

**GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY
AUDIT, RISK, AND COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE
OF THE BOARD OF VISITORS**

October 1, 2026

DRAFT

PRESENT: Chair Parks, Vice Chair Spence, Visitor Caswell, Visitor Purvis, Visitor Schindler, and Visitor Taylor

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Rector Shrivastava; President Washington; Visitors Altman, Davis, Moran; Interim VP Chief Audit & Compliance Officer Butler; VP and Chief Risk Officer Dade; Associate Vice President for Institutional Compliance Lacovara; Auditor of Public Accounts Representative Borgerding; Faculty Senate President Simmons; Staff Senate Chair Spence; Undergraduate Student Representative Crouch

I. Call to Order

Chair Parks called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

II. Approval of Minutes

Chair Parks called for any corrections to the minutes of the April 30, 2026 Audit, Risk, and Compliance Committee meeting. Hearing none, the **MINUTES STOOD APPROVED AS WRITTEN.**

III. New Business

Chair Parks called Zach Borgerding, Deputy Auditor, Auditor of Public Accounts, to present.

A. APA Update FY25 Audit

Mr. Borgerding presented the results of the Fiscal Year 2025 Financial Statement Audit. He led the report with good news.

- Concerns raised in April about potential scope limitations and access to records have been resolved.
- Management provided the documentation needed, including invoices, statements of work, and other supporting records.
- Sufficient audit evidence was obtained by September 25.
- Auditors now plan to issue an unmodified audit opinion, concluding that the financial statements are presented fairly in accordance with GAAP.

Mr. Borgerding continued with the status of the Audit Reports and Financial Statement observations.

- Draft report on internal controls and compliance is still being finalized.
- Expected issuance date is late October.
- Management has responded to all findings, generally concurring with the recommendations.
- Ongoing discussions are focused on ensuring the accuracy and appropriate severity classification of findings before the report is finalized.
- Current findings remain in draft form and could be adjusted before issuance.
- Unaudited financial statements were in good condition and required few adjustments.
- Fiscal Services and contributing departments were commended for their work.
- Few changes were needed between the unaudited and audited versions.

The Internal Control and Compliance Findings were reviewed. Mr. Borgerding presented the potential material weaknesses and areas contributing to the findings.

- Auditors currently believe a material weakness in internal controls may exist.
- Management's response was recently received and is being reviewed.
- Auditors noted agreement on several issues and observed constructive corrective actions.
- Ongoing discussions will determine whether the finding remains a material weakness or is reclassified as a significant deficiency.
- Potential conflicts of interest combined with extensive use of noncompetitive subcontractor selections.
- Concerns regarding consultant contracting and oversight, including:
 - Limited detail in invoices.
 - Lack of documented evidence that deliverables were reviewed.
 - Work performed under an expired contract.
- A case where a Principal Investigator (PI) reassignment occurred without required federal sponsor approval.
- Questions surrounding oversight of a major sponsored program and supporting documentation for invoices and deliverables.
- Delays in providing financial records to auditors due to internal review processes before records could be released.
- Auditors emphasized that noncompetitive contracting is not inherently improper but becomes a risk when combined with potential conflicts of interest.
- Some disagreements may stem from differences between actual oversight practices and the documentation available to support those practices.

Mr. Borgerding provided recommendations.

- Conduct a broader review of governance, oversight, and internal control structures.
- Strengthen conflict-of-interest and enterprise risk management programs.
- Ensure consistency of internal controls across divisions.

- Evaluate the control readiness of Patriot Labs before significant operational expansion.
- Continue the recent pause or slowdown in implementation activities until key control structures are established.

Additional Cybersecurity findings and technical reviews were presented.

- A previously identified information security issue was reassessed.
- After discussion with ITS, auditors concluded the issue did not rise to the level of a reportable deficiency.
- The finding will not be included in the final report.
- Multiple technical and security awareness reviews resulted in no findings, which auditors highlighted as a positive result.

Mr. Borgerding concluded with the following observations.

- The past two audit cycles have been challenging for both Mason staff and auditors.
- Auditors indicated that the University is moving in a more positive direction.
- Both management and auditors share the goal of achieving more timely audit completion and reporting.
- Timely issuance is important so leadership receives relevant information and staff can focus on current-year operations rather than resolving prior-year audit issues.
- Ongoing discussions are focused on improving the audit process and maintaining that progress.
- Auditors emphasized that although staff may feel constantly under audit, a new Research and Development (R&D) audit is beginning.
- The kickoff meeting is scheduled for the current or following week.
- The R&D program is selected as a major federal program for Commonwealth review approximately once every three years.
- The audit will focus on institutions responsible for the majority of the Commonwealth's research activity.
- Auditors hope to reduce some testing procedures because of work already completed during the financial statement audit.
- Leadership was informed so they are aware that this additional audit activity is beginning.

Discussion

Chair Parks opened the floor for discussion.

The Committee engaged in a detailed discussion regarding whether the audit finding should be classified as a material weakness or a significant deficiency. Mr. Borgerding stated that the finding reflects control deficiencies that create a reasonable possibility of

material misstatement and cited concerns involving conflicts of interest, prior oversight issues, and inadequate documentation supporting certain expenditures.

Several Committee members, including Visitor Purvis, President Washington, and Visitor Moran, questioned whether the evidence supports a material weakness designation. They noted that no fraud, misconduct, financial misstatement, or actual conflict of interest was identified, argued that much of the financial activity cited occurred in prior years, and emphasized that FY2025 activity represents a small portion of the University's overall budget. They suggested the issues may be more appropriately categorized as a significant deficiency and cautioned against overstating the risk.

Mr. Borgerding maintained that the finding is based on the current state of internal controls and broader institutional risk, not solely on past transactions. He acknowledged that management's recent corrective-action response appears promising but remains under review. The discussion also clarified the role of the Office of the State Auditor as the University's independent external auditor and addressed concerns regarding auditor independence, materiality, and the distinction between procedural control issues and evidence of wrongdoing. The discussion concluded with appreciation for the auditor's work and an acknowledgment that corrective actions are underway.

Chair Parks closed the discussion and thanked Mr. Borgerding for his time and efforts and moved to the next topic.

B. Enterprise Risk Management Update

Dr. Aurali Dade, Chief Risk Officer and Vice President, Enterprise Risk Management, and Interim Vice President, Research, Innovation, and Economic Impact, introduced Whitney Owen, Vice President for Strategy and Transformation, Special Advisor to the President, to provide a brief presentation to demonstrate how enterprise risk strategy is being linked into all other strategies, the president's goals, strategic direction, and to discuss this being linked to transformation efforts.

i. Funding Resources

Ms. Owen provided a presentation outlining the University's top risk: funding resources.

