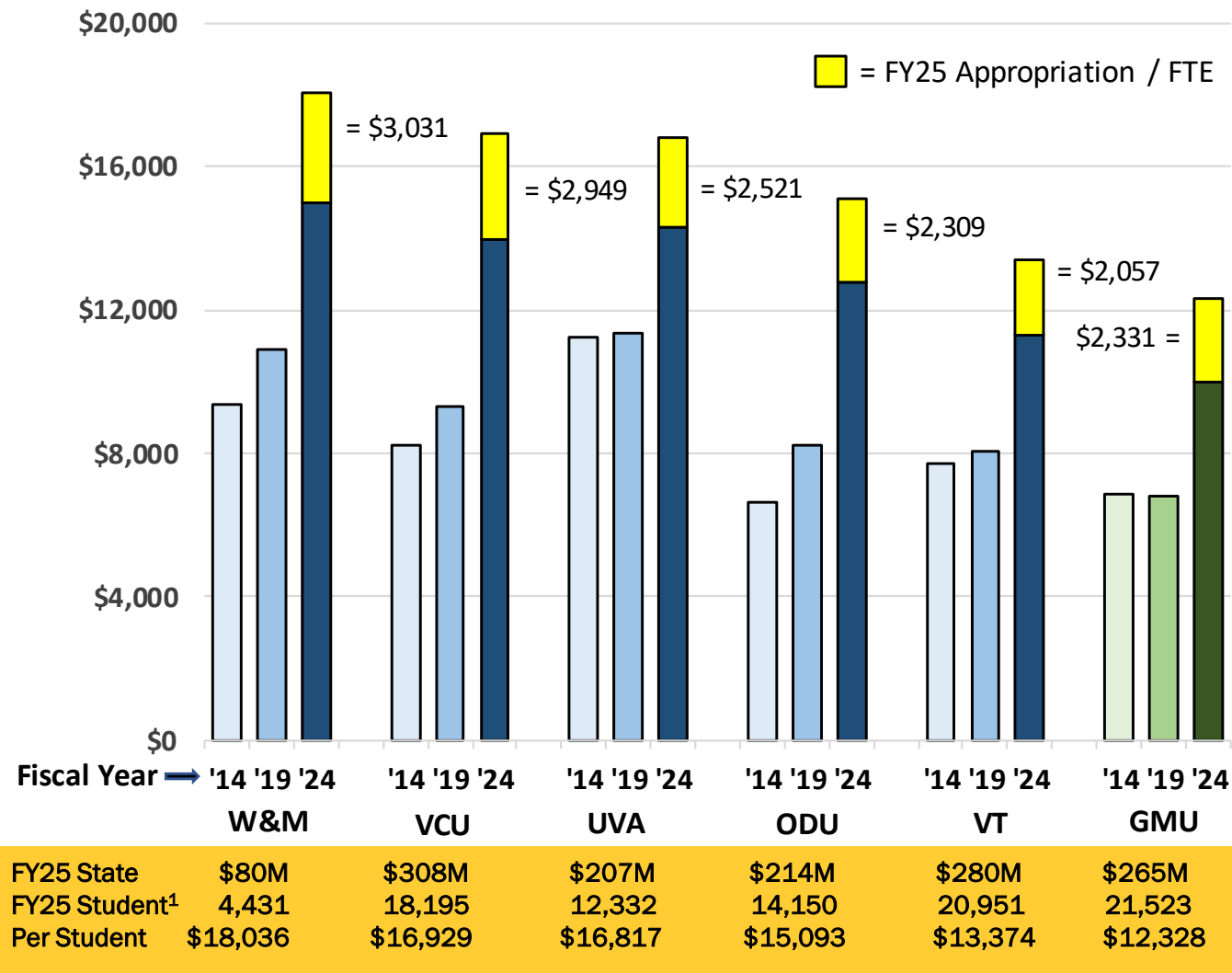


¹ I-S Student FTE is based on FY24 enrollment for UG, Grad and Law.
Note: Mason does not have mandatory E&G Fees

