

**BOARD OF VISITORS
GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY**

Board of Visitors Special Meeting

February 24, 2020

MINUTES

PRESENT: Rector Davis, Vice Rector Hazel, and Secretary Blackman; Visitors Iturregui, Moreno, Moss, Prowitt, Reagan, Rice, Witeck, and Zuccari; Faculty Senate Chair Davis; Student Representatives Gelbvaks and Layton; Interim President Holton; and Secretary pro tem Cagle.

ABSENT: Visitors Bhuller, Chimaladinne, Kazmi, Marquez, and Roth.

I. Call to Order

Rector Davis called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.

II. Closed Session

Vice Rector Hazel made the following **MOTION**: “I move the Board go into Closed Session pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711. A.1 to discuss personnel matters including assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, salaries, disciplining, or resignation of specific public officers, appointees or employees; and more specifically to discuss the evaluation of candidates for President of the University, which discussion may also involve evaluation and performance of departments or schools that will necessarily involve the discussion of specific employees; and Section 2.2-3711. A.8 for consultation with legal counsel regarding specific legal matters, including the aforementioned issues, as well as other issues related to the presidential search.” The motion was **SECONDED** by Visitor Rice.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE

III. Open Session

Vice Rector Hazel made the following statement: “Having reconvened in Open Session, we will now take a **ROLL CALL VOTE** on certification that (1) only public business matters lawfully exempted from Open Meeting requirements, and (2) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the Closed Meeting was convened were heard, discussed or considered in the meeting by the Board of Visitors. Any member who believes that there was a departure from the requirements as stated above, shall so state prior to the vote, indicating the substance of the departure that in his, or her, judgement, has taken place.

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

IV. Motion – Action Item

Rector Davis thanked the Presidential Search Committee, Presidential Search Committee Co-Chairs Davis and Hazel, and the Greenwood/Asher search firm. He thanked Interim President Holton for her service and noted that she had exceeded the expectations of the Board.

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Vice Rector Hazel made the following **MOTION**: “I move that the Board of Visitors of George Mason University appoint Dr. Gregory Washington as the eighth president of George Mason University, effective July 1, 2020; and that the Rector or his appointed designee be authorized to negotiate and execute a contract with Dr. Washington consistent with discussions in closed sessions, provided that this appointment shall be subject to successful contract negotiations and conditioned upon completion of a thorough background check, the results of which are acceptable to the Board. The motion was **SECONDED** by Visitor Blackman.

A ROLL CALL VOTE was taken and the **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**.

Rector Davis asked that the record reflect that those Visitors who were not in attendance unanimously conveyed their approval of Dr. Gregory Washington as the eighth president of George Mason University.

Rector Davis announced the following: “I am pleased to introduce you to Greg Washington, the next president of George Mason University.” Dr. Washington joined the meeting virtually by Webex from California and was greeted with applause and a standing ovation by the Board and members of the gallery. Rector Davis reported that Dr. Washington would be formally introduced to the Mason community at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday February 27, 2020, noting the event would occur after the regularly scheduled Board meeting that same day.

Rector Davis recognized Dr. Washington for his comments. Dr. Washington expressed his thanks and said he was looking forward to being the next president of Mason and working with the Mason community. He continued that he was ecstatic at the opportunity and was excited about what would be accomplished together moving forward, noting it was a great occasion for him and his wife. His comments were met with applause from the Board and members of the gallery.

V. Adjournment

With no other business matters to come before the Board, Rector Davis adjourned the meeting at 1:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kathy Cagle
Secretary pro tem