

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

**REPORT ON AUDIT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
JUNE 30, 2008**

APA

**Auditor of
Public Accounts**

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

AUDIT SUMMARY

Our audit of George Mason University for the year ended June 30, 2008, found:

- the financial statements are presented fairly, in all material respects, with generally accepted accounting principles;
- no material weaknesses in internal control over financial reporting; and
- no instances of noncompliance or other matters required to be reported under Government Auditing Standards.

We have audited the basic financial statements of George Mason University as of June 30, 2008, and for the year then ended and issued our report thereon dated April 23, 2009. Our report, included with the University's basic financial statements, is available at the Auditor of Public Accounts' website at www.apa.virginia.gov and at the University's web site at www.gmu.edu.

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Commonwealth of Virginia

Walter J. Kucharski, Auditor

**Auditor of Public Accounts
P.O. Box 1295
Richmond, Virginia 23218**

April 23, 2009

The Honorable Timothy M. Kaine
Governor of Virginia

The Honorable M. Kirkland Cox
Chairman, Joint Legislative Audit
and Review Commission

Board of Visitors
George Mason University

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS

We have audited the financial statements of the business-type activities and the discretely presented component unit of **George Mason University** as of and for the year ended June 30, 2008, which collectively comprise the University's basic financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated April 23, 2009. Our report was modified to include a reference to other auditors. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. We did not consider internal controls over financial reporting or test compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements for the financial statements of the component unit of the University, which was audited by other auditors in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, but not in accordance with Government Auditing Standards.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit, we considered the University's internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the University's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the University's internal control over financial reporting.

A control deficiency exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent or detect misstatements on a timely basis. A significant deficiency is a control deficiency, or combination of control deficiencies, that adversely affects the entity's ability to initiate, authorize, record, process, or report financial data reliably in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, such that there is more than a remote likelihood

that a misstatement of the entity's financial statements that is more than inconsequential will not be prevented or detected by the entity's internal control over financial reporting.

A material weakness is a significant deficiency, or combination of significant deficiencies, that results in more than a remote likelihood that a material misstatement of the financial statements will not be prevented or detected by the entity's internal control over financial reporting.

Our consideration of internal control over financial reporting was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and would not necessarily identify all deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that might be significant deficiencies or material weaknesses. We did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that we consider to be material weaknesses, as defined above.

Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the University's financial statements are free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and, accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under Government Auditing Standards.

Status of Prior Findings

The University has taken adequate corrective action with respect to audit findings reported in the prior year.

Report Distribution and Exit Conference

The "Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters" is intended solely for the information and use of the Governor and General Assembly of Virginia, the Board of Visitors, and management, and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone, other than these specified parties. However, this report is a matter of public record and its distribution is not limited.

We discussed this report with management at an exit conference held on April 28, 2009.

AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

JHS/clj

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

BOARD OF VISITORS

As of June 30, 2008

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