Appropriations Lag Peers Despite Recent Growth

Historical E&G General Fund (excluding aid)

State Support (excl. aid) / VA UG Student FTE ⁽¹⁾



- While George Mason has seen significant increases in appropriations since since FY20, we continue to lag behind peer per-student support
- George Mason vs peer median:
 - FY14: \$1,348 below
 - FY24: \$3,983 below
 - FY24: \$4,489 below
- George Mason maintains lean operations with significantly fewer employees per student than our peers
- Increased funding would be used for critical market compensation adjustments and infrastructure investments

Market Compensation Needs

SCHEV FY 2026 E&G Funding Recommendations¹

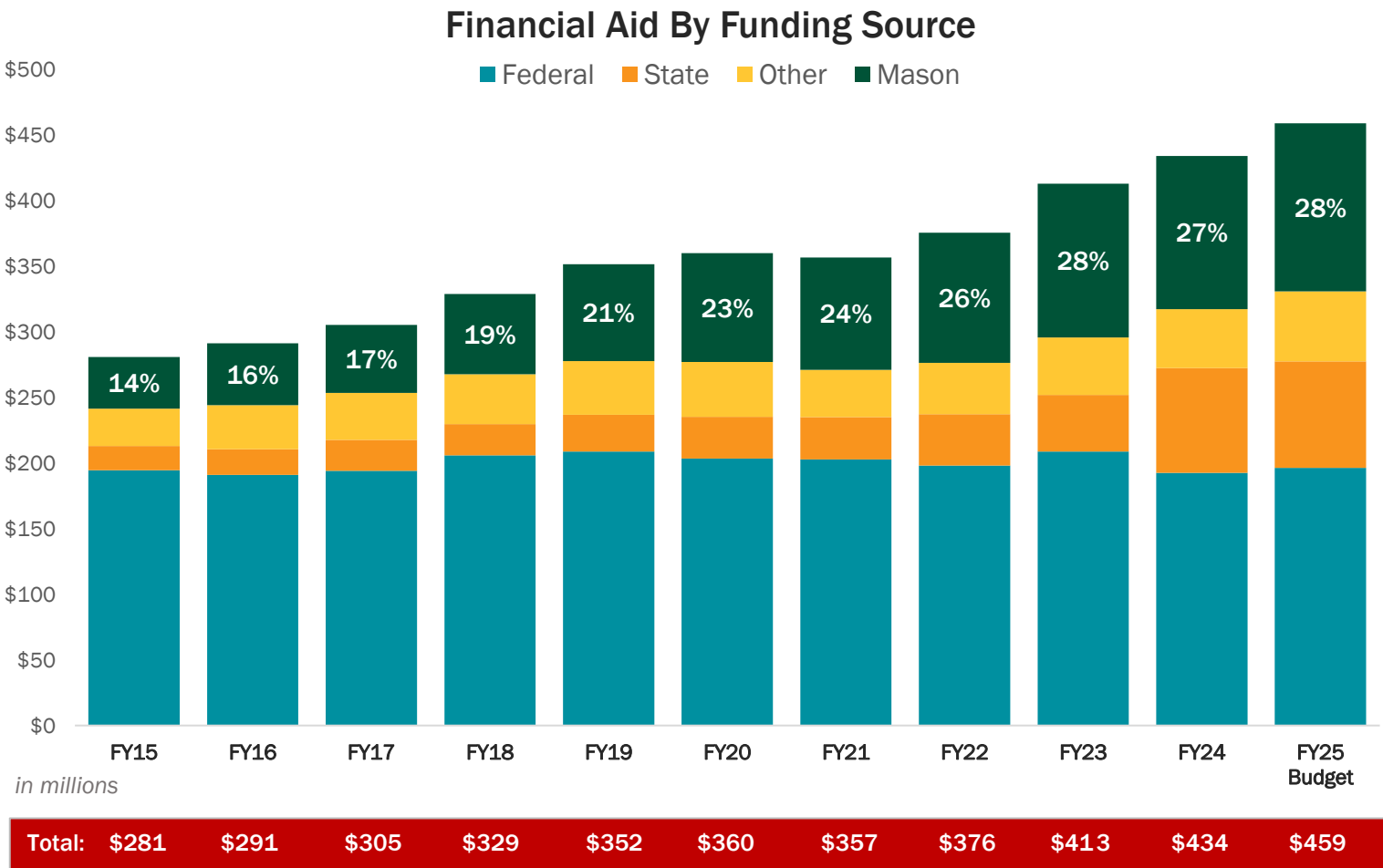
\$ in 000s	FY 2024	FY 2026				
		Non-Personal Services	Funding Disparities	VMSDEP Waiver	Total	% Increase
CNU	\$46.1	\$557.0		\$2,055.0	\$2,612.0	6%
GMU	\$208.4	\$3,420.0	\$18,536.0	\$7,562.0	\$29,518.0	15%
JMU	\$136.0	\$2,138.0	\$793.0	\$3,706.0	\$6,637.0	5%
LU	\$41.8	\$347.0		\$1,364.0	\$1,711.0	4%
NSU	\$82.5	\$593.0		\$1,905.0	\$2,498.0	3%
ODU	\$177.5	\$2,075.0		\$9,319.0	\$11,394.0	6%
RU	\$70.3	\$676.0		\$1,849.0	\$2,525.0	4%
UMW	\$42.0	\$470.0		\$1,403.0	\$1,873.0	4%
UVA	\$169.6	\$2,927.0		\$3,981.0	\$6,908.0	4%
UVA-W	\$30.5	\$247.0		\$158.0	\$405.0	1%
VCU	\$250.9	\$3,260.0		\$11,776.0	\$15,036.0	6%
VMI	\$21.6	\$194.0		\$950.0	\$1,144.0	5%
VSU	\$63.2	\$615.0		\$1,228.0	\$1,843.0	3%
VT	\$220.6	\$3,609.0	\$11,179.0	\$6,345.0	\$21,133.0	10%
W&M	\$66.4	\$1,041.0		\$3,112.0	\$4,153.0	6%
RBC	\$13.0	\$182.0		\$181.0	\$363.0	3%
VCCS	\$511.9	\$7,164.0		\$3,672.0	\$10,836.0	2%
Total	\$2,152.4	\$29.5	\$30,508	\$60.6	\$120.6	6%

