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GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF VISITORS
Academic Affairs Committee

MINUTES
Wednesday, September 10, 2025

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair: Armand Alacbay; Vice Chair: Jeff Rosen; Visitors: Mike Meese; Staff Representatives: Provost Jim Antony, Sharnnia Artis, Rose Pascarell; Faculty Senate President: Solon Simmons; Staff Senate Chair: Rachel Spence; Faculty Representatives: Tim Gibson, Shane Caswell; Student Representatives: Isaiah Grays, Nilima Mow

ALSO PRESENT: Rector Stimson, President Washington

I. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Armand Alacbay at 8:41 a.m.

II. Approval of Minutes (Action Item)

Chairperson Alacbay called for any corrections to the minutes from the April 17, Academic Affairs Committee Meeting. Hearing no corrections, the meeting minutes stood **APPROVED** as written.

III. New Business

A. Provost's Update

James Antony – Provost and Executive Vice President

Provost Antony provided an overview of the degrees awarded during the 2024-2025 academic year and highlighted student move-in and convocation and along with reviewing the academic calendar for the fall semester. He noted George Mason's Silver ranking in the Military Friendly School designation for 2025-2026 and the College of Public Health's recent CEPH Accreditation, making it the first in Virginia. Provost Antony provided student, faculty and staff highlights and reviewed last year's academic priorities as well as outlining several key focus areas for this year:

- Reimagining Student Support
- Strengthening Operational Effectiveness
- Modernizing Resource Allocation

B. Enrollment Update

David Burge – Vice President for Enrollment Management
Alan Byrd – Dean of Admissions

David Burge, Vice President for Enrollment Management, and Alan Byrd, Dean of Admissions, provided an overview of fall semester enrollment. They reported that overall enrollment remained relatively flat, reflecting an increase in undergraduate students offset by a decline in graduate students. A significant decrease in international student enrollment was noted, largely attributed to ongoing challenges in securing visas and visa appointments. This decline was largely balanced by growth in Direct Admissions, particularly initiatives aimed at admitting Northern Virginia high school seniors.

C. Higher Education Budgeting

Provost Antony provided the committee with an update on George Mason University's redesign of its budget allocation model, noting that the effort is intended to improve transparency, align resources with academic priorities, and support strategic planning. He explained that the new all-funds approach integrates tuition, state appropriations, auxiliary enterprises, student fees, research, indirect cost recovery, and philanthropy to provide a comprehensive view of university finances. Under this model, tuition revenue and state appropriations areallocated in a way that provides schools and colleges with budgets reflecting their full range of revenue-generating activities and expenses, and visualized through the educational equivalent of what might be called "profit-and-loss" statements. Provost Antony also discussed how faculty hiring is guided by enrollment trends, academic needs, and research opportunities, while noting that the past year saw more faculty separations than hires. He concluded with a brief overview of the Mason Core.

D. Program Actions and Faculty Actions

Provost Antony provided an overview of both the Program Actions and Faculty Actions.
Chairperson Alacbay called for a **MOTION** to approve the Program Actions and Faculty Actions en bloc; Visitor Meese **MOVED**; Visitor Rosen **SECONDED** the following program actions:

1. College of Education and Human Development Reorganization into 4 departments: 1) Department of Special Education and Disability Research; 2) Department of Teaching and Learning; 3) Department of Kinesiology, Sport, and Hospitality Management; and 4) Department of Counseling, Leadership, and Educational Sciences.
2. Renaming of the College of Science Department of Atmospheric, Oceanic, and Earth Sciences to the J. Shukla Department of Atmospheric, Oceanic, and Earth Sciences
3. Closed Degree Program: MS Taxation
4. Conferral of Emeritus/Emerita Status
5. Election of New Tenured Faculty

MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.
Yes – 3

E. Announcements

Announcements and Reports were acknowledged for the Committee's benefit. No further discussion was held.

IV. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Parnell
Secretary Pro Tem