

UNIVERSITY OF MARY WASHINGTON

Board of Visitors Code of Ethics

Adopted September 20, 2013

The UMW Board of Visitors has adopted the following institutional Mission Statement:

The University of Mary Washington is one of Virginia's outstanding public liberal arts universities, providing a superior education that inspires and enables our students to make positive changes in the world.

The University is a place where faculty, students, and staff share in the creation and exploration of knowledge through freedom of inquiry, personal responsibility, and service. UMW regards the provision of high-quality instruction as its most important function. The University offers a wide range of undergraduate and graduate programs focusing on both disciplinary and interdisciplinary studies. These academic programs afford students opportunities to integrate and apply their knowledge within broad educational experiences, to develop their professional interests, and to practice the habits of mind necessary for life-long learning. Through a professionally engaged faculty, the University supports ongoing research appropriate to the development of student abilities and faculty interests. It especially encourages the participation of undergraduates in research.

UMW's size, dedicated faculty, and historical commitment to fine teaching create an institutional culture where both undergraduate and graduate students benefit from strong connections with their faculty and multiple opportunities for active learning.

Located in Fredericksburg, between our nation's capital and the capital of the Commonwealth of Virginia, the University of Mary Washington is a nexus for engagement among diverse communities and is dedicated to supporting professional advancement and economic development and to improving the regional quality of life.

We fulfill our mission by fostering students' intellectual and creative independence, facilitating their immersion in local, regional, national, and international communities, and by inculcating the values of honor and integrity. UMW graduates are models of adaptive learning, personal achievement, responsible leadership, service to others, and engaged citizenship in a global and diverse society.

Each member of the institution's governing body, the Board of Visitors, is committed to fulfilling the University's mission and to conducting business, as a body and individually, consistent with the highest possible ethical standards. We expect all members of the University community to comply with all laws, regulations, policies, and ethical norms—and we expect no less from the membership of our own Board. The leadership, behavior, and actions of Board members affect the reputation of UMW and the Board of Visitors. The Board is expected to serve as a role model for the university community.

The University of Mary Washington Board of Visitors is committed to exemplifying the following ethical standards and practices:

1) LOYALTY

- Board members will understand and support the University's mission, vision, and values as a public liberal arts and sciences university and its place as an institution of higher education within Virginia, the United States, and internationally.
- Board members shall act in good faith and in the best interests of UMW at all times and in a non-partisan and unbiased manner.
- Board members shall participate regularly in events at UMW to ensure they are an active part of the university community.
- Board members shall advocate for the University but refrain from speaking for the Board or UMW unless authorized to do so by the Board or the Rector.

2) INTEGRITY

- The Board shall make decisions and instruct the administration only as a Board and not as individuals.
- Board members shall refrain from requests of the President, faculty or staff for special consideration or personal prerogative, including admissions, employment, and contracts for business.
- Board members shall respect established channels for acquiring information and open communications with faculty, staff or students.
- The Board shall maintain and respect confidentiality, as guided by the Virginia Freedom of Information Act.
- Board members shall respect the rights and dignity of one another and all members of the university community as defined in the Statement of Community Values.
- Board members shall support the UMW Honor Code and shall always strive to exemplify the ideals and values reflected by the honor system.

3) COMMUNICATION AND PARTICIPATION

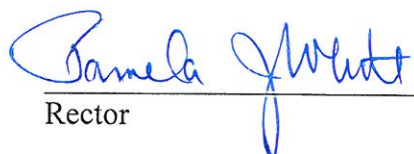
- Board members shall prepare diligently, attend faithfully, and participate constructively in board meetings, committee meetings, and related activities.
- Board members shall speak openly during the board meetings, but after a vote is taken, will support a decision of the Board.
- Board members will extend goodwill to one another, all members of the UMW community, and all educational bodies associated with the University.
- Board members shall understand the role of the Board of Visitors as a policymaking and oversight body, respect the role of the President, and avoid unnecessary intrusion into the administration of the University.

4) ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY

- Board members shall abide by the Commonwealth of Virginia's State and Local Government Conflict of Interests Act, avoiding both conflicts of interest as defined by law and the appearance of such conflicts, and shall report promptly to the Rector any potential conflicts. This includes the timely filing of the annual financial disclosure statement and any other required documents.
- Board members shall adhere to all applicable state and federal laws and regulations, including the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, as well as Board policies and bylaws.
- Individual Board members have a duty to report their own potential or actual violations of the Code of Ethics or those of other Board members to the Rector immediately upon realization or discovery.
- Individual Board members shall participate in all training required by law.
- Board members shall certify that they have read and understand this Code of Ethics by signing an acknowledgement form annually.

Ethical questions relating to a Visitor's conduct and allegations of noncompliance with this Code will be directed to the Rector. Should any such questions or allegations pertain to the Rector, the matter shall be directed to the Vice Rector. The Rector (or Vice Rector as appropriate) will consult with the Visitor and attempt, informally, to resolve compliance concerns consistent with the Board's bylaws. The Rector may determine to convene the Executive Committee to meet with the Visitor and attempt to resolve questions of compliance. Thereafter, the Rector may determine to convene the Board to consider appropriate action, by majority vote of the Board, including recommendations to the Governor for removing a Visitor from the Board.


Secretary


Rector