- “In public higher education, the Commonwealth’s policy has been to fund each institution’s average faculty salary at the 60th percentile of its national peers... One institution, George Mason University, is below the 30th percentile¹.”
- Internal analysis shows a market equity gap up to \$37M when considering cost of living and to retain faculty and staff in the competitive Northern Virginia market

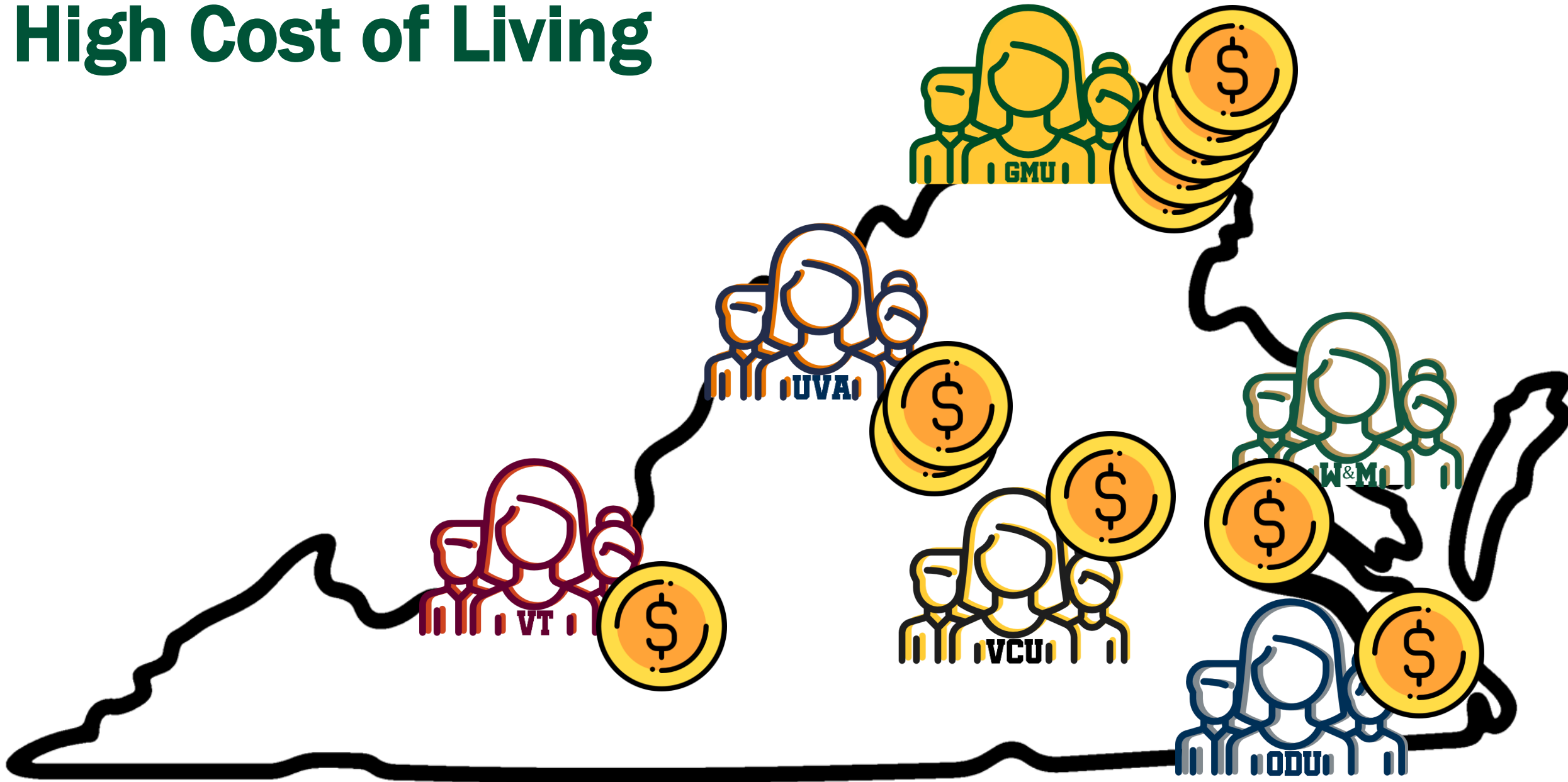
¹SCHEV “Resources and Planning Committee Agenda Book” January 9, 2024

Increased Financial Aid

- Student aid has continued to increase in annual budget
- George Mason aid has almost doubled as a percentage and more than tripled as a dollar amount
- State aid increased by \$37M in FY24 and \$1M in FY25



High Cost of Living



A George Mason Dollar at Work

19¢
Auxiliary Services

11¢
Research

5¢
Institutional Support

4¢
Student Services

33¢
Instruction



12¢
Student Financial Support

8¢
Academic Support

5¢
Physical Plant Operations

3¢
Public Services

Revenue Sources

- 35%** Net Tuition & Fees
- 22%** State Appropriations
- 20%** Grants & Contracts
- 20%** Auxiliary Enterprises
- 3%** Other

