

The Faculty Senate of George Mason University expresses its deep concern with the terms of the \$30 million gift agreements to support the university's School of Law and to name it the Antonin Scalia School of Law.

The Senate recognizes that the gifts provide \$30 million in scholarship support for law students and memorialize Justice Scalia's many years of public service and his intellectual contributions to jurisprudence. At the same time, the Senate finds these aspects to be problematic:

- The celebration of a Supreme Court Justice who made numerous public offensive comments about various groups – including people of color, women, and LGBTQ individuals – which this university has appropriately gone to some lengths to embrace as valued parts of the university community;
- The memorializing of a Supreme Court Justice who was a significant contributor to the polarized climate in this country that runs counter to the values of a university that celebrates civil discourse;
- The reinforcement of the external branding of the university as a conservative institution rather than an unaligned body that is a comfortable home for individuals with a variety of viewpoints;
- Public representations by the university's Rector, President, School of Law Dean, and communications office that have failed to disclose the terms of the gifts that specifically require the university to provide funding for 12 new faculty, additional staff, and support for two new Centers for a ten-year period; and
- The potential for the university's long-term liability for the continued funding of the additional law school faculty and centers after the 5-year period of scholarship funding expires.

In view of these concerns, the Faculty Senate urges the university's Board of Visitors and administration to take action to:

- Emphasize the university's continuing support for groups that were slighted by Justice Scalia and that may have been offended by the university's embrace of his legacy;
- Underscore the university's support for civil discourse that bridges the great diversity present at the university;
- Highlight to external audiences that the university is not aligned with any single ideological position and is a friendly home to faculty, staff, students, and others with diverse points of view;
- Explain more fully the university's plan to manage its responsibility for future funding of new law school faculty and centers without detriment to other units in the university; and
- Commit to honest, open communication with faculty and other university stakeholders.