- Funding uncertainty is Mason's top enterprise risk, driven by volatility in enrollment, state appropriations, fundraising, and federal research funding.
- The risk is jointly managed by the Provost, CFO, COO, and Chief of Staff.
- The University is pursuing several transformational initiatives to mitigate this risk through:
 - Reducing costs and improving efficiency
 - Implementation of the new budget model (Year 2).
 - Expansion of AI initiatives, including Copilot, AI ambassadors, and workforce upskilling.

- Creation of the Office of Organizational Excellence and Institutional Integrity.
- Increasing enrollment and student success
 - Efforts focused on student retention, graduation rates, corporate partnerships, entrepreneurship, and academic success initiatives.
- Developing new revenue sources
 - Exploring subscription-based funding models.
 - Scaling research activity.
 - Expanding corporate partnerships and entrepreneurship initiatives.
- University leadership recognizes that traditional revenue sources, such as enrollment and state funding, are not growing significantly, making revenue diversification a priority.
- A new strategic roadmap and strategic plan will launch soon to provide the framework for these initiatives and guide the University's next phase of growth and risk mitigation.

Discussion

Chair Parks asked for any discussion. Seeing none he moved to the topic of Audit Reports

IV. Regular Reports

A. Office of University Audit Summary Report

Derek Butler, Interim VP Chief Audit & Compliance Officer, provided the University Audit Summary Report

- Internal Audit issued three audit reports and three memos, with generally positive results.
- Recent audits included Distributed IT, Facilities and Campus Operations, and a Change Process Review.
- An Athletics Risk and Control Workshop was conducted to strengthen risk ownership and management.
- Current reviews include AI Governance, IT Change Management, and Payroll Certification.
- Twelve audit findings remain open, but none are high risk; progress has been made on older outstanding issues.
- Only one high-risk IT issue remains open and is being managed separately.
- Work related to PRC and the Board-supported forensic accounting review remains ongoing.
- An independent FY26 payroll certification review confirmed appropriate time and effort reporting.
- A cross-functional team continues to meet weekly to oversee risks, allegations, investigations, and related reviews.
- One Office of the State Inspector General investigation remains in progress, and several recent investigations were substantiated.

- Overall, audit results were positive, corrective actions are progressing, and ongoing reviews continue to receive close oversight.

Discussion

Mr. Butler asked for any questions seeing none, the floor was given to Vin Lacovara, Associate Vice President for Institutional Compliance.

B. Office of Institutional Compliance Summary Report

Mr. Lacovara presented Office of Institutional Compliance Summary Report.

- The new Patriot Compliance Helpline will launch in January 2027 as the University's anonymous reporting mechanism.
- Extensive outreach is underway, including listening sessions with faculty and staff, to promote awareness and encourage safe reporting without fear of retaliation.
- A new standalone Non-Retaliation Policy has been implemented to support the helpline.
- Work is underway to establish an Organizational Conflict of Interest Policy, with implementation targeted for 2027.
- Recommendations for updates to the University's Code of Ethics will be presented to senior leadership.
- Automated reminders have been implemented for most required employee compliance training modules.
- The University is enhancing its ability to track and report training completion metrics.
- Compliance staff continue to review and strengthen processes related to conflicts of interest, conflicts of commitment, and related investigations.
- Overall, the University is expanding and formalizing its compliance and ethics program to align with peer institutions and strengthen accountability.

Discussion

Mr. Lacovara opened the floor for questions.

Committee members discussed accountability for required training, the effectiveness of compliance initiatives, and the new Patriot Compliance Helpline. President Washington noted that employees who fail to complete required training are subject to established accountability measures, though faculty discipline must follow procedures outlined in the Faculty Handbook. The Faculty Senate has been involved in developing these processes.

In response to questions about risk reduction, Mr. Lacovara stated that reporting levels have remained generally consistent, but they expect the new helpline to increase reporting by providing a confidential avenue for employees who may be reluctant to come forward. Increased reporting is viewed as a positive indicator of awareness and risk management rather than increased misconduct. The helpline will serve as an additional reporting option, while faculty and staff concerns will continue to be addressed through

established University channels, with the compliance office providing support and oversight as appropriate.

V. Adjournment

Chair Parkes adjourned the meeting at 9:55 a.m.

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF VISITORS
Research Committee Meeting
MINUTES
October 1, 2026

Present: Chair Tom Davis, Vice Chair Shawn Purvis, Visitor Bruce Caswell, Visitor Delbert Parks, Vice Rector Anne Altman, Faculty Representative Sarah Wittman, Interim Vice President Aurali Dade, and Secretary pro tem Yellia Seanor

Also Present: Rector Sumeet Shrivastava, President Gregory Washington, Visitor Jim Dyke, Visitor Sean Spencer, Visitor Jim Moran, Faculty Representative Solon Simmons, Staff Liaison Rachel Spence, Student Representative Nilima Mow, and Student Representative Griffin Crouch

The meeting was called to order by Chair Davis at 10:00 a.m.

1. Approval of Minutes (ACTION ITEM)

- a. It was **MOVED** by Visitor Purvis to approve the minutes from April 30, 2026, Research Committee Meeting. Meeting minutes were approved.

2. New Business

- a. **Interim Vice President.** Dr. Aurali Dade introduced herself and shared her experience, leadership approach, and priorities for the Office of Research, Innovation, and Economic Impact as the university conducts a national search for a permanent vice president.
- b. **Funding Activity.** Dr. Dade provided an overview of George Mason University's research funding activity and presented financial and operational data through August 2026.

i. DISCUSSION

1. **President Washington** noted that faculty are to be commended. While expenditure numbers are going down due to a number of issues, the university has continued to be aggressive and write more proposals and have some success in terms of number of awards. It shows a cohort of people who are dedicated to the profession.
2. **Chair Davis asked if the university overperforms in any one area?** Mike Laskofski, Associate Vice President of Research Services, noted that historically the university's research portfolio is diverse in its type and funding mix from sponsors. As a result from changes in the federal government, George Mason faculty have been able to adjust and seek different funding. The university has also shifted to training opportunities.
3. **Chair Davis asked that the Board be notified should faculty conduct controversial research.** Dr. Dade noted that the university has established structured processes with other units to look at proposals.
4. **Visitor Moran asked if the university has received communication from the federal government indicating that they are monitoring projects.** Dr. Dade said there was a recent outreach to several universities regarding foreign influences but that George Mason was not on that list. She noted that the university continues to receive notices and respond on a project-by-project basis.
5. **Visitor Altmann asked if there has been an uptick in partnering with organizations outside government for research?** Dr. Dade shared that faculty have done excellent job looking for other opportunities outside

of government and specifically noted the recent movement in quantum, which aligns with the university's strength and the Grand Challenge Initiative. Advancement is helping to identify additional opportunities. In addition, the Commonwealth has innovation opportunities which are being connected to the right faculty.

- c. **Grand Challenge Initiative.** Dr. Dade highlighted progress made by the inaugural cohort of Grand Challenge Initiative awardees. She noted that the second year of the initiative launched on September 15, continuing to foster interdisciplinary collaboration and solutions-oriented research across the university.