How Tuition Supports Students

- Student Services
 - Academic Advising & Support Resources
 - Mason Student Services Center
 - Admissions, Registrar & Other Core Services
 - Regional Campus Services Expansion
- Academic Support
 - Financial Aid
 - Emergency Aid
 - Faculty/Student Class Ratio
- Enhanced Workforce Development
 - New Innovative Academic Programs
 - Career Service Support
 - Pathway Partnership Programs

Your Student Tuition Dollar at Work

52¢

Direct Instruction
Academic Instruction

12¢

Institutional Financial Aid
Undergraduate, Graduate, Need-based & Merit, VMSDEP, Stay Mason

7¢

Operations & Maintenance
Facilities



14¢

Academic Support
Academic Administration, Academic Technology, Research Services, Libraries

9¢

Institutional Support
HR, Finance, ITS, Communications & Marketing

6¢

Student Services
Admissions, Registrar, Career Services, Tutoring

How Mandatory Fees Support Students

- Student Engagement Activities & Support Services
- Student Retention & Success Programs
- Student Health & Well-Being Services
- Athletics & Recreational Programs
- Student Transportation
- Maintenance & Operation of Student Facilities
- Auxiliary Services (mail, vending, card services)

Your Student Fee Dollar at Work

29¢

Facilities & Buildings

Student Centers, Recreation, Arts Centers, Facility Maintenance

23¢

Auxiliary Services

Mason Card Office, Auxiliary Tech Systems, Police, Business Services

6¢

Transportation

CUE Bus, Shuttles, Bike-sharing, & more



23¢

Athletics

Intercollegiate Athletics & Scholarships

15¢

Student Activities

University Life Programs & Services

4¢

Health Services

Student Health Clinical & Administrative Services

Recent & Planned Investments

- Expanded Green Machine Support (FY25)
- Athletics Student Services Staffing & Student Engagement (FY25)
- University Life Programs & Services (FY25)
- Student Involvement & ESports Area Renovation (FY25)
- Information Technology Overhead & Investments (FY26)
- Increased Investment in Athletics (FY26)

Intercollegiate Athletics:

Athletic Allocation at Work

44¢

Sports Operations

Team Travel, Recruiting, Equipment
& Apparel, Meals & Nutrition

12¢

Storytelling & Engagement

Marketing & Promotions, Event Operations,
Broadcasts & Production, Communications

