



U.S. Department of Justice

Civil Rights Division

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530

July 21, 2025

Via Electronic Mail Only

Rector Charles "Cully" Stimson
The Board of Visitors
GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY
Fairfax, Virginia

c/o Mike Fragoso
TORRIDON LAW
Washington, D.C.
mfragoso@torridonlaw.com

Re: United States Department of Justice Compliance Review of George Mason University

Dear Rector Stimson:

This is to inform you that the Education Opportunities Section of the United States Department of Justice Civil Rights Division is commencing a compliance review investigation of the George Mason University ("GMU") pursuant to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. § 2000d *et seq.* Title VI prohibits a recipient of federal financial assistance from discriminating on the basis of race, color, or national origin. 42 U.S.C. § 2000d. As you know, GMU currently receives federal financial assistance from the Department of Justice and other federal government sources and accordingly must abide by Title VI's anti-discrimination requirements.

In conducting the compliance investigation, we will seek to determine whether GMU is violating Title VI. We have not reached any conclusions about the subject matter of the investigation. If we conclude that GMU is not violating Title VI, we will notify you that we are closing the investigation. 28 C.F.R. § 42.107. If we conclude that GMU is violating Title VI, we will inform you and work with you to secure compliance by informal voluntary means. 28 C.F.R. §§ 42.107 & 42.108. If we cannot secure compliance by voluntary means, we may take formal action to secure compliance, which could include suspending, terminating, or refusing to grant or continue your federal financial assistance, as well as commencing a civil action. 28 C.F.R. § 42.108.

We expect GMU to cooperate fully with this compliance investigation. The Department's Title VI implementing regulations require, among other obligations, that recipients of federal financial assistance permit access by the Department to sources of information and facilities as may be pertinent to ascertain compliance with Title VI and the implementing regulations. 28 C.F.R. §§ 42.106 & 42.108. These Title VI implementing regulations also require that every application for federal financial assistance be accompanied by an assurance that the program will be conducted in compliance with all

requirements that Title VI and the implementing regulations impose. 28 C.F.R. § 42.105(a)(1). To be sure, GMU executed contractual assurances agreeing to permit the Department to examine records and access other sources of information and facilities as a component of this compliance process.

Students who attend institutions of higher education that are governed by Title VI are entitled to enjoy unfettered access to the school's educational environment, benefits, programs, and experience without discrimination, disparate treatment, harassment, or abuse on the basis of race, ethnicity, national origin, or shared ancestry. Racial segregation regarding access to programs, facilities, or any facet of the student life is illegal. Preferential treatment toward or advantages given to one group of students (and the denial of the same to other groups of students) on the basis of race is illegal. A school administration's deliberate indifference to a racially hostile educational environment is illegal.

Pursuant to this authority, the Department of Justice requires a series of certifications, responses, and productions of information, data, and materials in the accompanying Requests for Information. Full and complete responses and productions are expected by **Friday, August 1, 2025**.

If you have any questions about this letter or inquiry, you may contact Deputy Assistant Attorney General Gregory Brown at 202-514-7818 or Gregory.Brown2@usdoj.gov. Thank you in advance for your attention to and cooperation in this compliance investigation.

Sincerely,



HARMEET K. DHILLON
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division

CC:

Dennis Barghaan
Civil Chief
Office of the United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia
Dennis.Barghaan@usdoj.gov

The Honorable Jason S. Miyares
Attorney General of Virginia
c/o Thomas J. Sanford
Deputy Attorney General
TSanford@oag.state.va.us

Andrea R. Lucas, Acting Chair
Equal Employment Opportunity Commission
Andrea.Lucas@eeoc.gov

Craig Trainor, Acting Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
United States Department of Education
Craig.Trainor@ed.gov