- i. **NO DISCUSSION**

- d. **Quantum Ecosystem.** Dr. Dade provided an overview of George Mason's growing quantum ecosystem, emphasizing the university's expanding leadership in quantum research, workforce development, and innovation. She highlighted George Mason's strategic partnership with TreQ, which builds on the university's *Quantum Leap* initiative and research capacity in quantum science and engineering. She noted that the newly funded GO Virginia Quantum Hub positions George Mason as a key driver of a coordinated statewide effort to establish Virginia as a national leader in quantum technology.

- i. **Chair Davis asked the cost of quantum computer and which other universities in the state have one.** President Washington noted the cost was "about \$8M" and that no other universities in Virginia have a quantum computer.
 - ii. **Rector Shrivastava** shared that shortly after George Mason bought its quantum computer that Fairfax Public Schools announced a similar purchase. He noted that both computers help build a concentration of quantum in the region.
 - iii. **Visitor Moran asked if there was outreach to the War Department on a joint project to subsize the cost.** Dr. Dade noted there are active discussions on how to leverage this investment, research projects, and educational programs to various partners—including the federal government.
 - iv. **Chair Davis** stated that he would like to talk about monetizing quantum at a future meeting.
 - v. **Visitor Altman suggested** that since the founder of TreQ has a background in Energy; it may be easier to work with the Department of Energy and initiate something with them. Dr. Dade stated that the university has a team that talks weekly about how leverage resources to grow more in this space.
- e. **Innovation Ecosystem.** Dr. Dade provided an update on George Mason's innovation ecosystem and efforts to translate research discoveries into economic and societal impact. Highlights included the statewide Lab-to-Launch initiative as well as the university's innovation corridor spanning all three campuses and anchored by Fuse at Mason Square and Nexus234. She noted continued growth in George Mason's patent portfolio, invention disclosures, and commercialization pipeline.
 - i. **Chair Davis asked what was doing to promote innovation.** Dr. Dade identified Paula Sorrell and David Grossman who lead a team that conducts direct outreach to companies that might want to license the university's technology. Dr. Dade also said a deeper discussion will occur during a future Research Committee meeting.

3. **Adjournment**

With no further comments or items of discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 10:31 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Yellia Seanor
Research Committee Secretary

**George Mason University Board of Visitors
Development Committee Meeting Minutes for Approval
October 1, 2026
11:00 AM – 11:51 AM
Merten Hall, Fairfax Campus**

Attendees: Chair Jennifer Taylor, Vice Chair Jim Dyke, Vice Rector Anne Altman, Visitor Tom Davis, Visitor Delbert Parks

Absent: Visitor Jon Peterson

Guests: President Gregory Washington; Visitor Jim Moran; Associate Vice President of Development Lauren Bird; Nicole Pozinsky, Secretary Pro Tem; Shannon Davis, Faculty Representative; Niki Vlastara, Faculty Representative; Nilima Mow, graduate student representative; Griffin Crouch, undergraduate student representative, Rachel Spence, staff liaison; Solon Simmons, full board faculty representative; and guest speakers Jenny Herrera, and Dean Edwards.

Call to Order

Chair Jennifer Taylor called the meeting to order at 11 a.m. She reminded participants that the meeting was open to the public and streamed live, and asked Board members who were not members of the Development Committee to limit participation and remain muted until adjournment. Chair Taylor welcomed committee members, the vice chair, and visitors, and previewed updates from the George Mason University Foundation (GMUF), University Advancement and Alumni Relations, and the College of Science regarding George Mason's quantum platform.

Approval of Development Committee Meeting Minutes (ACTION ITEM)

Chair Taylor called for corrections to the committee meeting minutes included in the pre-read materials. There being no corrections, the minutes were **APPROVED AS WRITTEN**.

New Business

George Mason University Foundation Update – GMUF Chair Jenny Herrera

Chair Jenny Herrera reported that the Board of Trustees began the new fiscal year focused on expanding engagement, maintaining strong stewardship, and advancing George Mason's priorities. The Foundation's committees were meeting in advance of the next full board meeting, and the Board welcomed nine new trustees and a new dean representative.

Chair Herrera outlined three priorities for the current board cycle: leveraging trustee networks to support the campaign and university priorities; maintaining rigorous financial oversight; and supporting new trustees while preparing for the next nomination cycle. She reported that the

endowment closed June 30 at \$299.6 million, compared with \$257 million one year earlier, and returned 17.5 percent for the year.

She recognized Foundation Secretary Michael Gallagher for his university service, philanthropy, and use of his international network to expand George Mason's relationships and visibility. She cited his support for Mason Korea, the Costello College of Business, and the Student Emergency Fund, as well as his service on the Mason Korea U.S. Advisory Board.

In discussion, President Gregory Washington welcomed the endowment results. In response to a question raised by Visitor Parks, Vice Chair Colin Hart explained that the Foundation had posted double-digit returns for four consecutive years while maintaining a more conservative, diversified portfolio than the S&P 500. Vice Chair Jim Dyke encouraged the Foundation to broaden representation from across the Commonwealth and requested information on trustees' geographic distribution. Herrera agreed that geographic and professional diversity are important considerations in the nomination process, and noted the geographic and professional diversity of the current board.

University Advancement and Alumni Relations Update – Associate Vice President (AVP) of Development, Lauren Bird

AVP Lauren Bird stated that the meeting agenda reflected the Board's request for greater focus on strategic priorities and issues of greatest importance to George Mason. She directed members to the written report for a fuller summary of Advancement activities and highlighted several areas of momentum.

Bird reported that the Mason Now: Power the Possible campaign had surpassed \$688 million toward its \$1 billion goal, with support across colleges, schools, Athletics, and Central Advancement. She highlighted a transformational gift supporting the Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship in the Costello College of Business, as well as donor support for public health, law, the arts, humanities, libraries, and student success priorities.

Bird reported that Advancement added three discovery officers to identify and qualify new prospects and connect them with university priorities. She also highlighted continued growth in corporate engagement, including work with TreQ to bring an open-architecture quantum computing system to George Mason and expanding discussions with Microsoft regarding a broader partnership spanning research, learning experiences, operations, and economic impact. Alumni engagement remained strong through local and national outreach initiatives.

Virginia Quantum Hub and George Mason's Quantum Platform – Dean Edwards

Cody Edwards, dean of the College of Science, presented quantum science and engineering as a potentially transformational opportunity for George Mason and the Commonwealth. He described the Virginia Quantum Hub as a connected ecosystem built around five elements: talent, research, infrastructure, partners, and capital. He emphasized that George Mason had spent nearly a decade assembling these components and was positioned to serve as the hub's anchor and convener.