7¢

Administrative Support

Human Resources, Business Operations,
Information Technology



26¢

Athletic Scholarships

11¢

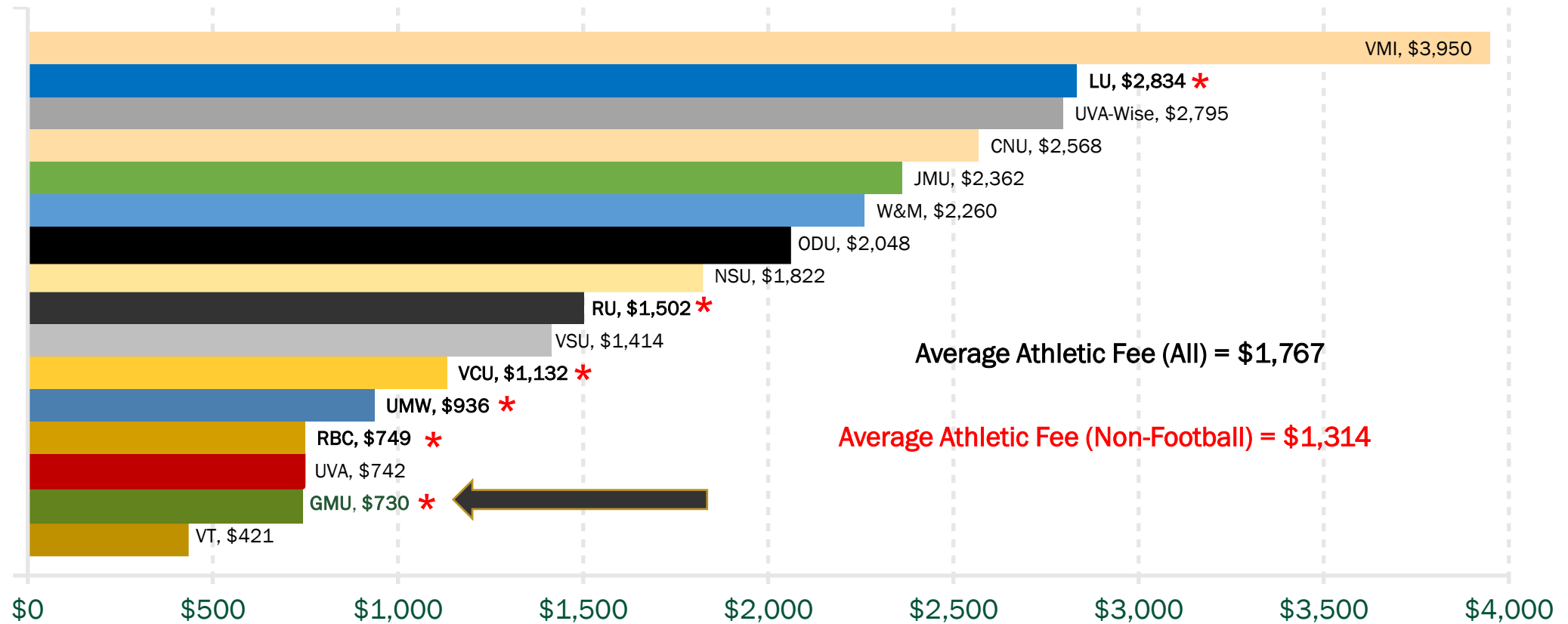
Direct Student-Athlete Support

Athletic Training, Strength &
