



Senior Vice President of Operations and Business Services

George Mason University welcomes applications, expressions of interest, and nominations for the role of Senior Vice President of Operations and Business Services.

George Mason University

[George Mason University](#), the largest public research university in Virginia, is an innovative, entrepreneurial institution with national distinction in both academics and research. George Mason holds a top U.S. News and World Report "Up and Coming" spot for national universities and is recognized for its global appeal and excellence in higher education.

Since earning R1 designation for "very high research" from Carnegie in 2016 and joining the elite group of the 131 best U.S. research institutions, the research enterprise has grown rapidly, reaching more than \$200 million in funding in 2020, an all-time high for the university.

George Mason is currently the largest and most diverse university in Virginia with students and faculty from all 50 states and over 135 countries studying in over 200 degree programs at campuses in Arlington, Fairfax, and Prince William, as well as at learning locations across the commonwealth, and [Mason Korea](#). Rooted in George Mason's diversity is a campus culture that is both rewarding and exciting, work that is meaningful, and opportunities to both collaborate and create.

Under the leadership of President [Gregory Washington, PhD](#), George Mason's [strategic direction](#) is structured around five strategic priorities: deliver a distinctive and inclusive student experience that fosters lifelong engagement; expand the impact of George Mason's research, scholarship, and creative enterprise; expand partnerships for economic and social impact; exemplify a university culture of diversity, equity, and inclusion; and invest in faculty and staff success.

The University has an operating budget of nearly \$1.5 billion for fiscal year 2024-25. An overview of the 2023-24 fiscal year can be found [here](#).

Its location near Washington, D.C., fosters access to unique opportunities, resources, and audiences, as it strives to be the best university for the world. With 10 schools and colleges devoted to a variety of areas of study, George Mason was the first university in the country to offer doctoral programs in conflict resolution, information technology, bioinformatics, and computational social science. As a place where "innovation is tradition," George Mason is setting the benchmark for a bold, transformative learning experience through an experiential and global education that serves the evolving needs of students and communities.

Position Summary

The Senior Vice President (SVP) currently reports to the President and is responsible for managing the University's business and operations. The SVP oversees the operational execution of the vision and mission of the university, while ensuring stability, security, and efficiency in alignment with the University's strategic priorities.

The SVP oversees the key business operations of the university, including facilities and campus operations, capital strategy and planning, IT services, and auxiliary operations, providing financial management and operational oversight to these departments to ensure service delivery in a manner that meets the diverse needs of George Mason's many constituents. Additional operations housed in these units include sustainability, EagleBank Arena, Child Development Center and other operations.

Working closely with the President, as well as key partners and stakeholders across the university, this position is responsible for overseeing the whole of the operational ecosystem to ensure smooth coordination and interoperability, while also understanding of the functional details.

The SVP joins Mason at a pivotal time and will lead transformational change in how these services and operations are delivered to meet the evolving needs of a growing university, facilitating necessary strategic investments, and prioritizing operational efficiency, which includes oversight and leadership of university domain councils and associated reserves planning.

The SVP will guide initiatives to improve and modernize systems and infrastructure, some of which have seen underinvestment and long-deferred maintenance, to best serve the needs of the university.

This position will oversee the activation of new assets and management of capital projects, such as the Fuse building, and ensure that the necessary operational and financial framework is in place to intake and foster vibrant and fully integrated additions to the George Mason ecosystem.

The SVP will oversee and lead components of space management and campus planning to ensure efficient use of university assets and exploration of potential partnerships for campus development with a focus on return-on-investment.

The SVP will provide strategic leadership and planning to ensure future compatibility with George Mason operations, ensuring they are well-positioned to meet future needs as well as current ones.

In addition, the SVP will have ownership of key university priorities, such as sustainability, serving as a champion while ensuring alignment with University priorities as well as providing strategic management and guidance to oversee key George Mason contractors and external service providers under the SVP span of control.

Competencies & Qualifications

The SVP will possess:

- Technical expertise and broad managerial experience combined with a collegial style that will engender trust and foster collaboration across the university.
- A strong orientation to service, be highly mission-oriented, will have and will be both financially savvy and politically astute.
- An open, accessible, and transparent approach to management along with significant experience in the building of both teams/new organizations and of the capacities of the members of those teams. A commitment to mentoring and supporting the professional growth and development of staff under their supervision.
- Subject-matter expertise, credibility, integrity, and confidence to sustain a complex array of relationships and to lead through influence as much as through authority.
- Well-developed interpersonal skills and relationship-building skills, both to work effectively within the various reporting organizations as well as to build trust and confidence with the other members of the leadership team as well as with distributed units across a decentralized organization.
- An understanding of a complex academic or operational environment; willingness to embrace an inclusive, entrepreneurial, and innovative culture and governance structure.
- Diplomatic communication skills, interactions with others, and keen political acumen.
- An ability to analyze and interpret data to inform and support decisions.
- Excellent initiative with resourcefulness, sound judgment, and an ability to find creative and practical solutions to problems.
- Excellent oral and written communication skills.
- The ability to present complex information in a readily understandable format to various audiences, including the [Board of Visitors](#), University executive leadership, faculty, staff, and students.
- Demonstrated leadership, communication, team building, staff building, organizational skills, mentoring, and commitment to advancing workforce diversity within a complex and diverse organization.
- Ability to prioritize ongoing and new projects as necessary to implement specific organizational programs.
- Skill in continuously seeking to improve the quality of services and processes of the University.

Required Qualifications

- Extensive experience overseeing operational functions within higher education, state government, or an organization of significant size and complexity with a minimum of ten (10) years of related experiences that demonstrate leadership, management, and fiscal acuity.
- A track record of experience building and managing organizations with a strong service orientation and collaborative partnerships with leaders across a mission-driven or business enterprise.

- Demonstrated success supporting entrepreneurial activity across units within the policy and compliance framework of a complex and multilayered organization.
- Reliable judgment, sound discretion, and excellent interpersonal and communication skills to interact with community representatives, and numerous and varied constituencies of the University including academic leadership, faculty, staff, and students.
- Demonstrated ability to work collegially with a wide record of integrity.

Preferred Qualifications

- Advance academic credentials (MBA or other) highly desirable; however, an extraordinary business or government career profile will be considered.
- Significant operational experience with a major research university is preferred, as well as previous successful experience in strategic leadership including working with governing boards.
- Thorough and up-to-date knowledge of the business and finance field as related to higher education management.
- Familiarity with laws and regulations related to financial and research administration.

To Apply

George Mason University has retained [Opus Partners](#) to support this recruitment. [Katie Dean](#), Partner, and [Thomas Lapierre](#), Senior Associate are leading the search. Inquiries, applications, and nominations should be sent to thomas.lapierre@opuspartners.net. The search process will unfold with the greatest possible attention to candidate confidentiality. Required application materials include a resume and cover letter.

George Mason University is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer, committed to promoting inclusion and equity in its community. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, age, disability or veteran status, or any characteristic protected by law.