Dean Edwards highlighted existing assets and progress, including the operational Quantum Science and Engineering Center; Virginia's first Master of Science in Quantum Engineering, developed in response to industry workforce needs; a partnership bringing an open-architecture quantum computing system to George Mason; and a \$3.7 million investment from the Commonwealth to begin scaling these assets into a broader platform.

He stated that Northern Virginia's concentration of federal agencies, national security and cybersecurity organizations, technology companies, data infrastructure, and skilled workers provides a strong foundation for this effort. The platform could advance research competitiveness, workforce development, national security partnerships, economic development, reputation, student opportunity, and external revenue.

The dean emphasized that no single funding source should build the next phase of the hub. Instead, public, private, federal, and philanthropic investments should reinforce one another. He framed the central planning question as which investments over the next three to five years would create a durable platform with distinctive capabilities and measurable external value. Committee discussion centered on the need for partnerships, public investment, a coordinated communications strategy, workforce development, and broader collaboration.

Vice Rector Altman encouraged targeted engagement with major industry partners and sustained communications that explain expected outcomes and keep George Mason visible. Vice Chair Dyke encouraged strong outreach to the Governor's Office, General Assembly, Virginia Chamber of Commerce, and statewide business community, and asked for concise talking points that Board members could use in external conversations.

President Washington directed university staff to work with Board members and Dean Edwards to develop an executable outreach plan, including a schedule, measurable activities, and sustained engagement. Chair Taylor requested a concise, accessible explanation of why quantum is at an inflection point, why it matters, how different partners benefit, and what actions are needed. Members emphasized that the materials should use clear, brief language and support a consistent communications "drumbeat" across channels.

Additional discussion addressed workforce and academic implications. Participants encouraged George Mason to define future workforce needs, connect quantum initiatives to statewide economic and energy priorities, and build partnerships with school systems, businesses, and other universities. Dean Edwards reported ongoing engagement with Virginia Tech and Jefferson Lab and noted that the hub was intended as a platform for multiple universities. In response to full-board faculty representative Simmons' question on quantum faculty investment over the next three to five years, Dean Edwards described current and planned investments in cross-college faculty appointments, an endowed professorship search, industry experts working with students, new courses and programs, and experiential learning opportunities using the open-architecture system.

Dean Edwards concluded that George Mason has an opportunity to anchor a Commonwealth-scale platform connecting talent, research, infrastructure, industry, and investment. Chair Taylor

stated that she would share the opportunity and future calls to action with the Northern Virginia Technology Council and its Board of Directors.

Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, Chair Taylor adjourned the meeting at 11:51 a.m.

**BOARD OF VISITORS
GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY**

**Full Board Meeting
Thursday, October 1, 2026
Merten Hall, Hazel Conference Room (1201), Fairfax Campus**

MINUTES

PRESENT: Rector Sumeet Shrivastava, Vice Rector Anne Altman, Visitors Armand Alacbay, Bruce Caswell, Thomas Davis, James Dyke, Trevor Montano, James Moran, Delbert Parks, Shawn Purvis, Jeffrey Rosen, George Schindler, Sean Spence, and Jennifer Taylor.

ABSENT: Secretary Paul Misener and Visitor Jon Peterson.

ALSO PRESENT: Rachel Spence, Staff Representative; Solon Simmons, Faculty Representative; Nilima Mow, Graduate Student Representative; Griffin Crouch, Undergraduate Student Representative; Gregory Washington, President; Rose Pascarell, Executive Vice President and Chief of Staff; Marion Underwood, Provost and Executive Vice President; David Drummey, Interim University Counsel; and Bridget Higgins, Secretary pro tem.

I. Call to Order

Rector Shrivastava called the meeting to order at 12:46 p.m.

II. Approval of the Minutes

- A. Planning Conference on July 30, 2026 (ACTION ITEM)
- B. Annual Full Board Meeting on July 31, 2026 (ACTION ITEM)

Rector Shrivastava called for corrections to the Full Board Meeting Minutes for July 30, 2026, and the Annual Full Board Meeting Minutes for July 31, 2026 provided for review in the meeting materials. Hearing no corrections, the meeting minutes stood **APPROVED AS WRITTEN**.

III. Rector's Report

Rector Shrivastava began by reflecting on the boldness of George Mason University as an institution willing to compete at the highest levels. He connected his remarks to Dr. Washington's Bold Bets framework and highlighted three recent events:

- The Grand Challenge Initiative Exchange celebrated its first year by showcasing the results of multidisciplinary collaboration across faculty, staff, industry, and community partners in tackling complex problems.
- A Washington Post Live event convened Mason leaders with quantum computing policy and industry leaders, establishing Mason's place at the forefront of this emerging field.
- Mason was awarded an \$80 million contract to lead consortium efforts supporting complex national security challenges in the aerospace and space asset sector, much of which is anchored in Mason's Innovation District at Fuse.

Rector Shrivastava concluded by reminding the Board of upcoming events and solicited honorary degree nominations for review and potential consideration at the December 3 full board meeting.

IV. President's Report

Dr. Washington began by stating that last year set records for the university which provides time to prepare for significant challenges that will require decisive action. Key highlights include:

- The university starts from a position of strength.
 - Undergraduate enrollment growth and fundraising targets were met despite a difficult environment.
 - Record levels of state-provided resources.
 - Total debt continues to decline, providing some financial flexibility.
 - New initiatives were launched: Grand Challenge and AI Initiatives and Nexus234.
 - Mason was designated as one of 21 nationally recognized Carnegie R1 Opportunity Schools, reflecting excellence in both access and graduate outcomes.
- Four shocks (demographic, political, financial, and technological) are reinforcing one another and that puts the strength at risk.
 - Dr. Washington presented data on four major revenue streams: net tuition and fees, state appropriations, auxiliary enterprises, and grants and contracts, all of which are flat to declining, while compensation costs continue to rise.
 - International enrollment and new student applications are in decline.
 - Research expenditures remain reduced, though faculty continue to pursue new proposals and awards.
- Mason's response to these challenges are:
 - Five leadership priorities that will bridge the current strategic plan to the next version launching in spring 2027:
 1. Student success and academic pathways. Dr. Washington detailed the progress of several initiatives: a program viability framework through the Reimagining Education through the Doctorate (RED) task forces, improving retention through predictive tracking and success management using existing data, and identifying best-fit 3-year bachelors programs while acknowledging accreditation and curricular constraints.
 2. AI everywhere, responsibly. A framework is in place for students, faculty, and staff to have access to over 1,000 models. Mason will prepare graduates for future employment in an AI world.
 3. Research, innovation, and enterprise.
 4. Resource attainment and fiscal sustainability.
 5. People, culture, and execution capacity.
 - Eight Bold Bets discussed at the July Planning Conference are progressing with leads and teams identified.

President Washington concluded by discussing additional priorities: an enterprise-wide budget management and forecasting framework, General Assembly engagement, enrollment management, deeper Microsoft integration, and leadership transition and development. Monthly updates on these priorities and the Bold Bets will be provided to the Board.