Conditioning, Academic Support and
Development, Compliance &
Governance

Intercollegiate Athletics:

Athletic Fee Comparison

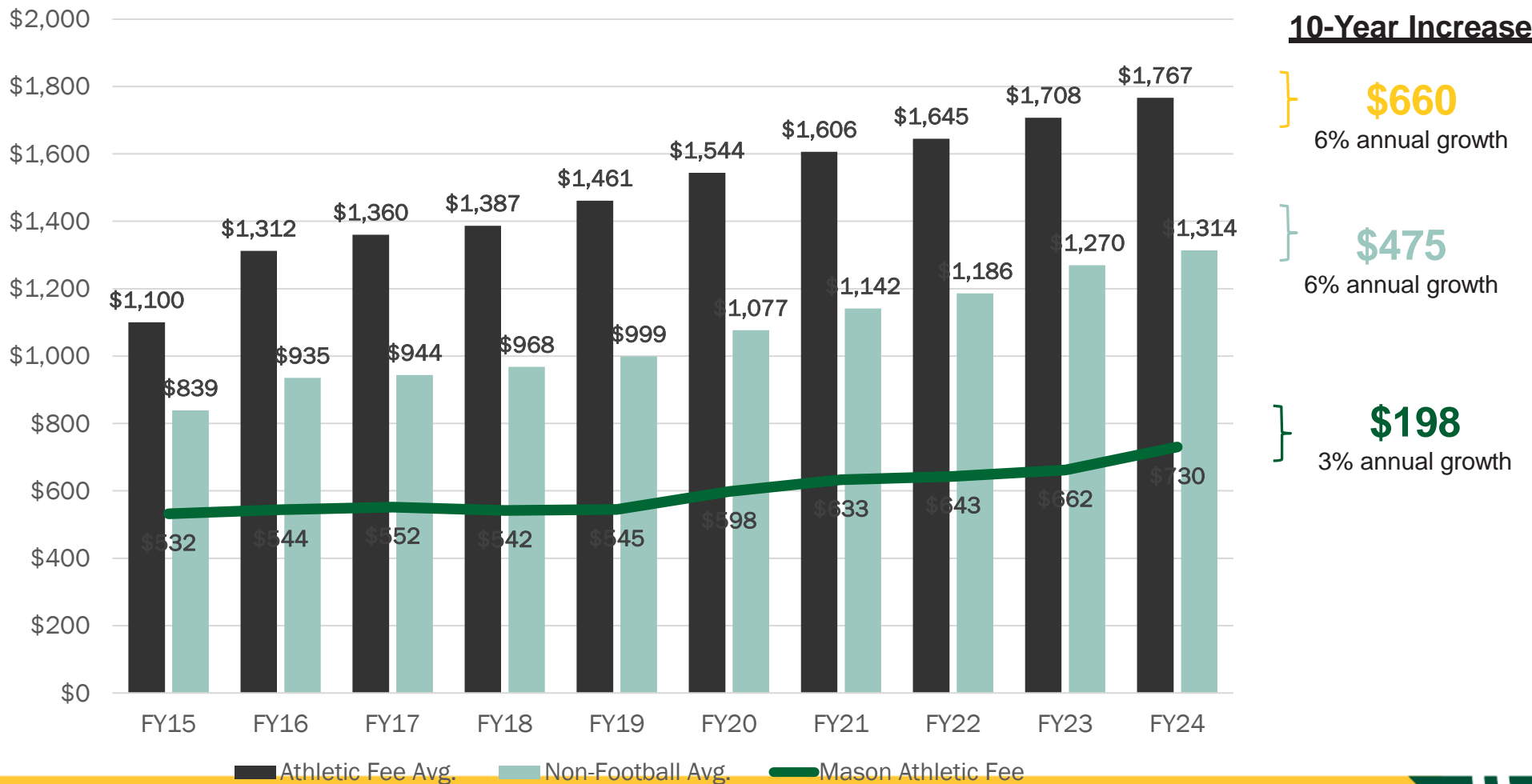
- Mason Athletics is 2nd lowest athletic fee among Commonwealth peers



