



Special Meeting of the Committee of the Whole

Wednesday, April 20, 2026 – 6:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

Trustees Present:

Mr. Warner Session, J.D., chair
Dr. Carolyn Rudd, Ed.D., vice-chair
Mr. Lamont Akins, secretary
Dr. Esther Barazzone, Ph.D., trustee
Mr. David Croom, trustee
Mr. Michael Dannenberg, trustee
Dr. Bisi Oyedele, trustee
Mr. Bernard Grayson, alumni representative
Dr. Tracey Jackson, Ph.D., J.D, alumni representative
Mr. Josh Lopez, alumni representative
Dr. Maurice Edington, Ph.D., President, *ex-officio*

Trustees Absent:

Mr. Ken Grossinger, MSW, treasurer

Executive Cabinet Present:

Dr. Ruthie Little-Berry, Ph.D., chief student development and success officer
Dr. April Massey, Ph.D., chief academic officer
Ms. Frenika Rivers, chief of staff and director of board operations
Ms. Avis Russell, J.D., general counsel

Staff Participants:

Ms. Janet Joiner, board secretary

Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Warner Session called the special meeting of the Committee of the Whole to order at 6:07 p.m. Ms. Joiner called the roll, and a quorum was present.

Chair Session called for approval of the April 22, 2025, and May 27, 2025, Committee of the Whole meeting minutes. During discussion, Chair Session noted a correction to the April 22, 2025, minutes to reflect his attendance at that meeting. He also noted that the May 27, 2025, minutes should reflect that the Committee did not return to executive session following its executive session discussion. The motion to approve the minutes was made and seconded. The motion carried.

Moved by: Trustee Akins



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Seconded by: Dr. Rudd

Chair Session advised the Committee that a governance matter requiring legal advice had come to his attention and requested that the Committee enter executive session to consult with counsel.

The Chair made said the following for the record, “In accordance with the D.C. Code Section 2-575(b)(4)(A), the Board of Trustees hereby gives notice that it will conduct an executive session to consult with an attorney to obtain legal advice and to preserve the attorney-client privilege.” He stated the Board would return at the conclusion of the executive session. The motion to approve was made and seconded. The motion carried.

Moved by: Trustee Cacoza

Seconded by: Mr. Akins

A motion was made and seconded to approve the attendance of legal counsel during the executive session.

Moved by: Dr. Rudd

Seconded by: Dr. Barazzone

The Committee entered executive session at 6:12 p.m.

The Committee reconvened in open session at 7:35 p.m.

A motion was made to authorize the General Counsel to seek to resolve the governance matter discussed during executive session. The motion was seconded. The motion carried.

Moved by: Mr. Cacoza

Seconded by: Dr. Jackson

With no further business before the Committee, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried, and the meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.