Discussion ensued.

Visitor Davis asked about the university's approach to online classes for degrees and certificates. Dr. Washington responded that 25-30% of classes are integrated online but not as a stand-alone college. Individual schools could choose online courses as a growth opportunity using the current infrastructure.

Visitor Spence inquired how the university is managing the internal communications surrounding the news on quantum computing, as one of the public comments wondered if money spent on quantum might be better used elsewhere. Dr. Washington commented that the university needs to do better with highlighting how resources are being spent and how they benefit students. Removing a resource might not support the university's mission to provide opportunities for students. Enterprise-wide budgeting will help university leaders better understand how money is being spent across three operating budgets.

Visitor Montano invited Dr. Washington to describe Mason's most recent U.S. News & World Report rankings. Dr. Washington explained that the university's rank overall went down, which was expected following a big effort two years ago to jump from the 100s to 50s. Mason's peers adjusted to our new position. A similar effort would come at a significant cost. Mason would have to decide if it is worth the investment for a major ad campaign as it competes with other institutions that are better funded.

Rector Shrivastava asked which student population had the largest retention issues. Dr. Washington described that using data from test results, registration, financial aid can provide early detection of a struggling student which would help with retention.

Rector Shrivastava asked about feedback from Mason's supported AI models. Dr. Washington reported that the university has received a range of responses but emphasized the importance of providing the tools people are the most comfortable with. If someone chooses to not use a tool that the university supports, they need to understand how they may not be protected with third party options.

Griffin Crouch stated that while a high number of students have tried AI, not all of them continue to use it. He asked if it is worth making the investment and suggested that AI feedback be provided at a future meeting. Dr. Washington agreed to provide data on Copilot usage but noted that a tool may work for some but not for others.

Nilima Mow asked if the university had a strategy to attract international students that are already in the country. David Burge, Senior Vice President for Enrollment Management and Student Achievement, replied that the university utilizes price discounting, partnerships with international institutions, and Mason Korea, but it is a shrinking market. Visitor Spence followed by asking about the constraints for international students. Mr. Burge defined two issues: visa constraints and travel bans. Dr. Simmons continued by asking if there was a collective response of higher education institutions with a national message to explain that higher education is an export industry for the country. Dr. Washington replied that the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities (APLU) and the American Council on Education (ACE) are working on such a message, but universities are not accustomed to view itself as an industry and that needs to improve. The country will soon see the impacts of losing international students that support the demands of our science and engineering economy. Ms. Spence, in her role as Academic Manager of International Partnerships, replied that NAFSA, the Association of International Educators trade group reported on the impact of these restrictions and added that the Departments of Commerce and State considers education as an export. Messaging is happening but has not had an impact. Ms. Mow advocated for international students that are currently living in the country, many who do not feel safe in their current institutions.

Visitor Moran asked where current international students are attending. Dr. Washington identified Canada and Europe as receiving most of those students, but their institutions cannot currently accommodate them all. Many students in India and China are choosing to study in their own countries. The U.S. is missing out on their talent and will be a detriment creating competition against U.S. companies.

V. Committee Reports

A. Athletics Committee

Chair Montano provided a summary of the Athletics Committee meeting on September 16, including presentations from the Women's Basketball Head Coach, Vanessa Blair-Lewis; Director of Athletics, Marvin Lewis; and Faculty Athletic Representative, Dominique Banville.

B. Academic Affairs Committee

1. New Business

a. Faculty Actions

i. Election of New Tenured Faculty (ACTION ITEM)

ii. Conferral of Emeritus/Emerita Status (ACTION ITEM)

Chair Schindler reported on the Academic Affairs Committee meeting that met on September 16, providing a summary of the presentations received from Provost Marion Underwood; Senior Vice President for Enrollment Management and Student Achievement, David Burge; and Vice President and Chief AI Officer, Amarda Shehu.

Chair Schindler **MOVED** that the Board approve the following action items as provided in the meeting materials:

- Faculty Action: Election of New Tenured Faculty
- Faculty Action: Conferral of Emeritus/Emerita Status

The motion was **SECONDED** by Visitor Spence.

The **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY ROLL CALL VOTE.**

Yes: 14

Absent: Secretary Misener and Visitor Peterson.

- C. Finance and Land Use Committee
 - 1. Financial Matters
 - a. State Six-Year Operating Plan (ACTION ITEM)

Vice Chair Caswell reported on the Finance and Land Use Committee meeting that met on September 16, providing a summary of the presentation received from Dan Stephens, Interim Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer.

Visitor Caswell **MOVED** that the Board approve the following action item as provided in the meeting materials:

- State Six-Year Operating Plan

The motion was **SECONDED** by Visitor Spence.

The **MOTION CARRIED BY ROLL CALL VOTE.**

Yes: 13

Abstain: Visitor Rosen

Absent: Secretary Misener and Visitor Peterson.

- D. Audit, Risk, and Compliance Committee

Chair Parks reported on the Audit, Risk, and Compliance Committee meeting, providing a summary of the presentations received from Deputy Auditor, Auditor of Public Accounts, Zach Borgerding; Interim Vice President of Chief Audit and Compliance Officer, Derek Butler; and Vice President of Strategy and Transformation, Whitney Owen.

- E. Research Committee

Chair Davis reported on the Research Committee meeting, providing a summary of the presentation received from Interim Vice President for Research, Innovation, and Economic Impact, Aurali Dade.

- F. Development Committee

Chair Taylor reported on the Development Committee meeting, providing a summary of the presentations received from George Mason University Foundation Chair, Jenny Herrera, Associate Vice President for Development, Lauren Bird, and Dean of the College of Science, Cody Edwards.

VI. Closed Session

- A. Acquisition of Real Property (Code of VA: §2.2-3711.A.3)
- B. Consultation with Legal Counsel pertaining to actual or probable litigation (Code of VA: §2.2-3711.A.7)
- C. Consultation with Legal Counsel regarding the aforementioned items (Code of VA: §2.2-3711.A.8)
- D. Personnel Matter (Code of VA: §2.2-3711.A.1)

Vice Rector Altman **MOVED** that the Board go into Closed Session under the provisions of:

- Section 2.2-3711.A.3 for discussion of the acquisition of Real Property;
- Section 2.2-3711.A.7 for Consultation with legal counsel pertaining to actual or probable litigation
- Section 2.2-3711.A.8 for consultation with legal counsel regarding the aforementioned items and federal investigations.
- Section 2.2-3711.A.1 for Personnel Matters.

