

FY 21 Gift Acceptance Committee Fiscal Year-End Summary Report

Committee Meetings and Votes

From July 2020 through June 2021, the committee held 11 regularly scheduled monthly meetings and one off-cycle meeting. During these meetings the committee discussed a total of 16* gifts. Matters brought before the committee for vote included:

- 1 Gift of Real Estate
- 2 Gifts from Foreign Entities not Previously Known to the University
- 3 Pledges Exceeding the Standard Five-Year Payment Period
- 4 New Programs
- 1 Gift-in-Kind
- 6 Naming Opportunities

All matters brought before the committee were subsequently approved.

**One gift had more than one related item requiring acceptance.*

Other Committee Actions

Committee Review of University Audit Report and Subsequent Actions

During an off-cycle meeting in October 2020 the committee met with Ed Dittmeier and Wendy Watkins from the Office of University Audit. Ed and Wendy reviewed the June 22, 2020, Office of University Audit report related to the implementation of the university's current Gift Acceptance Policy (University Policy #1123). The audit concluded that gifts reviewed during the audit were handled in accordance with the policy. In addition, the audit report made various recommendations related to definition of terminology contained within the policy, creation and review of meeting minutes, distribution of quarterly reports and documentation of internal procedures. During the meeting, committee members had the opportunity to ask questions and seek clarification regarding the audit recommendations.

In August 2020, the committee began receiving official meeting minutes for review and approval. In February 2021, the committee began receiving quarterly reports of gifts of \$25,000 or more. These actions were implemented in response to the recommendations made in the audit report.

Gift Acceptance Subcommittee Recommendations

In November 2020 a Gift Acceptance Subcommittee, consisting of Katie Turcotte and Alan Abramson, was created in response to the audit report's recommendations regarding definition of terminology contained within the Gift Acceptance Policy. During several meetings, the subcommittee met with subject matter experts from Advancement's Office of Corporate and Foundation Relations, the George Mason University Foundation, Office of University Counsel, Office of Communications and Marketing, and Office of Compliance and Ethics. In March 2021, the subcommittee provided recommendations related to the following definitions:

- Established programs

- Significant public attention
- Significant reputational implications
- International entities
- Real or apparent conflicts of interest
- Naming opportunities recognizing current or former heads of state or public officials, government entities, corporations, or individuals

The subcommittee also proposed recommendations related to several items that were not referenced in the audit report. The subcommittee's recommendations will be utilized by Advancement when preparing the internal procedures referenced in the audit report.

Review of Gift Acceptance Policy

As a result of multiple Gift Acceptance Committee discussions and the recommendations made by the subcommittee, the members of the committee determined that the current Gift Acceptance Policy should be reviewed and revised. To complete this work, a Gift Acceptance Policy Task Force was appointed by Dr. Washington. The task force consisted of the Provost, Vice President of the Office of Communications and Marketing, Faculty Senate Chair, one faculty representative and two representatives from the Office of Advancement. The task force held multiple meetings and submitted proposed policy changes to Dr. Washington in May 2021.