Regular Meeting of Operations Committee

Tuesday, April 21, 2026 – 1:00 p.m.
Meeting Minutes

Committee Trustees Present:
Dr. Carolyn Rudd, chair
Mr. Lamont Akins, trustee
Mr. Bernard Grayson, alumni representative
Dr. Tracey Jackson, alumni representative
Mr. Josh Lopez, alumni representative

Trustees Absent:

Other trustees Present:
Mr. Warner Session, trustee
Dr. Maurice Edington, *ex-oficio*

Executive Cabinet Present:
Mr. David Franklin, chief operating officer
Dr. Teri Little-Berry, chief student success and development officer
Dr. April Massey, chief academic officer
Ms. Frenika Rivers, chief of staff and director of board operations
Ms. Avis Russell, general counsel

Staff Participants:
Ms. Raysa Leer, deputy chief operating officer

Call to Order and Roll Call:
Chair Rudd called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m. Ms. Rivers called the roll, and a quorum was found to be present.

Roll call for Quorum (3):

Trustee	Present	Absent
Dr. Rudd, chair	x	☐
Mr. Akins	x	☐
Mr. Grayson	x	☐
Dr. Jackson	x	☐
Mr. Lopez	x	☐

Approval of the Minutes:
A motion was made to approve the March 10, 2026, minutes with corrections. The motion was made and seconded. The motion was approved to move to the Full Board by roll call vote.

- **Motion: Trustee Grayson**
- **Second: Dr. Jackson**

Resolution: Executive Appointment of Dr. Lewis Johnson as Chief Research Officer and Senior Vice President of Research

President Edington presented Dr. Lewis E. Johnson for appointment as Chief Research Officer and Senior Vice President for University Research. He highlighted Dr. Johnson's extensive experience in research leadership, including securing more than $30 million in sponsored funding, managing major research infrastructure initiatives, developing strategic partnerships, and advancing faculty and student research programs.

Following the presentation, Dr. Rudd called for a motion to approve the appointment of Dr. Johnson as Chief Research Officer and Senior Vice President for University Research at the University of the District of Columbia. A motion was made and seconded. The motion carried by roll call vote.

- **Motion: Dr. Jackson**
- **Second: Trustee Grayson**

Roll Call Vote

Trustee	Yay	Nay	Abstain
Dr. Rudd, chair	x	☐	
Mr. Akins	x	☐	
Mr. Grayson	x	☐	
Dr. Jackson	x	☐	
Mr. Lopez	x	☐	

Resolution: Executive Appointment of Mr. Romie Prince as Vice President for Facilities and Real Estate Management

Mr. David Franklin presented the recommendation to appoint Mr. Romie Prince as Vice President for Facilities and Real Estate Management. Following a national search that attracted 41 applicants, Mr. Prince was selected as the top candidate after a comprehensive review and campus interview process.

Mr. Franklin highlighted Mr. Prince's more than 30 years of experience in facilities management, capital planning, and construction, including his current role as Director of Facilities Management at Morgan State University. Dr. Rudd then entertained a motion to approve Mr. Prince's appointment as Vice President for Facilities and Real Estate Management. A motion was made and seconded. The motion carried by roll call vote.

- **Motion: Dr. Jackson**
- **Second: Trustee Grayson**

Roll Call Vote

Trustee	Yay	Nay	Abstain
Dr. Rudd, chair	x	☐	
Mr. Akins	x	☐	
Mr. Grayson	x	☐	
Dr. Jackson	x	☐	
Mr. Lopez	x	☐	

Resolution: Approval of Modification No. 1 to the Rooftop License Agreement between T-Mobile Northeast and the Board of Trustees of the University of the District of Columbia

The Board considered approval of a five-year extension of the University's rooftop license agreement with T-Mobile at 4250 Connecticut Avenue through December 31, 2030. The extension is projected to generate approximately $241,000 in revenue, with annual rent increasing 3% each year.

During discussion, trustees inquired about additional benefits beyond revenue generation. Mr. Franklin noted T-Mobile's broader partnership with the University, including serving as its mobile provider and generating significant cost savings. Trustees encouraged the administration to explore student discounts on mobile phone, tablet, and laptop services as part of the partnership. A motion was made and seconded, following discussion. The motion carried by roll call vote.

- **Motion: Trustee Grayson**
- **Second: Dr. Jackson**

Resolution: Approval of a Lease Agreement Between Follett Higher Education Group, LLC and the Board of Trustees of the University of Columbia

The Board considered approval of a new lease agreement with Follett Bookstore to continue operating the University bookstore at the Van Ness campus. The agreement includes approximately 4,500 square feet of space at 4250 Connecticut Avenue, an annual rent of $175,000 with 3% annual increases, a 10-year term, and one five-year renewal option.

Mr. Franklin noted that Follett is one of the University's most valuable campus partners and that the agreement includes two one-time payments of $100,000, commission revenue opportunities, and rent abatements during the first two years in lieu of a tenant improvement allowance. Deputy COO Leer-Gray highlighted the success of the Follett All Access Program, which ensures students have course materials available at the start of each semester, improving access to textbooks and supporting student success. Following discussion, Dr. Rudd entertained a motion to approve the lease agreement with Follett. A motion was made and seconded, following discussion. The motion carried by roll call vote.

- **Motion: Trustee Grayson**
- **Second: Dr. Jackson**

Roll Call Vote

Trustee	Yay	Nay	Abstain
Dr. Rudd, chair	x	☐	
Mr. Akins	x	☐	
Mr. Grayson	x	☐	
Dr. Jackson	x	☐	
Mr. Lopez	x	☐	

Resolution: Approval of Lease Agreements for Twelve (12) Apartments at 3003 Van Ness, NW, Washington, DC 20008 and Between Equity Residential Management, LLC, and the Board of Trustees of the University of Columbia

The Board considered approval of a lease agreement with Equity Residential for 12 units at 3003 Van Ness to house approximately 40 student-athletes, DC-UP participants, and other students during the 2026–2027 academic year. The University will subsidize approximately $199,775 in housing costs, primarily through scholarship support for student-athletes and DC-UP scholars. Dr. Little-Berry highlighted the importance of student housing in supporting student success, retention, and housing stability. Trustees confirmed that the University's separate master lease with the AVA property remains in effect. Following discussion, the Board proceeded to vote on the lease agreement.

- **Motion: Trustee Grayson**
- **Second: Dr. Jackson**

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Roll Call Vote

Trustee	Yay	Nay	Abstain
Dr. Rudd, chair	x	☐	
Mr. Akins	x	☐	
Mr. Grayson	x	☐	
Dr. Jackson	x	☐	
Mr. Lopez	x	☐	

Closing Remarks and Adjournment

Dr. Rudd thanked the trustees and staff for their support. A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded. The meeting adjourned at 1:40 PM.