

George Mason University Board of Visitors 2025 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 2025.

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 approved a revision of their bylaws at the August 1 meeting.

The Board of Visitors met with President Gregory Washington in closed session on August 1, 2025, to discuss his evaluation. A consensus of the Board was not reached.

During 2025, the Board of Visitors held the following meetings and took the following actions:

February 13:

Scheduled sessions of the Academic Programs, Diversity, and University Community Committee and the Finance and Land Use Committee met in preparation for the February 27 full board meeting.

- Academic Programs, Diversity, and University Community Committee
 - Actions (approved to bring to the full board):
 - Approval of Program Actions: Degree Program Closure: MS Marketing
 - Approval of Faculty Actions: Conferral of Emeritus/Emerita Status
 - Approval of Faculty Actions: Elections of New Tenured Faculty
 - Adoption of Antisemitism Resolution
- Finance and Land Use Committee
 - Actions (approved to bring to the full board):
 - FY 2026 Room and Board Rates

February 27, 2025:

Scheduled sessions of the full board and standing committees (Executive, Audit, Risk, and Compliance, Research, and Development). Note that the Academic Programs, Diversity, and University Community Committee and the Finance and Land Use Committee met on February 13 in preparation for this meeting.

Actions:

- Approval of Program Actions: Degree Program Closure: MS Marketing
- Approval of Faculty Actions: Conferral of Emeritus/Emerita Status
- Approval of Faculty Actions: Elections of New Tenured Faculty
- Adoption of Antisemitism Resolution
- Approval of FY 2026 Room and Board Rates

April 1, 2025:

Meeting of the full board for the purpose of receiving public comment on tuition and mandatory fees, per the Code of Virginia § 23.1-307. In addition to the public comment session, the Board took the following actions:

- Approval of Honorary Degree Recipients
- Approval of Mason Medal Recipients
- Approval of Organizational Change: Renaming the School of Computing to the Long Nguyen and Kimmy Duong School of Computing
- Approval of Personnel Matter
- Approval of Investigation Matter

April 1, 2025 – Continuing Education Session:

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, in consultation with SCHEV, with a presentation by Dr. William E. Troutt of the Association of Governing Boards (AGB). No actions taken.

April 10:

A scheduled session of the Finance and Land Use Committee met in preparation for the May 1 full board meeting.

- Finance and Land Use Committee
 - Actions (approved to bring to the full board):
 - Approval of Land Use Certification
 - Approval of SciTech Dominion Transmission Easement
 - Adoption of FY26 University Operating Budget, Tuition and Fees
 - Approval of Six-Year Capital Plan

April 17:

Special full board meeting to address the committee assignments of newly appointed members.

Action

- Approval of Board Committee Appointments of newly appointed members

April 17:

Scheduled sessions of the Academic Programs, Diversity, and University Community Committee and the Development Committee met in preparation for the May 1 full board meeting. No actions were taken in the Development Committee.

- Academic Programs, Diversity, and University Community Committee
 - Actions (approved to bring to the full board):
 - Approval of Revisions to Faculty Handbook
 - Approval of Faculty Actions: Promotion and/or Tenure
 - Approval of Faculty Actions: Conferral of Emeritus/Emerita Status
 - Approval of Faculty Actions: Elections of New Tenured Faculty
 - Approval of Faculty Actions: Special Rank Change

May 1, 2025:

Scheduled session of the full board and standing committees (Executive, Research, and Audit, Risk, and Compliance). Note that the Finance and Land Use Committee met on April 10 and the Academic Programs, Diversity, and University Community Committee and Development Committee met on April 17 in preparation for this meeting.

Actions:

- Approval of Board of Visitors Meeting Schedule for 2025-2026
- Approval of Board of Visitors Meeting Schedule for 2026-2027
- Approval of University Policy 4030: Name, Image, and Likeness Intercollegiate Athletics (Code of VA: §23.1-408.1)
- Adoption of FY26 University Operating Budget, Tuition and Fees
- Approval of Six-Year Capital Plan
- Approval of Land Use Certification
- Approval of SciTech Dominion Transmission Easement
- Approval of Revisions to Faculty Handbook
- Approval of Faculty Actions: Promotion and/or Tenure
- Approval of Faculty Actions: Conferral of Emeritus/Emerita Status
- Approval of Faculty Actions: Elections of New Tenured Faculty
- Approval of Faculty Actions: Special Rank Change
- Adoption of Real Estate Resolution

July 31, 2025 – President’s Annual Planning Conference:

The Board engaged with university administration and senior leaders to discuss various components of the university’s strategic mission. This meeting was held in person in accordance with the provisions and requirements in the Code of Virginia.

