

BOARD OF VISITORS GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

Public Comment Session

April 3, 2019

MINUTES

PRESENT: Rector Davis and Vice Rector Hazel; Visitors Blackman, Cumbie, Moreno, Reagan, Rice, and Witeck; Faculty Representative Renshaw; Student Representatives Keatinge; President Cabrera; and Secretary pro tem Cagle.

ABSENT: Secretary Purvis; Visitors Alcalde, Chimaladinne, Marquez, Petersen, Prowitt, Roth, and Zuccari; and Student Representative Pettine.

- I. Rector Davis called the session to order at 10:15 a.m.
- II. Rector Davis thanked the attendees for coming to the Session, noting it was the first time the Board of Visitors had opened a session for public comment. He explained there was no public mandate or legislation requiring a Public Comment Session, but that there had been proposed legislation that would allow the Board to hold public hearings confined to budget matters. Rector Davis commented that from the Board's perspective, they wanted to open the session up to faculty, students, and the public to hear about anything they wanted to share or what they would like to do. He asked the speakers to try to limit their remarks to three minutes to give as many people as possible the opportunity to speak, noting he would provide a prompt at the appropriate time. Rector Davis advised the speakers that if they provided a statement for the record it would be shared with other Board members and members of the administration. He referred to the list of registered speakers (Attachment 1) and noted that if someone had been left out or if it looked like more people could be accommodated, the Board would try to do this. He thanked the attendees, again, for attending and for their interest in participating. He called on Christopher Maier, noting Mr. Maier had submitted a statement as well which would be included in the record and then distributed to Board members. Mr. Maier was not present. Rector Davis called on Sara Deriso and thanked her for attending. He noted he had spoken to Ms. Deriso previously and was informed that she had a document to share with the Board (Attachment 2). He asked that those be distributed. Ms. Deriso addressed the Board as follows:

Sara Deriso: So, hello, my name is Sara Deriso. I'm a junior at George Mason. I study government and international politics with a minor in political communication. I'm a member of GMU Student Power; I'm the President. And during the course of the last few weeks, I heard that there was going to be a public comment period so I collected statements from my peers about why you all should choose not to raise undergraduate tuition fees. I can also pass these around right now (Attachment 3). So, I'm here today to advocate that you guys freeze tuition in the upcoming academic year and to accept the General Assembly's \$6.5 million additional state funding for tuition moderation. Over the past decade,

George Mason has experienced a 66% increase in tuition and fees. State funding is obviously declining so that means that we are relying more on tuition. I think this is a really great opportunity to offset these inequalities within tuition. I am also a student organizer with Transparent GMU and I would like to applaud Faculty Senators Letiecq and DeMulder for their appointment for the implementation taskforce for the gift acceptance committee. They are charged with developing and processing practices that will ensure proper implementation of University Policy 1123 regarding donations to the George Mason University Foundation. Faculty have been raising concerns about undue donor influence since 2011. It is about time that the Board pass a strong gift acceptance policy that includes faculty governance. Also, Transparent GMU has been approved to appeal our case to the Supreme Court of Virginia, our case against the George Mason University Foundation. I wanted to note that. Also, I am here today as a survivor of sexual assault. Some may see the law school's decision to hire Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh as a prominent addition to the school's faculty, but the University has ignored his history of sexual violence against women. Although he has never been convicted of a crime, he should not be rewarded with a visiting professorship. He destroyed the lives of several women. One of his accusers, Dr. Christine Blasey Ford, is under so many death threats she cannot continue to teach psychology at the University of Palo Alto. As a survivor of sexual assault, this decision has really impacted me negatively. It has affected my mental health knowing that an abuser will be part of our faculty. I am advocating that the Board of Visitors read our list of demands to the administration (Attachment 2), particularly section 5a to hire an on-campus sexual assault examiner nurse. When I was assaulted I did not have a car as a freshman, so I could not go to a hospital receive a PERK (physical evidence recovery kit) exam. So, I think it would be very beneficial. There are so many on-campus students that should be able to have access to rape kits and a sexual assault examiner nurse at the student health services. Also, at point 6-a. for police reform, we are asking that the University hire an on campus 24/7 Mason PD (Police Department) Sexual Assault Coordinator. When I went to Mason PD to report my sexual assault, the Sexual Assault Coordinator was on vacation and there were no women police officers I was able to tell my story to. So, I had to recount my story to a young male, which is very traumatizing especially two days after my assault. I would like you to read over these demands to the administration, put pressure on the administration to make these changes and allocate funding to make these changes. If you could read those cards that other students wrote about tuition that would be great, and I thank you for your time today. Thank you.