The motion was **SECONDED** by Visitor Davis. **MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE.**

Following closed session, Vice Rector Altman **MOVED** that the Board go back into public session and further moved that by roll call vote the Board affirm that only public business matters lawfully exempted from the open meeting requirements under the Freedom of Information Act were heard, discussed or considered in the closed meeting, and that only such business matters that were identified in the motion to go into a closed meeting were heard, discussed or considered in the closed meeting. Any member of the Board who believes that there was a departure from the requirements as stated, shall so state prior to taking the roll call, indicating the substance of the departure that, in his or her judgment, has taken place. **ALL PRESENT BOARD MEMBERS RESPONDED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE BY ROLL CALL VOTE.**

Yes: 14

Absent: Secretary Misener and Visitor Peterson.

VII. Recess

Rector Shrivastava asked if there was any additional business to come before the Board. Hearing none, the meeting was recessed at 2:47 p.m.

Bridget Higgins
Secretary pro tem

Attachment 1: Public Comments (11 Pages)

Public Comments
Received for October 1 Full Board Meeting
As of 9/30/26 4:30 p.m.

Full Name:	Mason Affiliation	Written Comment
Evelyn Johnston	Student	Hello, I'm a senior at George Mason University, and I don't believe that there is enough housing at George Mason. Housing allows students to centralize on campus which limits transportation costs, allows students with mobility issues to access campus easier, stimulates campus life, and gives students access to reliable housing in an area with a criminally high cost of living. I've had the opportunity to live on campus all four years of my schooling and there is a noticeable difference in the quality of education received by commuters and non-commuters. Our non-traditional campus life is a detriment to enrollment - we don't have traditional campus life, and it makes people take us as a university less seriously. It doesn't devalue my education, but it does devalue my degree. Please consider building the additional housing. We need it.
Robinette Washburn	Student	My name is Robin Washburn, I'm a representative in Student Government and an undergraduate student here. Coming from out of state, I was remiss this year when the already-high tuition was raised even more. This comes at the same time this university continually spends millions on AI development, including chiefly PatriotAI (which I have never, in all my years of government and class, heard anything good about). Therefore, I would be very happy if the Board chose to redirect the millions we spend on AI and AI research to lowering tuition rates, especially for out-of-state students.
Anonymous	Student	I am speaking as an international student enrolled in the Schar School pursuing a degree in Government and International Politics. I am concerned about changes to F-1 student visa guidelines. Due to CPT changes and restriction on academic programs, it is less appealing to continue my education in the United States, even when I was considering the option of getting my Masters through the BAM program. I would like to know how the university is preparing to support international students.
John Fedor	Student	I am a sophomore majoring in sports management here at GMU. I walk to all my classes, as I live on campus. This isn't too much of an annoyance, but I think we need to make sure the walking and biking lanes are more noticeable. Far too often walkers walk in the bike lane and vice versa(I'm talking about the lanes near the Johnson Center). There are signs there but I feel like not a lot of people actually follow them. All I request is an easier way for people to follow the rules. I don't want to be in the walking lane worrying about bikers and scooters.
spencer gulich	Student	we should have a visiting filmmaker show their film at university mall or cinema arts and make it open to the public

Madison Quick	Student	<p>Hello, my name is Madison Quick and I'm a senior studying Government and International Politics, and I am a student employee on-campus. I have struggled to make enough money to afford groceries and other necessities, despite earning \$14 an hour and working as many hours as I can at my job at Student Centers, due to the increased cost of living. As a result, I have constantly felt burnt out throughout my time at George Mason University, stressed about money and struggling to find enough time to complete homework assignments. As such, I am writing to you to ask you to reconsider university policies regarding student wages and hours to relieve financial stress for students so that they can focus on their academics and well-being.</p>
Grayson Kelley	Student	<p>I am a Senior at George Mason University majoring in Government and International Politics with double minors in Legal Studies and American Sign Language. A problem I've faced consistently while registering for classes is that the 15-credit flat rate limit doesn't accommodate for 4 credit courses such as ASL courses. I've had to choose between the additional fee associated with taking 16 credits or choosing to drop a course and take only 4 classes in a semester. The latter option in turn creates additional problems, such as delaying graduation timelines, missing out on courses only offered in one semester, and still costs me the same as my peers taking five 3-credit courses. I would suggest that allowing for 16 credits within the flat rate would maintain the university's financial interests and benefit students. As an ASL student this would allow me to take my 4 credit ASL classes and take 4 other government courses. But this would also benefit STEM students who are taking labs which suffer from the same problem of being 4 credits. As the system currently stands it actively punishes students in STEM and discourages students from registering for the incredible ASL program offered here. For these reasons I hope you will consider modifying the flat rate to be 12-16 credits. Thank you.</p>
Austin David Crockett	Alumni	<p>Allow more European events like Oktoberfest not some dirty Islamic nonsense and remove foot washing stations at the bathroom. There are showers for that and it's a public restroom not a place for Muslims. #TRUMP2028</p>

Concerned Students	Concerned Students	<p>GMU is spending more than \$70,000 a year on at least 16 Flock cameras across the Fairfax and SciTech campuses. Flock cameras are ALPRs: automated license plate readers that persistently surveil the environment that they are placed in. They create an expansive, national, and private network of motor vehicles that has been used to:</p> <p>Aid ICE in their inhumane deportation machine;</p> <p>Track people seeking reproductive care across state lines;</p> <p>Surveil activists who speak out against the federal government;</p> <p>And more.</p> <p>These cameras are not secure: we do not know where our data is going, what it's being used for, who is watching us, and what else Flock is up to. This endangers all of us, especially undocumented and international students, who are already under attack from the Trump administration. To keep our community safe, we demand that:</p> <p>GMU PD ends their contract with Flock Safety;</p> <p>GMU takes down all of the Flock cameras around the Fairfax and SciTech campuses;</p> <p>GMU does not replace Flock cameras with other ALPRs or AI-enabled security cameras.</p> <p>We furthermore demand more transparency from the university when it comes to installing technology around campus. If Flock cameras concern you, if these demands resonate with you, and if you want to fight for a better GMU, we invite you to join us. GMU can be a college that prioritizes what students, faculty, staff, and our community really want – but only if we all organize together.</p>
Ross Ulbricht		<p>There is a situation involving disrupting noises coming from a particular student in Horizon Hall and elsewhere on campus. It involves banging loudly on the table which causes a lot of noise making It difficult for other students to study and nearby classes to be engaging for the professors and students. This behavior has continued to be a problem for many for the past few semesters and it has not been resolved by anyone including Mason staff and faculty. Mason should foster a welcoming atmosphere to learning and failing to address this matter will make it harder for students to succeed and should be urgently addressed.</p>

