



Special Meeting of the Committee of the Whole

Wednesday, June 17, 2026 – 6:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

Trustees Present:

Mr. Warner Session, J.D., chair
Dr. Carolyn Rudd, Ed.D., vice-chair
Mr. Ken Grossinger, MSW, treasurer
Dr. Tracey Jackson, secretary, alumni representative
Mr. Lamont Akins, trustee
Dr. Esther Barazzone, Ph.D., trustee
Mr. Albert Cacoza, trustee
Mr. David Croom, trustee
Mr. Michael Dannenberg, trustee
Mr. Bernard Grayson, alumni representative
Dr. Maurice Edington, Ph.D., President, *ex-officio*

Trustees Absent:

Ms. Amy Laitenen, trustee
Dr. Bisi Oyedele, trustee
Mr. Josh Lopez, alumni representative
Mr. Maurice Mckenzie, student representative

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.

Trustee	Present	Absent
Mr. Warner Session, chair	x	☐
Dr. Carolyn Rudd, vice chair	x	☐
Mr. Ken Grossinger, treasurer	x	☐
Dr. Tracey Jackson, secretary	x	☐
Mr. Lamont Akins	x	☐
Dr. Esther Barazzone	x	☐
Mr. Albert Cacoza	x	☐
Mr. David Croom	x	☐



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Trustee	Present	Absent
Dr. Michael Dannenberg	x	☐
Ms. Amy Laitinen	☐	x
Dr. Bisi Oyedele	☐	x
Mr. Bernard Grayson	x	☐
Mr. Josh Lopez	☐	x
Mr. Maurice Mckenzie	x	x
Dr. Maurice Edington (<i>ex-officio</i>)	x	☐

Approval of Minutes

Chair Session called for approval of the April 20, 2026, meeting minutes.

Motion: Approval of the April 20, 2026 meeting minutes.

Moved: Trustee Cacozza

Second: Dr. Rudd

The motion to approve the minutes was made and seconded. The motion carried.

Roll call:

Trustee	Yay	Nay	Abstain
Warner Session	x	☐	☐
Carolyn Rudd	x	☐	☐
Ken Grossinger	x	☐	☐
Tracey Jackson	x	☐	☐
Esther Barazzone	x	☐	☐
Albert Cacozza	x	☐	☐
David Croom	x	☐	☐
Michael Dannenberg	x	☐	☐
Amy Laitinen	☐	☐	☐
Bisi Oyedele	☐	☐	☐
Bernard Grayson	x	☐	☐
Josh Lopez	☐	☐	☐



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Trustee	Yay	Nay	Abstain
Maurice Mckenzie	☐	☐	☐

Chair Session called for approval of the May 6, 2026, meeting minutes.

Motion: Approval of the May 6, 2026 meeting minutes.

Moved: Dr. Barazzone

Second: Dr. Rudd

The motion to approve the minutes was made and seconded. The motion carried.

Roll call:

Trustee	Yay	Nay	Abstain
Warner Session	x	☐	☐
Carolyn Rudd	x	☐	☐
Ken Grossinger	x	☐	☐
Tracey Jackson	x	☐	☐
Esther Barazzone	x	☐	☐
Albert Cacoza	x	☐	☐
David Croom	x	☐	☐
Michael Dannenberg	x	☐	☐
Amy Laitinen	☐	☐	☐
Bisi Oyedele	☐	☐	☐
Bernard Grayson	x	☐	☐
Josh Lopez	☐	☐	☐
Maurice Mckenzie	☐	☐	☐

Action Item

- President's Performance Evaluation

Motion: Discussion of President's Performance Evaluation in Executive Session, review his contract and revisit the governance issue presented by the General Counsel.

Moved: Dr. Barazzone



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Second: Dr. Rudd

Roll call:

Trustee	Yay	Nay	Abstain
Warner Session	x	☐	☐
Carolyn Rudd	x	☐	☐
Ken Grossinger	x	☐	☐
Tracey Jackson	x	☐	☐
Esther Barazzone	x	☐	☐
Albert Cacoza	x	☐	☐
David Croom	x	☐	☐
Michael Dannenberg	x	☐	☐
Amy Laitinen	☐	☐	☐
Bisi Oyedele	☐	☐	☐
Bernard Grayson	x	☐	☐
Josh Lopez	☐	☐	☐
Maurice Mckenzie	☐	☐	☐

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.

Motion: To allow General Counsel to attend the Executive Session

Moved: Dr. Rudd

Second: Dr. Jackson

Roll call:

Trustee	Yay	Nay	Abstain
Warner Session	x	☐	☐
Carolyn Rudd	x	☐	☐
Ken Grossinger	x	☐	☐
Tracey Jackson	x	☐	☐



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Trustee	Yay	Nay	Abstain
Esther Barazzone	x	☐	☐
Albert Cacoza	x	☐	☐
David Croom	x	☐	☐
Michael Dannenberg	x	☐	☐
Amy Laitinen	☐	☐	☐
Bisi Oyedele	☐	☐	☐
Bernard Grayson	x	☐	☐
Josh Lopez	☐	☐	☐
Maurice Mckenzie	☐	☐	☐

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 6:14 p.m.

The Committee reconvened in open session at 7:04 p.m.

Motion: Accept the evaluation of President Edington for 2023-2024 with a recommended bonus of \$10,000.00. And the second evaluation for 2024-2025 also be accepted with a bonus of \$15,000.00 for a total bonus of \$25,000.00.

Moved: Dr. Rudd

Second: Mr.Grayson

Roll call:

Trustee	Yay	Nay	Abstain
Warner Session	x	☐	☐
Carolyn Rudd	x	☐	☐
Ken Grossinger	x	☐	☐
Tracey Jackson	x	☐	☐
Esther Barazzone	x	☐	☐
Albert Cacoza	☐	☐	x



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Trustee	Yay	Nay	Abstain
David Croom	x	☐	☐
Michael Dannenberg	x	☐	☐
Amy Laitinen	☐	☐	☐
Bisi Oyedele	☐	☐	☐
Bernard Grayson	x	☐	☐
Josh Lopez	☐	☐	☐
Maurice Mckenzie	☐	☐	☐

Motion: Extension of the President's current contract for an additional five years.

Moved: Dr. Rudd

Second: Dr. Barazzone

Roll call:

Trustee	Yay	Nay	Abstain
Warner Session	x	☐	☐
Carolyn Rudd	x	☐	☐
Ken Grossinger	x	☐	☐
Tracey Jackson	x	☐	☐
Esther Barazzone	x	☐	☐
Albert Cacoza	x	☐	☐
David Croom	x	☐	☐
Michael Dannenberg	x	☐	☐
Amy Laitinen	☐	☐	☐
Bisi Oyedele	☐	☐	☐
Bernard Grayson	x	☐	☐
Josh Lopez	☐	☐	☐
Maurice Mckenzie	☐	☐	☐

Adjournment

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 7:11 p.m.