Source: (1) 2023-2024 SCHEV Tuition and Fees Report.

Intercollegiate Athletics:

History of Athletic Fees



Source:
(1) SCHEV Tuition and Fees Report.

Intercollegiate Athletics:

Competition and Practice Facilities

1982
Athletics
Field House



1985
EagleBank
Arena



1986
Spuhler
Field



1999
George Mason
Track



- ✓ Spirit Program – the Patriot, Cheerleaders, Masonettes, and Green Machine
- ✓ Tickets and transportation to postseason competitions – A10 Conference Tournament, NCAA, NIT, etc.
- ✓ Over 200 graduate, student assistant, and team manager positions within Athletics
- ✓ Mason Maniaxs – over 800 registered with 40+ student leaders
- ✓ Signature engagement events (i.e., Mason Madness, Homecoming, Gold Rush, pre-game tailgates, etc.)
- ✓ Academic Collaborations (i.e., Student Run the Show)

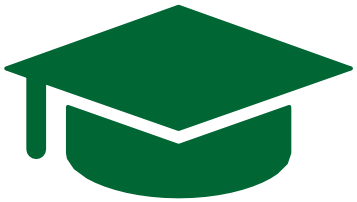
Intercollegiate Athletics:

Student Engagement



Intercollegiate Athletics:

Value Proposition to the University



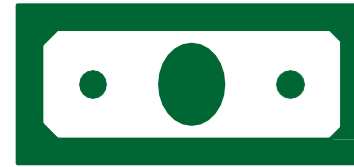
Enhances Student Experiences*

Community Building
Belonging
Mental Health
Recruitment, Retention



Advertising & Exposure

Brand Awareness
National Visibility
Enrollment Growth
Degree Value



Economic & Financial Benefits

Fundraising
Merchandise/Licensing
Concessions
Facility Access/Rentals



Community Engagement*

Campus Events
Alumni Events
Pride and Traditions
Career Opportunities

**GMU Strategic Priority*



Appendix IV

Six-Year Capital Plan Outyear Projects

Projects Proposed for FY27

		GF Estimate	NGF Estimate	Total Estimate	Authority Needed
Mason 2050	Mason Square Renovation Ph. I (Student Housing) ⁽¹⁾	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	BOV
	High Performance Training Center ⁽²⁾	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	BOV
	Field House ⁽³⁾	\$0.00	\$110.00	\$110.00	BOV
	Baseball Stadium	\$0.00	\$20.00	\$20.00	BOV
	Concert Hall Renovation ⁽⁴⁾	\$0.00	\$75.00	\$75.00	BOV
	Faculty / Staff Housing PH 2 (Sci Tech)	\$0.00	\$10.00	\$10.00	BOV
Deferred Maintenance	Central Heating and Colling Plant - Deferred Maintenance Replacement Boilers and Pumps Phase I ⁽⁵⁾	\$0.00	\$3.05	\$3.05	BOV
	Liberty Square Roof	\$0.00	\$6.10	\$6.10	BOV
	Rappahannock Garage Repair Phase I	\$0.00	\$4.10	\$4.10	BOV
	Mason Pond Garage Repair Phase II	\$0.00	\$3.00	\$3.00	BOV
	Johnson Center VAV Replacement	\$0.00	\$5.75	\$5.75	BOV
	Total	\$0.00	\$337.00	\$337.00	

(millions)

- (1) – Funding will likely be through debt

(2) – Likely to be completed as a public private partnership

(3) – May be completed as part of the High Performance Training Center

(4) – Project is anticipated to be funded with 33% fundraising

(5) – Project is eligible for the use of Maintenance Reserve funding if such funding is increase annually and available.

Future Project Beyond FY27

		GF Estimate	NGF Estimate	Total Estimate	Authority Needed
Mason 2050	Living Learning Village II (CCBB Village) ⁽¹⁾	\$0.00	\$110.00	\$110.00	BOV
	Mason Square Renovations Ph 2 (Student Housing) ⁽¹⁾	\$0.00	\$150.00	\$150.00	BOV
Academic Priorities	Student Innovation Factory Building	\$51.10	\$0.00	\$51.10	BOV+Commonwealth
	Crime Scene House	\$0.00	\$7.50	\$7.50	BOV
	Planetary Hall Renovation	\$80.00	\$0.00	\$80.00	BOV+Commonwealth
	David King Hall Renovation	\$101.00	\$0.00	\$101.00	BOV+Commonwealth
	Academic VIII (Sci Tech) - Full Project ⁽²⁾	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$200.00	BOV+Commonwealth
	Enterprise Hall Renovation	\$70.00	\$0.00	\$70.00	BOV+Commonwealth
	Liberty Square Interiors Update/ Refresh	\$0.00	\$4.50	\$4.50	BOV
	Parking Deck IV ⁽¹⁾	\$0.00	\$58.50	\$58.50	BOV
	Transportation (North) (Ph 1)	\$0.00	\$16.50	\$16.50	BOV
Deferred Maintenance	Central Heating and Cooling Plant – Deferred Maintenance Replacement Boilers, Chillers, Cooling Towers, and Pumps Phase II ⁽³⁾	\$0.00	\$11.67	\$11.67	BOV
	Rappahannock Garage Repairs Phase II	\$0.00	\$3.00	\$3.00	BOV
	The RAC - Replace Chiller ⁽³⁾	\$0.00	\$3.51	\$3.51	BOV
	Hazel Hall - Replace Penthouse AHU and VAV Boxes ⁽³⁾	\$0.00	\$3.41	\$3.41	BOV
	Total	\$502.10	\$368.59	\$870.69	

(millions)

(1) – Funding will likely be through debt

(2) – Planning was authorized for this project in FY21 but as a use of institutional funds

(3) – Project is eligible for the use of Maintenance Reserve funding if such funding is increase annually and available.



**GEORGE MASON
UNIVERSITY®**