Rector Davis thanked Ms. Deriso and called on the next speakers as follows: Rashed Abu Awwad (not present); MacKenzie Earl (not present); Sarah Ahn (not present); Cassidy Pollard (not present); Anya Coleman (not present); Gerritt Hansen (not present); Ashley Stewart (not present). Rector Davis noted that all of those named had submitted written comments which would be shared with the

Board. He stated the fact they were not in attendance would not take away from what they wanted to say and their comments would be given appropriate consideration. Rector Davis opened the floor to anyone else who wanted to address the Board and share their views as the session was running ahead of schedule. The following people were recognized to share their comments:

Amy Crummie-DuCarme: My name is Amy Crummie-DuCarme. I'm a first semester senior here at Mason. I'm scheduled to graduate early next semester. I'm also a founder of an on-campus organization called Student for a Democratic Society. We've been active for the past, I think, two and a half years. I am also an out of state student. So, I know those are few and far between here. So, my tuition is quite high, it's around \$50,000 a year. And I support that tuition going towards things like the educational complex here, and supporting teachers. And I also support the tuition freeze. However, there are aspects of our University that I find that this enormous amount of money should not go towards. One of which being the hiring of Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh. This affects me quite personally because my sister is a survivor on multiple counts. I've seen what it does to a person. I've seen what these cases can do to people. And I've seen what this public treatment of survivors can do to a person. And I would like to advocate for not only my sister, but the other survivors at George Mason who are seeing this happen. Please reconsider this offer. I realize he's been hired already, but it does severely affect survivors on our campus in maybe ways that men don't see. Thank you.

Rector Davis thanked her for her comments.

Stacie Gordon: Hi, good morning. I actually wasn't planning on making remarks today. My name is Stacie Gordon, I am with Partners for College Affordability and Public Trust. And I just want to quickly thank the Board for taking time to listen to student voices today and accept their input by written comment and by physical testimony today. I think it's really great that you guys are doing this. You don't have to do this. As you said earlier, there's no current state mandate. Later on, there will be one going into effect in July, but I think it's fantastic that you guys did this today. So, I just wanted to thank you.

Rector Davis thanked her for her comments, noting that it was important for the Board to hear from students, faculty, and surrounding community.

Zoehriya Anwar: So, my name is Zoehriya Anwar. I am currently a freshman majoring in Community Health. I'd like to say that I myself have been assaulted on this campus. It happened just recently, at least four months ago. And what happened was that I approached the Mason PD and the Title IX office. And neither have followed through with the case of my sexual assault. And knowing that Brett Kavanaugh was hired to be a visiting professor at George Mason

University, as someone who has survived sexual assault three times, I do not feel comfortable with someone who has sexual assault allegations walking on our campus, even if he has the vocational and academic credentials to be a professor. Because of the allegations that Christine Blasey Ford has made, I would just appreciate if the Board just considered that. And I respect that you have already decided to hire Brett Kavanaugh, but I think it should be reconsidered. Thank you.

Rector Davis thanked her for her comments. He recognized President Cabrera for his comments.

President Cabrera: Rector Davis. I would first like to applaud our students for speaking up today. I am proud of our students. One of our stated goals is that our students become engaged citizens. As part of the experience at George Mason, I think what you saw is a perfect example of it. So, thank you for that. And I can tell our students that our Board, and I know them quite well, are taking great consideration of those comments. I have maybe a couple of suggestions that will be hopefully useful for the Board, but also for our students. I absolutely agree with them; we need to keep the pressure of our stated goal of eradicating sexual violence in all of its forms from our campus. This has been a priority for the University. One case of sexual violence, is one case too many. And we need to do better; every year we need to do better. We had a taskforce, I called a taskforce in 2015, and it came with a list of pretty strong recommendations. We've been executing on those recommendations. I think we have reasons to believe that some of those are working, but clearly every case here indicates that we have to do better. I think it would be important for the Board to receive a briefing on what has happened in the last two or three years, to look at this in detail, to have a discussion, and to see what additional initiatives need to be put in place. So, I will discuss this with our Rector, but assuming there is interest from the Board, we can have a briefing to you as early as our next Board meeting.

Rector Davis responded with concurrence and without objection to a briefing for the Board. He also commented that the hiring practices of the individual colleges do not rest with the Board of Visitors and asked President Cabrera for his comments.