August 1, 2025 – Board of Visitors Annual Meeting:

Regularly scheduled annual meeting of the Board of Visitors. Pursuant to the president’s contract, the Board met with President Washington in closed session specific to his evaluation. Additionally, members received a legal overview from University Counsel on Virginia FOIA and COIA laws and protocols.

Actions:

- Approval of Board Electronic Meeting Policy
- Approval of Revised Bylaws, including the name change of the Academic Programs, Diversity, and University Community Committee to the Academic Affairs Committee
- Approval of Election of Members-at-Large to the Executive Committee (2)
- Approval of Board Committee Chair and Vice Chair Appointments
- Approval of Board Committee Appointments
- Adoption of Resolution of George Mason University Regarding Merit-Based Excellence, Student Opportunity and Freedom From Discrimination
- Adoption of Classified Information Access Resolution
- Approval of Faculty Actions: Election of New Tenured Faculty
- Adoption of the Law School Foundation Resolution
- Approval of State-mandated Increase in Base Salary for President Washington

September 10, 2025:

Scheduled session of the Academic Affairs Committee met in preparation for the September 25 Executive Committee meeting.

- Academic Affairs Committee
 - Actions (approved to bring to the Executive Committee):
 - Approval of Organizational Change: College of Education and Human Development: Replacing School of Education, School of Kinesiology, and the School of Sport, Recreation, and Tourism Management with four (4) new departments:
 - Department of Special Education and Disability Research;
 - Department of Teaching and Learning;
 - Department of Kinesiology, Sport, and Hospitality Management; and
 - Department of Counseling, Leadership, and Educational Sciences.
 - Approval of Organizational Changes: College of Science: Renaming the Department of Atmospheric, Oceanic, and Earth Sciences to the "J. Shukla Department of Atmospheric, Oceanic, and Earth Sciences."
 - Approval of Closed Degree Program: Taxation MS
 - Approval of Faculty Actions: Conferral of Emeritus/Emerita Status
 - Approval of Faculty Actions: Election of Newly Tenured Faculty

September 25, 2025: Postponed at the direction of Rector Stimson.

Scheduled sessions of the Executive Committee and standing committees with quorums (Finance and Land Use, and Research). Note that the Academic Affairs Committee met on September 10 in preparation for this meeting.

October 15, 2025 – Special Executive Committee Meeting:

Special meeting of the Executive Committee to conduct university business:

Actions:

- Approval of Law School Foundation Affiliation Agreement
- Adoption of Resolution Regarding the Establishment of an Applied Engineering Research Corporation (Patriot Labs 501c3 Organization)
- Adoption of Information Technology Goods and Services Contract Resolution “IT Procurement – Recommended Contractual Language Changes Proposed by the Commonwealth Resolution”
- Approval of Organizational Change: College of Education and Human Development: Replacing School of Education, School of Kinesiology, and the School of Sport, Recreation, and Tourism Management with four (4) new departments:
 - Department of Special Education and Disability Research;
 - Department of Teaching and Learning;
 - Department of Kinesiology, Sport, and Hospitality Management; and
 - Department of Counseling, Leadership, and Educational Sciences.
- Approval of Organizational Change: College of Science: Renaming the Department of Atmospheric, Oceanic, and Earth Sciences to the "J. Shukla Department of Atmospheric, Oceanic, and Earth Sciences."
- Approval of Closed Degree Program: Taxation MS
- Approval of Faculty Actions: Conferral of Emeritus/Emerita Status
- Approval of Faculty Actions: Election of Newly Tenured Faculty

December 4, 2025:

Scheduled sessions of the Executive Committee and standing committees with quorums (Academic Affairs, Finance and Land Use, and Research).

Actions:

- Approval of New Degree Program: MS in Quantum Science and Engineering
- Approval of New Degree Program: PhD in Cybersecurity
- Approval of Organizational Change: College of Public Health: Renaming the “Department of Health Administration and Policy” to the “Department of Health Administration, Policy, and Informatics.”
- Approval of Faculty Actions: Conferral of Emeritus/Emerita Status
- Approval of Faculty Actions: Elections of New Tenured Faculty
- Approval of State Six-Year Operating Plan
- Adoption of the Patriot Labs Affiliation Agreement

Prepared by:

Bridget Higgins
Secretary pro tem