Ry	Student	<p>Quit banging things on the table. It echoes in the open space and everyone in the building can hear you. Nobody wants to hear it.</p> <p>Common areas are common. Obey the social contract like the rest of us and treat others with respect. When people politely ask you to stop, either stop or move elsewhere. When people shout at you from two floors away, calling you out by your physical appearance and clothing, stop what you are doing or leave. When people start making equally loud noises every time you start up again, take the hint and cut it out. This doesn't expire after ten minutes of being scolded because it fell out of your short-term memory.</p> <p>If you can't understand being told to stop, let alone repeatedly, you aren't mature enough to be on a college campus. Quit banging your phone or battery pack or external hard drive on the table or go somewhere that other people don't have to hear it.</p>
Annabelle Spencer	Student	<p>https://www.theeduledger.com/faculty-staff/article/15832445/inside-george-mason-universitys-largest-college-black-faculty-say-they-are-being-targeted-by-the-dean</p> <p>I am writing to you today in support of Dr. LaNitra Berger and the African American Studies department. I first and foremost encourage all of you to read the article at the link pasted above as well as the official statement on this subject from the GMU chapter of the NAACP. Next, I want to express to you my outrage at the racism and discrimination felt by Dr. Berger and other (named and anonymous) faculty members at the hands of CHSS Dean Ardis as documented in these records. This is an urgent matter that needs attention at the highest levels. At the very least, this board needs to investigate whether proper protocol is being followed to protect faculty as well as students who will undoubtedly suffer from decisions being made. As spelled out in the aforementioned publications, these decisions include but are not limited to the removal of Dr. Berger as head of AAS, the decision to absorb AAS into Integrative Studies as a concentration rather than remaining a department on its own, and the unequal compensation of and/or unequal burdens placed upon faculty members of color for equal work. Even as a PhD student outside of this department specifically, I have witnessed and experienced firsthand Dr. Berger's impact as advising faculty of the Center of Mason Legacies and as AAS director. Just last semester she organized a visit and event with the prolific Thavolia Glymph and a number of students including myself were able to network with her before she gave a lecture on her new work. Just this experience was incalculably valuable for myself and my peers and it is a fact that without Dr. Berger specifically and without AAS being allotted the resources they were, this would have never been possible. Her enrollment numbers are astounding, the personal connections she makes with students across departments and programs are innumerable. In parallel, the AAS department itself (and its standing as a department specifically) is both literally and figuratively important to the academic experience here at Mason and the perception of the university on a national stage. I should not have to (and therefore will not) explain to you the</p>

importance of African American Studies for those within the department and even those who never directly interact with it at all. That said, not only are the dean's actions as substantiated by faculty embarrassing and unacceptable, but demotion of the department to a concentration (not to mention the removal of Dr. Berger as leader) would induct GMU into a class of universities alongside Columbia, the University of Florida, and others who have shamefully sold out their students and faculty for a political fool's errand. I hope that, with the governor's renaissance of this body in the last year, you all will rectify what has been done and that our community can trust you to protect our Black faculty, our Black students, and our reputation as an institution.

Timothy Gibson

Faculty

Dear Rector Shrivastava,

I am writing as a concerned member of the Mason community regarding the African and African American Studies Program (AAAS) and the illegitimate removal of its director, Dr. LaNitra Berger.

When the Dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences (CHSS) removed Dr. Berger as director of AAAS in August, she violated the Faculty Handbook, shared faculty governance, and established procedures governing academic programs. The Dean disregarded the voices of AAAS faculty, faculty votes, and the program's bylaws in attempting to restructure AAAS and displace its director. The manner in which Dr. Berger has been treated has generated outrage and profound concern, particularly among members of Mason students and faculty.

I respectfully ask the Board to intervene, require an independent review, and obtain the complete record concerning the attempted restructuring of AAAS, Dr. Berger's removal, the relevant faculty votes and bylaws, and all communications between the Dean of CHSS and university leadership.

I also urge the Board to preserve AAAS as an independent program and reinstate Dr. Berger. Dr. Berger is an internationally respected scholar, educator, and longtime member of the Mason community. Mason President Washington even recently honored her with the Presidential Medal for Faculty Excellence in Access, Inclusion, and Community. Dr. Berger's scholarship has created important bridges between the Black and Jewish diasporas, and she holds a major leadership role in Northern Virginia's Jewish community as president of the Pozez Jewish Community Center.

It is an outrage that a scholar of this stature, whose work has strengthened both Black and Jewish communities and brought distinction to Mason, could be displaced from the leadership of AAAS in a process that has raised such serious questions about governance, fairness, and due process.

The Board should not allow this to stand. Please investigate what

happened, restore the faculty's voice, preserve AAAS, and take whatever corrective action the record requires.

Respectfully submitted,
Tim Gibson
Associate Professor
Director, Cultural Studies PhD Program

Matthew Kelley

Faculty

Dear Rector Shrivastava,

I am writing as a concerned member of the Mason community regarding the African and African American Studies Program (AAAS) and Dean Ann Ardis's removal of its director, Dr. LaNitra Berger.

Dean Ardis's actions regarding AAAS violated the Faculty Handbook, shared faculty governance, and established procedures governing academic programs. She disregarded the faculty voice, faculty votes, and the program's bylaws in attempting to restructure AAAS and displace its director. The manner in which Dr. Berger has been treated has generated outrage and profound concern, particularly among members of Mason students and faculty.

I respectfully ask the Board to intervene immediately, require an independent review, and obtain the complete record concerning the attempted restructuring of AAAS, Dr. Berger's removal, the relevant faculty votes and bylaws, and all communications involving Dean Ardis and university leadership.

I also urge the Board to preserve AAAS as an independent program and reinstate Dr. Berger. Dr. Berger is an internationally respected scholar, educator, and longtime member of the Mason community. Mason itself recently honored her with its Presidential Medal for Faculty Excellence in Access, Inclusion, and Community. Her scholarship has created important bridges between the Black and Jewish diasporas, and she holds a major leadership role in Northern Virginia's Jewish community as president of the Pozez Jewish Community Center.

It is an outrage that a scholar of this stature, whose work has strengthened both Black and Jewish communities and brought distinction to Mason, could be displaced from the leadership of AAAS in a process that has raised such serious questions about governance, fairness, and due process.

The Board should not allow this to stand. Please investigate what happened, restore the faculty's voice, preserve AAAS, and take whatever corrective action the record requires.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew C. Kelley

