

# HOWARD UNIVERSITY

Faculty Senate

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** The Governance Committee of the Howard University Board of Trustees  
Mrs. Benaree P. Wiley, Chair  
The Honorable Marie C. Johns, Vice-Chair  
Minnie V. Baylor-Henry, Esq.  
Dr. Dannette G. Howard  
Stacey J. Mobley, Esq.

**FROM:** The Council of the Howard University Faculty Senate

**SUBJECT:** Spring 2020 Faculty Trustee Elections

**DATE:** April 6, 2020

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The Council of the Faculty Senate respectfully acknowledges receipt of your memorandum dated April 1, 2020 regarding postponement of the Spring 2020 election of the Undergraduate and Graduate Faculty Trustees. In addition, we have seen the letter you provided to the campus community explaining your decision to request that the Board of Trustees pause adding any new Board members given the urgent business associated with addressing COVID-19.

Kindly note that although the COVID-19 pandemic continues to present significant challenges to operations at Howard University, the Faculty Senate is well-positioned to exercise its governance responsibilities using the same technology that faculty are employing to deliver world-class instruction to students. Accordingly, the Faculty Senate shall assemble virtually for the Spring 2020 Full Senate Meeting and conduct Faculty Senate elections electronically as stipulated in the Howard University Faculty Senate Bylaws and Howard University Board of Trustees Bylaws (2018).

Ten members of the faculty have been nominated by the full membership of the Faculty Senate to serve as Graduate and Undergraduate Faculty Trustees. These nominees are committed to advancing the mission of Howard University by providing the unique perspective of faculty, which is vital during a time of transition in higher education in general, and Howard University, in particular. Given the important decisions that must be made in the near-term to ensure long-term viability, the best path forward is one that includes faculty representation in the shared governance of the University. The status quo, i.e. no representation on the Board of Trustees from faculty who serve nine schools, colleges, and units in undergraduate programs, is unacceptable and imprudent. To ensure that the Board of Trustees benefits from the most diverse and comprehensive experiences and views available, The Council of the Howard University Faculty Senate strongly recommends that the Undergraduate and Graduate Faculty Trustee elections commence as planned.

The Faculty Senate looks forward to working in full partnership with the Board of Trustees in the shared governance of Howard University.

cc: Wayne A. I. Frederick, M.D., MBA, President  
Florence W. Prioleau, Esq., General Counsel and Secretary  
Rosalyne E. Jones, Esq. Deputy Secretary and Senior Counsel – Special Projects

