



Resolution of the George Mason University Faculty Senate Affirming President Washington's Leadership in Advancing Mason's Core Values

WHEREAS, in academic year 2012-2013, George Mason University President Ángel Cabrera led the university in crafting a new Strategic Vision for the university; and

WHEREAS, the result of that process was a Strategic Vision, approved by the Board of Visitors on March 20, 2013, that includes the tenet that "Diversity is our strength. We include and embrace a multitude of people and ideas in everything we do and respect differences," and commits the university to "invest in recruiting, retaining and developing talented and diverse faculty and academic and professional staff"; and

WHEREAS, the university's 2014-2024 Strategic Plan, which makes "an explicit commitment to build a more diverse faculty and staff," was adopted by the Board of Visitors on December 11, 2013; and

WHEREAS, on December 1, 2022, the Board of Visitors approved a new five-year plan, titled "Mason Is All Together Different," including its goal to achieve "faculty and staff demographics that mirror student demographics"; and

WHEREAS, President Gregory Washington was hired to advance the university's core mission and has successfully acted to further these goals as developed by the university community, including the Board of Visitors; and WHEREAS, on July 1, 2025, the U.S. Department of Education notified George Mason University that it was launching an investigation into alleged antisemitism complaints, followed by a second investigation announced on July 10, 2025, targeting the university's diversity, equity, and inclusion policies. Later, the U.S. Department of Justice announced investigations on July 17, 2025 and July 21, 2025 into practices related to employment, students, and antisemitism; and

WHEREAS, these investigations appear to be yet another politically motivated attack, similar to those we have seen elsewhere, most recently at the University of Virginia; and

WHEREAS, other universities have suffered when officials have taken hasty action prior to the conclusion of formal investigations; and

WHEREAS, President Washington has shown every indication of consistently and faithfully exercising compliance with evolving directives from federal and Commonwealth authorities; and

WHEREAS evidence, truth, and due process should be the foundation for all decisions, not allegations that have not been fully investigated; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the George Mason University Faculty Senate affirms the values stated in the 2013 Strategic Vision, including “Diversity is our strength;” and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the George Mason University Faculty Senate declares our confidence in President Gregory Washington’s leadership; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we call for the Board of Visitors of George Mason University to affirm its commitment to a fair, independent, transparent, and comprehensive annual review of President Gregory Washington based on the merits of his performance and not the politics of the moment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the George Mason University Faculty Senate calls on the Board of Visitors to provide the strongest defense possible of President Washington and the university's leadership during these investigations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Visitors of George Mason University ensures that the university's response to the ongoing federal investigations upholds freedom of speech, academic freedom, and due process and does not give in to political pressures to issue penalties before due process and proper investigations have been completed.

Adopted by the Faculty Senate

George Mason University
July 24, 2025

Solon Simmons
President, Faculty Senate