



Rector and Visitors

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George Mason University Board of Visitors 2020 Executive Summary of Interim Activities

Pursuant to Virginia Code § 23.1-1303.12, the Board of Visitors of George Mason University provide the following executive summary of interim activity for calendar year 2020.

The Board of Visitors continues to operate in a transparent manner, to the extent required by law, in all Board actions. All meetings were open to the public, and notice was provided pursuant to Virginia Code §2.2-3707. The agendas and minutes of the meetings listed below are published on the Board's website (bov.gmu.edu) and the Commonwealth Calendar. Business conducted in closed session during any of these meetings was done in compliance with Virginia Code § 2.2-3711. As required by Article IV, Section 8 of the Board's bylaws, the Senior Assistant Attorney General / University Counsel is invited to and attends all meetings of the Board and its Committees.

The Bylaws of the Board of Visitors are posted on the Board's website. Article XIII of the Bylaws requires that all meetings of the Board be conducted in accordance with the Code of Virginia and the Bylaws.

The Board of Visitors met with President Anne Holton in closed session on July 31, 2020, to discuss her evaluation.

During 2020, the Board of Visitors held the following meetings and took the following actions:

January 15, January 29, February 12:

Special meetings of the Presidential Search Announcement Subcommittee to announce upcoming special session(s) of the Presidential Search Committee for the sole purpose of interviewing candidates for the position of President of the University.

January (specific date undisclosed):

Pursuant to § 2.2-3712.B, the Presidential Search Committee of the Board held special meetings at an undisclosed location for the sole purpose of interviewing candidates for the position of President of the University.

February 7:

Meeting of the Presidential Search Committee of the board for the purpose of receiving public comment on the search process.

February 7:

Special meeting of the full board regarding faculty engagement in the presidential search process.

February (specific date undisclosed):

Pursuant to § 2.2-3712.B, the Presidential Search Committee of the Board held special meetings

at an undisclosed location for the sole purpose of interviewing candidates for the position of President of the University.

February 12:

Final meeting of the Presidential Search Committee of the Board. Final discussions regarding the presidential search process henceforth carried out by the full board.

February (specific date undisclosed):

Pursuant to § 2.2-3712.B, the full Board held a special meeting at an undisclosed location for the sole purpose of interviewing candidates for the position of President of the University.

February 24:

Special full board meeting in which the Board of Visitors voted to select Gregory Washington as the next President of George Mason University.

Action:

- Dr. Gregory Washington appointed as the President of George Mason University.

February 27:

Regularly scheduled sessions of the full board and all standing committees (Academic Programs, Diversity, and University Community Committee; Audit Committee; Development Committee; Executive Committee; Finance and Land Use Committee; Research Committee).

Actions:

- Board of Visitor Public Comment Policy
- New Program Approvals
 - MS, Finance
 - MS, Information Security Management
 - PSM, Forensic Science
 - MA, Peacebuilding
- Faculty Actions
 - Conferral of Emeritus/Emerita Status
 - Elections of New Tenured Hire
- FY 2021 Room and Board Rates
- Debt Policy Compliance Annual Review
- Approval of SciTech Fiber Easement
- Amendments to the 6 Year Capital Plan
- Addition of Eastern Shore Project to the 6 Year Capital Plan
- Increase Budget for Johnson Center HVAC Project

April 2:

Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Board on behalf of the board for the purpose of receiving public comment on tuition and fees.

May 20 (Electronic per 2020 Budget Bill electronic meeting provisions):

Rescheduled from May 6. Regularly scheduled session of the full board and Audit Committee. Board received briefings on COVID-19 response and planning, and university budget matters. Board approved bylaw revision to change name and scope of the Audit Committee to the Audit, Risk, and Compliance Committee. The Board approved the 2020-2021 University Operating Budget.