President Cabrera: Right. And this might be an important thing. And by the way, I say this with full respect of the views that many of us may have about a public figure and I understand and I respect the views that our students have expressed today. And I don't put them in question at all. It is a public figure. He went through a very public senate confirmation process and I know each person, even around this table, drew their own conclusions. But what's important to note is, even though the Board of Visitors of our University has ultimate powers over everything that happens at the University, because of the tradition of higher education in the United States which is adopted by our Board, we believe in the

process of shared governance. Now, shared governance means that some of the powers of the Board are delegated first to the president and then to the faculty for them to make decisions. There are several reasons for doing this. One is it is understood that the Board should not be telling the faculty how to teach math or psychology, or who should teach math or psychology. That those are decisions that should be made by the faculty. There's another reason for this, which is to pre-empt the possibility that in some cases, let's say a Board that will lean to one side or the other of the political spectrum would be tempted to start vetoing certain faculty members in some disciplines. That is the reason why the processes of shared governance put some of these decisions, some of these decisions come all the way up to the Board, especially tenure decisions because those create, of course, a commitment of the University and potentially for life. The decisions of temporary appointments rests within the faculty. So, in this case the way it works is the faculty, in this case, the Law School, they considered all the facts. They voted to retain Justice Kavanaugh to teach this class. By the way, it's going to be taught in England. So, it's off campus; it's going to be taught during the summer. It's an elective class on the history of the U.S. Constitution. So, the faculty has voted on this; they voted on this in January. Students have voluntarily decided to take this class. Currently, it's oversubscribed, actually. So, that's how those decisions are made, consistently with our faculty handbook and the principles of shared governance. I respect their judgment; doesn't mean I share it. Doesn't mean I would have made that decision if I were in their shoes. But expressing it, I respect the judgement of my faculty colleagues in the Law School who have assessed all the facts and made that decision. But I need to clarify and link it with the first part of the comment and hope that our students at least have an understanding and trust the message that I'm sending to you. We share the firm commitment to eradicating sexual violence. And whether this decision made some of you call that into question, I can assure you that we are fully, fully committed. And keep raising your voice. I think what student groups are doing to keep attention, I think it was Sara that said, "I want the Board to be aware." That is effective advocacy. Raise awareness. Make sure that we bring everybody's attention and efforts to it. So as much as you may dislike decision number one, it has absolutely no implication in our firm commitment to continuing to combat sexual violence. And again, I really thank you. And I respect the students. I know it takes courage to stand up, especially some of you who have shared personal issues, I thank you for what you've done this morning.

Rector Davis thanked President Cabrera for his comments. Rector Davis addressed Sara Deriso and said it looked like tuition would be frozen, referring to her earlier request.

Rector Davis recognized Vice Rector Hazel for his comments. Vice Rector Hazel thanked the students for attending and noted his support for continuing the open sessions for input from the greater George Mason community. He noted that

many of the cards that were shared did not have a name or Mason affiliation. He recommended to Ms. Deriso and her peers that it would mean more and be more effective if names were included in the future. Rector Davis commented that he understood the hesitancy of people to identify themselves, especially where their views are difficult for others to hear. He reiterated his appreciation for those who were present, for the speakers who stood up to share their views, and noted the Board would take their comments seriously. He asked for any other comments and recognized Kailey Adkins for her comments.

Kailey Adkins: Hi there, my name is Kailey Adkins and I'm a junior in the Integrative Studies program, with a concentration in Social Justice and Human Rights. I would just like to say that it is easy to say that we are fighting to eradicate sexual violence on this campus, but the hiring of Kavanaugh threatens the mental well-being of all survivors on this campus. So, it is easy to make that pledge, but that decision negates it, in my opinion. I would also like to speak on faculty governance. I think it's great that it was implemented in this case, but I would like to see stronger faculty governance implemented in the wider university, by accepting the stronger gift agreement policy. There have been concerns raised from the faculty for years when it comes to faculty governance and the building of curriculum and the hiring of professors within our university as it relates to donor influence. And so, I think that passing a stronger gift acceptance policy is essential if you're going to uphold those standards of faculty governance at this university. That's all, thank you.

Rector Davis thanked her for her comments. He opened the floor to any other speakers and recognized Amy Crummie-DuCarme for additional comments.

