

George Mason University Board of Visitors 2024 Executive Summary of Interim Activities

Pursuant to Virginia Code § 23.1-1303.B.13, the Board of Visitors of George Mason University provides the following executive summary of its interim activity and work for calendar year 2024.

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 or representative 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 Gregory Washington in closed session on July 26, 2024, to discuss his evaluation.

During 2024, the Board of Visitors held the following meetings and took the following actions:

February 22, 2024:

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

Actions:

- Approval of Board of Visitors Meeting Schedule for 2024-2025
- Approval of Board of Visitors Meeting Schedule for 2025-2026
- Approval of Documents and Records Request Policy
- Approval of Faculty Actions: Conferral of Emeritus/Emerita Status
- Approval of Base Salary Increase for President Washington

April 2, 2024:

Meeting of the full board for the purpose of receiving public comment on tuition and mandatory fees, per Code of Virginia § 23.1-307.

Actions:

- Approval of committee appointments for Visitor Thompson

April 2, 2024 – Continuing Education Session:

Provided an additional opportunity for board members to meet the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia’s (SCHEV) continuing education requirement under § 23.1-1304. This session was designed for Mason’s Board with the assistance of the Association of Governing Boards (AGB), and in consultation with SCHEV. No actions taken.

May 2, 2024:

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

Actions:

- Approval of Board of Visitors Meeting Schedule for 2024-2025 (revised)
- Approval of Board of Visitors Meeting Schedule for 2025-2026 (revised)
- Acceptance of the *Achieving Inclusive Excellence: The Mason Way* Report
- Approval of New Degree Programs:
 - PhD in Robotics
 - MS in Artificial Intelligence
- Approval of Degree Program Name Change: BSEd in Early Childhood Education for Diverse Learners to “BSEd in Inclusive Early Childhood Education”
- Approval of Revisions to Faculty Handbook
- Approval of Faculty Actions:
 - Promotion and/or Tenure
 - Conferral of Emeritus/Emerita Status
 - Elections of New Tenured Faculty
 - Special Rank Change
- Adoption of FY25 University Operating Budget, Tuition and Fees
- Approval of Six-Year Capital Plan
- Approval of Land Use Certification

July 25, 2024 – President’s Annual Planning Conference:

The Board engaged with university administration to discuss prioritized elements of the university’s strategic mission. This meeting was held in person, in accordance with the provisions and requirements in the Code of Virginia.

July 26, 2024 – Board of Visitors Annual Meeting:

Regularly scheduled annual meeting of the Board of Visitors, including meeting of the Executive Committee. The Board received a legal overview from University Counsel that included briefings on Virginia FOIA and COIA laws and protocols. The Board met with President Washington in closed session to discuss his evaluation.

Actions:

- Election of Rector
- Election of Vice Rector

- Election of Secretary
- Election of Members-at-Large to the Executive Committee (2)
- Approval of Board Committee Chair and Vice Chair Appointments
- Approval of Board Committee Appointments
- Approval of update to Board Electronic Meeting Policy
- Approval of Classified Information Access Resolution
- Approval of Faculty Actions: Election of New Tenured Faculty
- Approval of President Washington’s Performance Bonus
- Approval of Base Salary Increase for President Washington

September 17, 2024:

Special meetings of two committees of the board in preparation for the regularly scheduled full board meeting on September 26.

- Finance and Land Use Committee
 - Actions (approved to bring to the full board):
 - University Debt Policy Update
 - University Investment Policy Update
 - Affirmation of State Six-Year Operating Plan
 - Revocation of Prior Cricket Authorization
- Academic Programs, Diversity, and University Community Committee
 - Actions (approved to bring to the full board):
 - New Degree Programs:
 - MS Behavior Analysis
 - PhD in Cyber Security Engineering
 - Faculty Actions: Conferral of Emeritus/Emerita Status

September 26, 2024:

Regularly scheduled sessions of the full board and all standing committees (Audit, Risk, and Compliance Committee; Development Committee; Executive Committee; Research Committee).

Actions:

- Approval of President Gregory Washington’s FY25 Presidential Goals
- Adoption of Emergency Operations Plan
- Approval of New Degree Programs:
 - MS Behavior Analysis
 - PhD in Cyber Security Engineering
- Faculty Actions: Conferral of Emeritus/Emerita Status
- Approval of University Debt Policy Update
- Approval of University Investment Policy Update
- Affirmation of State Six-Year Operating Plan
- Revocation of Prior Cricket Authorization
- Approval of Honorary Degree Recipients

November 19, 2024:

Special meetings of two committees of the board in preparation for the regularly scheduled full board meeting on December 5.

- Audit, Risk and Compliance Committee
 - Actions:
 - Approval of Office of Audit and Compliance Charter
- Academic Programs, Diversity, and University Community Committee
 - Actions (approved to bring to the full board):
 - New Degree Programs:
 - MEd in Elementary Education
 - MEd in Secondary Education
 - Faculty Actions: Conferral of Emeritus/Emerita Status

December 5, 2024:

Regularly scheduled sessions of the full board and all standing committees (Development Committee; Executive Committee; Finance and Land Use Committee; Research Committee).

Actions:

- Revision and Repeal of University Regulations
- Approval of New Degree Programs:
 - MEd in Elementary Education
 - MEd in Secondary Education
- Faculty Actions: Conferral of Emeritus/Emerita Status
- Adoption of Kalven Committee Principles on Institutional Neutrality
- Approval of Schematic Design for Basketball and Academic Performance Center

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