Ben Katz	Student	<p>Hi, my name Ben Katz and I'm a senior studying government and international politics. With Georgetown University implementing the U-Pass initiative program in partnership with the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) this year, I would like the Board to reconsider bringing this program to the university. Initial interest for the program was met with skepticism because of the feasibility and cost on the program. But those comments made by the director of parking and transportation Josh Cantor were made three years ago. Since then, the program has not only expanded to a universities that don't directly connect to the metro system, but they also showed the success that comes with their new opt-in model, even with the fees that I believe students around the university would gladly go for. Besides myself, I have many friends who have relied on the metro to commute to job opportunities, classes, or recreational activities. WMATA has also shown a willingness to work with the university, mentioning us in February of this year. I'm disappointed that since its expansion of program options, the Board hasn't reconsidered testing the U-Pass program with our university. I urge the Academics Affairs Committee, the Finance and Land Use Committee, and the Board as a whole to look into partnering with WMATA and getting the opt-in model for the U-Pass Program here at George Mason University.</p>
Valeria Castro-Rivera	Student	<p>I am Valeria Castro-Rivera a student body government representative and commuter student. I am writing to raise concerns about the cost and accessibility of student parking. For many commuter students, parking is necessary to attend class and participate in campus life. Parking permits cost hundreds of dollars per semester, adding a substantial expense on top of tuition, books, and transportation costs. In addition, parking permits do not guarantee an available parking space, and students can spend valuable time searching for parking before class, increasing the likelihood of arriving late to class. Lower-cost options such as West Campus parking can help reduce the financial burden, but they also require students to rely on shuttle transportation to reach main campus. I ask the Board of Visitors to allocate more affordable options for commuters and students facing financial strain and to increase the frequency and availability of West Campus shuttle services. These changes would make campus more accessible and reduce the financial barriers. This initiative would demonstrate Mason's commitment to supporting its commuter population.</p>

Dear Rector Shrivastava,

I am writing as a concerned member of the Mason community regarding the African and African American Studies Program (AAAS) and the illegitimate removal of its director, Dr. LaNitra Berger.

When the Dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences (CHSS) removed Dr. Berger as director of AAAS in August, she violated the Faculty Handbook, shared faculty governance, and established procedures governing academic programs. The Dean disregarded the voices of AAAS faculty, faculty votes, and the program's bylaws in attempting to restructure AAAS and displace its director. The manner in which Dr. Berger has been treated has generated outrage and profound concern, particularly among members of Mason students and faculty.

I respectfully ask the Board to intervene, require an independent review, and obtain the complete record concerning the attempted restructuring of AAAS, Dr. Berger's removal, the relevant faculty votes and bylaws, and all communications between the Dean of CHSS and university leadership.

I also urge the Board to preserve AAAS as an independent program and reinstate Dr. Berger. Dr. Berger is an internationally respected scholar, educator, and longtime member of the Mason community. Mason President Washington even recently honored her with the Presidential Medal for Faculty Excellence in Access, Inclusion, and Community. Dr. Berger's scholarship has created important bridges between the Black and Jewish diasporas, and she holds a major leadership role in Northern Virginia's Jewish community as president of the Pozez Jewish Community Center.

It is an outrage that a scholar of this stature, whose work has strengthened both Black and Jewish communities and brought distinction to Mason, could be displaced from the leadership of AAAS in a process that has raised such serious questions about governance, fairness, and due process.

The Board should not allow this to stand. Please investigate what happened, restore the faculty's voice, preserve AAAS, and take whatever corrective action the record requires.

Respectfully submitted,

Alqasem Hasan	Student	<p>I am Alqasem Hasan, the College of Engineering and Computing (CEC) representative in Student Government. With at least sixteen Flock cameras on campus, I feel that my privacy and safety, as well as those of my peers, are compromised. Flock cameras have been used to track former romantic partners, surveil people exercising their First Amendment rights, support U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement in its inhumane deportations of undocumented community members—including the many undocumented students and community members at George Mason—and track people seeking reproductive health care.</p> <p>As the CEC representative, it is my responsibility to advocate for and represent my fellow students in the college. Part of that responsibility is to communicate my peers’ concerns about the ethical use of technology. It is also my responsibility, as a student majoring in computer science with a concentration in artificial intelligence, to warn against the unethical use of AI and other technologies.</p> <p>Additionally, as a member of Student Government, I am responsible for advocating for my peers’ interests, representing the student body, and serving as a liaison to the administration, faculty, and community. Therefore, I call on the Board to direct GMU Police to end its contract with Flock Safety, remove all Flock cameras from the Fairfax and SciTech campuses, and refrain from replacing Flock cameras with other automated license plate readers (ALPRs) or AI-enabled security cameras.</p>
Prof. John von Bergen	Faculty	<p>Request for Board Review of Masonvale Decision-Making and Legal Expenditures</p> <p>I am a George Mason University faculty member and Masonvale resident requesting Board review of the University's handling of a persistent plumbing-noise condition in my apartment and the administrative and financial decisions that followed.</p> <p>My concern is not with Masonvale's onsite management, which was attentive and investigated the problem. Masonvale Property Manager Charles Massey wrote that the plumbing-noise transmission was “related to the original construction and design of the community,” was “not isolated to your unit alone,” and would be presented to the ownership group for review.</p> <p>Following an inspection in which he personally participated, Mr. Massey wrote on February 25, 2026 that his Asset Manager had indicated that “any decision regarding potential remediation or accommodation should be made by the University as ownership.”</p> <p>Despite months of communication involving multiple University offices, I was never able to identify who at GMU was responsible for deciding whether the underlying physical condition would be remediated or what decision was made. The disability-accommodation process ultimately offered relocation to another Masonvale apartment, but that did not answer the separate property-</p>

management question concerning remediation.

The dispute subsequently resulted in a tenant proceeding in Fairfax General District Court. I represented myself and was unsuccessful. I am not asking the Board to revisit that proceeding or its outcome.

I am asking the Board to examine what happened before it. I have obtained a University legal invoice documenting \$4,647.50 in outside-counsel fees for a single May 2026 billing period arising from this matter. The invoice identifies GMU as the organizational unit and accounts-payable route and records University approval of the expenditure.

I respectfully ask:

1. Who exactly at GMU had authority to approve or reject physical remediation after Masonvale management referred the matter to the University as owner, and what decision was made?
2. Was the potential cost of investigating and remediating the condition ever determined and compared with the cost of litigation?
3. Who authorized outside counsel, and what was GMU's total outside legal expenditure on this matter?

My concern is one of institutional accountability and stewardship: how did an inspected housing problem, expressly referred to GMU as property owner, progress into litigation and outside legal expenditures without a clearly identifiable decision concerning remediation?

I respectfully request that the Board review the matter and identify the responsible University office or official.

John von Bergen
Assistant Professor, George Mason University

Chi Phi	Fraternity	<p>We the brothers of the Iota Zeta Chapter of the Chi Phi Fraternity are sickened and deeply upset by the actions of the former Xi chapter at Cornell University and the incident involving them. We are sickened by the actions and behavior of the men and in no way reflect the values and principles that Chi Phi stands for.</p> <p>We are disappointed of how the situation is being handled. The response and actions are not enough, and all those involved whether be the perpetrators or bystanders need to have the proper actions taken against them.</p> <p>Along with countless Chi Phi chapters across the nation, we stand with the victim and her family. We encourage Mason to reevaluate and continue to engage Greek Life on campus to better approach hazing and sexual assault incidents going forward. This will ensure proper oversight and any needed revisions and changes that need to be made to take these issues more seriously.</p>
Mark CJ	Community Member	<p>All frats are part of rape culture and need to be dismantled. Every man who is in a frat needs to be looked at and investigated because you all foster these environments.</p>