Amy Crummie-DuCarme: Hello, again. I would just like to say to President Cabrera, we as students who come to these meetings are very well informed. We understand that the law school has its own decisions when it comes to hiring and firing. I just wanted to state that since this was an open comments meeting, this is our outlet as students on the Fairfax campus to say how we feel about this certain event. So, we do understand that it was a two-week course in England where he's going to teach about the history of the U.S. Constitution. I also know that Neil Gorsuch is going to be over in Pajama, Italy for about three weeks teaching a different course. So, we know these things. We just feel that it's an outlet for us to speak to some members of the university who have some type of influence or know people in the other school, the Antonin Scalia School of Law, to maybe pass things down.

President Cabrera acknowledged her comments and thanked her.

III. Adjournment

With no more comments to be heard by the Board, Rector Davis thanked those in attendance and adjourned the session at 10:38 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kathy Cagle
Secretary pro tem

Attachments:

- (1) Registered speakers and written comments (1 page)
- (2) Mason for Survivors List of Demands (1 page)
- (3) Statements from Students (copies of hand-written cards) (6 pages)

George Mason University Board of Visitors April 3, 2019 Public Comment Session - Written Comments				
First Name:	Last Name:	Name of organization or group:	Affiliation w/ Mason:	Written comment:
Christopher	Maier	Staff Senate	Mason Faculty or Staff	<p>The Staff Senate is looking at ways to cut back on items we typically spend on annually, and I am tasking my executive team to help develop a zero-base budget model moving forward each year, so that I can show how we've performed in the past, what is absolutely necessary to keep performing this year, and plan for the following years greater demand on our services. One item that is out of reach currently is providing a line-item for a new laptop to be used by our Administrative Assistant. The one she is currently using will need replacement no later than the end of fiscal year 2020 (it's on its last leg so to speak; IT has done everything to update and keep it moving but it's hard to say how long this will last). The other item is looking at moving our Administrative Assistant from a paid 20-hours per week to at least 32-hours per week. She's putting in the hours and making a great effort to ensure Staff at Mason succeed. As the University builds its international rapport, gains more attention, and has more students coming to Mason, the demand for our engagement with Classified-Staff and Non-Student Wage has increased and will keep going so at a dramatic pace. It has taken us two years to rebuild our image and provide all staff with a minimal level of expectation and consistency. We have the ability to do more.</p> <p>However, we need to be realistic about our current workforce demands and with the amount of other work we ask our volunteers to perform. The Staff Senate will continue to find alternate opportunities to adjust our current budget model. At some point, the supply and demand curves cannot adjust any further.</p>
Sara	Deriso	GMU Student Power	Mason Student	<p>I am the president of the student organization, GMU Student Power, where we advocate for accessible, affordable, and democratic higher education. In my public comment I will ask the board to accept the resolution from the General Assembly where GMU will receive about \$6 million in exchange for a freeze on tuition for in-state students. I am also a member of Transparent GMU and I would like to also speak in support of the Faculty Senate's resolutions on the gift acceptance agreement policy. GMU needs to make amends with its past of corporate donor influence and pass a strong policy to insure transparency and faculty governance. This public comment period should prioritize student voices, with us, there is no George Mason University.</p>
MacKenzie	Earl	N/A	Mason Student	<p>Compared to other universities, George Mason applies little funding to the upholding or expansion of Title IX policies. How can Mason justify expansion/tuition increases for greater number of students if they cannot sufficiently provide resources for the students already in attendance. As a Mason student, I am disappointed in the university for failing to focus on the growth of quality and safety rather than the growth of University wealth.</p>
Sarah	Alm	Mason for Survivors	Mason Student	<p>I was sexually assaulted when I was 14, and raped when I was 15. So I know a little about how a survivor might feel about Mason working to strengthen their policies against sexual assault. Cabrera's blog post was disgustingly dismissive to the real concerns of GMU students. He essentially said, "because Kavanaugh won the nomination, your concerns about him being on campus are not valid." He's wrong. How can Mason work towards being a healthier campus when you won't even take student concerns into consideration? There is a coalition of students and community out here, screaming and pleading you to take this issue seriously, to disaffiliate with Kavanaugh, and you ignore us. GMU is nothing without its students. WE are GMU. So I suggest you listen. And on the topic of this tuition raise, I assume that extra money will be going directly to fund the underfunded and understaffed Title IX office here? And I assume if there will be a tuition raise, there will be complete transparency to the students about why and how those funds will be utilized?</p>
Cassidy	Pollard	N/A	Mason Student	<p>As a survivor of sexual assault experienced at Mason, I have severe issues with the handling of tuition, tuition hikes, and the general fiscal activities of this university. It is very concerning to me that this University is willing to spend money and effort to maintain a fleet of delivery robots - the fact that Starship gifted the robots originally is irrelevant - but is unwilling to use tuition funds to hire an adequate number of Title IX coordinators, provide rape kits on campus/transportation to a facility that has the ability to administer rape kits, or hire an adequate number of oversight personnel for extracurricular activities to prevent and address sexual harassment and assault within those activities. Considering that tuition is hiked significantly every year, and none of those tuition hikes appear to be used in any tangible or meaningful way to protect and aid students, I would ask the board how they plan to either reduce the number of tuition hikes or put the increased revenue from these tuition hikes towards policies, programs, and increased personnel to aid and protect students in cases of sexual assault and in general in the future.</p>
Anyia	Coleman	N/A	Mason Faculty or Staff	<p>In light of the recent "Varsity Blues" investigation, and outcomes, what is the university doing to separate donor's influences and decision-making roles on student admission, as well as faculty appointments, and overall influence on academic affairs? In 2018 the student organization Transparency GMU received documentation disclosing such influence from those of the Koch Brothers, as well as the Federalist Society. Has the University worked to protect the integrity of the academic system (which is a PUBLIC university) and those students who trust the University is not easily persuaded by money? As a former student, as well as current faculty member, my Patriot Pride runs high. However, with recent actions taken by the university to accept donations at a cost of the student population (ex. recent Brett Kavanaugh hiring, which speaks against student safety), what decisions is GMU really making for the betterment of the student-body? What types of monies are received and spent on behalf of donors to serve their interests and not the needs of the students? We all know with a high donation comes a high-price, but please stop allowing these donors to influence the courses we take, the integrity of the application process, as well as drive our tuition prices sky high. Why not put that money into programs that help the undeserved or scholarships for all students to get an equal opportunity at higher education? Thank you for your time and consideration.</p>
Gerritt	Hansen	N/A	Community Member	<p>George Mason University, and those who pride themselves as the leaders of the university, should be ashamed of themselves. The decision to hire Justice Brett Kavanaugh reflects a gross indifference to the students they serve and the reputation they attempt to uphold. There is no part of myself that I can bring to sympathize with the systemic decision making that consistently shows that George Mason University does not care about the welfare of its students, but rather for the continued support of wealthy, conservative donors. It is with the strongest possible sentiment that large parts of the student body communicates that they do not want this.</p> <p>I think a reasonable observer can conclude that it is not simply ignorance or greed, but malice and complicity that motivates the actions of the university surrounding sexual violence in the past few academic years. I assume my letter will be ignored with a host of other voices on this issue, and that the University will do nothing to change this trend of shameful behavior. This University is actively being made both an unsafe space for students, and a laughing stock for being such corporate profit-mongers.</p>
Ashley	Stewart	Mason for Survivors	Mason Student	<p>I believe George Mason University's decision to hire Brett Kavanaugh to be both appalling and shameful. His association with Mason has caused the survivors who call it home severe pain and has made me ashamed to be affiliated with this university. This decision and President Cabrera's continued defense of it highlight the tremendous lack of support for survivors on Mason's campus.</p> <p>However, the decision to hire Kavanaugh aligns with Mason's history of failing to adequately address claims of sexual assault and harassment. Student body president, David Kanos, was able to graduate without facing consequences for his actions and GMU Forensics Coach, Peter Pober, has appeared to escape legal repercussions for the years of abuse he afflicted on his students.</p> <p>Survivors deserve to be believed and deserve justice, they also deserve the support of their university which is an environment they should feel safe in. The time is now to change this history and provide that support. I demand the university's administration accept the list of demands from Mason for Survivors.</p>