Actions:

- Resolution: Core Campus Project Naming Resolution: Horizon Hall
- Faculty Handbook Revisions
- Faculty Senate and AAUP Joint Resolution
- Resolution: Revisions to the Bylaws of the Board of Visitors of George Mason University Relating to Compliance with Accreditation Requirements, SACSCOC
- Resolution: Revisions to the Bylaws of the Board of Visitors of George Mason University Relating to Audit Committee
- Resolution: Revisions to the Bylaws of the Board of Visitors of George Mason University Relating to Delegation of Authority
- New Program Approvals
 - BS Recreation Management (CEHD)
 - MAT Special Education (CEHD)
 - BS Sport Management (CEHD)
 - BS Health Informatics (CHHS)
 - BS Biodiversity Conservation (PROV)
- Department and Program Closures
 - BA Dance (CVPA)
 - BS Global and Environmental Change (COS)
 - BS Rehabilitation Science (CHHS)
 - PhD Rehabilitation Science (CHHS)
 - Department of Rehabilitation Science (CHHS)
- Faculty Actions
 - Promotion and/or Tenure
 - Conferral of Emeritus/Emerita Status
 - Elections of New Tenured Faculty
- FY2021 University Operating Budget

July 30 – President’s Annual Planning Conference (Electronic per 2020 Budget Bill electronic meeting provisions):

The Board engaged with university administration to discuss COVID-19 planning and response, academic and operational processes, anti-racism efforts, budget matters, and the university’s strategic mission.

July 31 – Board of Visitors Annual Meeting (Electronic per 2020 Budget Bill electronic meeting provisions):

Per the Board’s bylaws, elections for board officers were held. Newly elected officers are: Rector, James W. Hazel; Vice Rector, Horace Blackman; Secretary, Simmi Bhuller. The Board approved the 2020-2021 meeting schedule (available on the Board’s website at bov.gmu.edu). The Board received a legal overview from University Counsel that included briefings on Virginia FOIA laws and protocols.

Actions:

- Election of Officers and Committee Appointments
 - Election of Rector
 - Election of Vice Rector
 - Election of Secretary
 - Election of Members-at-Large to the Executive Committee (2)
- Committee Chair and Vice Chair Appointments
- Board of Visitors Meeting Schedule for 2020-2021
- Bylaw Revision
- Faculty Actions
 - Conferral of Emeritus/Emerita Status
 - Elections of New Hires
- Classified Information Access
- Documents and Records Request Policy
- Retirement Incentive Program
- Tier 3 Update and Revised Investment Policy Approval
- Schematic Design for Life Sciences and Engineering Building Approval
- Schematic Design Vernon Smith Hall Renovations Approval
- 6-Year Capital Plan Approval
- Interim President’s Performance Bonus

October 1 (Electronic per 2020 Budget Bill electronic meeting provisions):

Regularly scheduled sessions of the full board and all standing committees (Academic Programs, Diversity, and University Community Committee; Audit, Risk, and Compliance Committee; Development Committee; Executive Committee; Finance and Land Use Committee; Research Committee).

Actions:

- Establishment of the College of Engineering and Computing with two subunits: The School of Computing and the Volgenau School of Engineering
- Name change: “School of Art” to “School of Art and Design”
- Name change: “MS, Telecommunications” to “MS, Network Engineering” (VSE)
- Program Closure - MA, Graphic Design (CVPA)

- Program Closure - MA, Computer Game Design (CVPA)
- Conferral of Emeritus/Emerita Status
- Election of New Tenured Faculty
- Approval of Revised FY2021 Budget
- Approval of Tier 3 Management Agreement
- Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission Span of Control
- Land Use Certification

December 3 (Electronic per 2020 Budget Bill electronic meeting provisions):

Regularly scheduled sessions of the full board and all standing committees (Academic Programs, Diversity, and University Community Committee; Audit, Risk, and Compliance Committee; Development Committee; Executive Committee; Finance and Land Use Committee; Research Committee).

Actions:

- Bylaw Revision – Add Board Staff Representative
- 2020-2021 Presidential Goals Approval
- Emergency Operations Plan Adoption
- Election of New Tenured Faculty
- Conferral of Emeritus/Emerita Status
- Name change: “MEd in Leadership and Human Development” to “MEd in Education Leadership”
- Approval of Debt Restructuring
- Approval of Schematic Design for Telecom Network Infrastructure Phase I
- Approval of Schematic Design and Major Scope Change for Arlington Demolition
- Approval of Payment to University President for Moving Expenses



James W. Hazel
Rector