WE DEMAND

- 1) Terminate AND void ALL contracts and affiliation with Brett Kavanaugh at George Mason University.
 - a) Release any and all documents including but not limited to: emails, donor agreements, and contracts related to the hiring of Brett Kavanaugh as faculty at George Mason University.
- 2) Hold a Town Hall to discuss Kavanaugh's hiring and implications for students and the university including a public comment section. All students must be informed through their MasonLive email, once, by April 25th 2019.
 - a) A formal apology from administration to survivors
- 3) Title IX policy reform: Increase the number of Title IX officers to the proportion of students at the University.
 - a) Ensure all syllabi include ALL sexual violence resources offered (CAPS, SSAC, hotlines, etc.)
 - b) Ensure that any student reporting sexual misconduct in their residence hall has the right to relocate within a month to other on campus housing, free of charge.
- 4) Ensure that the Board of Visitors and Faculty Senate pass and implement a Gift Acceptance Policy in order to prevent outside donor influence by May 2nd 2019.
- 5) Better resources for students:
 - a) Hire an on-campus sexual assault examiner nurse(s)
 - b) Hire a sufficient number of full time clinicians at CAPS in accordance to International Association of Counseling Services guidelines (IACS)
 - c) Ensure that students have free access to rape kits. Including but not limited to transportation to facilities.
- 6) Police Reform:
 - a) Hire an on-campus 24/7 Mason PD Sexual Assault Coordinator
 - b) Require that police inform survivors of their right to free peer advocate from SSAC
 - c) Require all incidents of sexual harassment and violence be reported within 30 days to students
 - d) Require all Mason PD officers and cadets undergo comprehensive, trauma-informed sexual violence training

Media Contact:

Name: Elijah Nichols, Caitlin Slater, and Sean Keckley

Email: mason4survivors@gmail.com

Phone Number: (231) 329-2416, (703) 999-9464, and (832) 600-5034

Petition/Demands: <https://www.change.org/p/tell-president-cabrera-support-mason-4-survivors-cancel-kavanaugh-gmu>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Mason4Survivor>

GMU Board of Visitors:

Raising tuition excludes individuals who would otherwise be hard-working degree-learning students from getting the education or the housing they need. Keep GMU a more accessible, affordable place.

Sincerely, a GMU Junior

GMU BOV, Our tuition on this campus is too high, and does not fit the needs of our diverse student body, and the already extremely high costs of Northern Virginia.

Best,

Jamie Thomas, GMU Student

I do not want the money I pay to GMU to go to the unethical hiring of Brett Kavanaugh.

As a survivor of sexual violence
in high school - Part of my decision
to come to Mason was its reputation
for ~~system~~ safety/support for
survivors. The Kavanaugh hire
was a slap in the face to that
sense of safety. I am now
a shamed of my University.
I feel unsafe and unheard.
- Kailey Adkins

It is very hard to keep up with
tuition costs ~~in~~ in this economy
in order to afford quality education
necessary to meet the new standard
equivalent of a high school
diploma.

We are already broke

Dear board of visitors,
 please do not raise tuition
 because I barely receive
 financial aid as it. I still have
 not been able to pay tuition this
 semester. I also commute which
 is more expensive. Parking and
 fees are already so expensive.
 The quality of our education does
 not change as the price goes
 up.

take less salary and
 stop raising our
 TUITION

Dear BOV,
 I got lucky enough to not deal with
 housing hikes but most of my friends
 have not been as lucky. A lot of them
 are having to deal with a housing shortage,
 crapp~~y~~ living arrangements, and housing
 insecurity all at once. This is not a ~~good~~
 good way to expand a school. Make Mason
 more affordable first.

Tuition rate must be balanced and it must reflect students' ability to afford current tuition rate in these economic circumstances. Also, tuition rate must be based upon the region's economy in terms of tuition/education quality ratio to ensure that an academic degree will pay off back the cost it was paid for.

Why decrease the quality of housing and simultaneously increase the cost of housing? Where does the money go, or is it part of the plan associated housing plan?

Tuition is high enough as it is!

What is the point of raising it? So that we can have more facilities? What good is that if we are too busy working to pay for it!

The tuition is already high as it is, and with the thousands of students already paying that high tuition, you guys are already getting millions of dollars! We're in so much debt already and are going to be in ^{more} debt for grad school. So, can you not? Thanks.

Dear GMU BOV,

To provide affordable education to students, please do not increase tuition or housing rates so students can afford to attend GMU.

Dear GMU Board of Visitors;

I am a GMU sophomore. Tuition, boarding, textbook costs, and the general cost of living in this area make it extremely difficult for me as a student to financially afford school. Last year I worked three jobs to afford school which significantly affected my studies and last ~~year~~ semester in order to save money for school and to reduce the amount of hours I had to work while in school I

had to choose to be homeless in order to secure the proper funds. Please don't increase tuition rates again. I just want to be able to focus on school again. Please don't make me choose between academic proficiency and shelter stability again.

-Sincerely,
GMU Sophomore

Dear GMU Board of Visitors,

Do not raise our tuition. It is disgusting that your students, the human beings your mission is supposedly in support of will be in debt for the rest of their lives so that they can get an education. I struggle with severe financial anxiety at the age of 24, even though I have been working ^{& saving} since I was 16, largely because of TUITION. Especially when you are accepting massive donations from

Private interests like the Koch brothers.
Do you value the money over me? a student?