



**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
TRUSTEE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

AGENDA

April 2, 2026

- I. CALL TO ORDER**
- II. INFORMATION ITEM**
 - A. Minutes from the meeting held on February 2nd, 2026.
- III. ACTION ITEM(S)**
 - A. Three Year Calendar
- IV. MOTION TO CLOSE & CLOSING STATEMENT**
- V. DISCUSSION ITEM**
 - A. Review of Trustee candidates
- VI. ADJOURNMENT**



**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
TRUSTEE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
OPEN SESSION MINUTES**

Date of Meeting: February 2, 2026

Status of Minutes: Approved

Trustee Governance Committee Members Present: Board Chair John J. Bell '95, Committee Chair Kristen Greenaway, Aaron Tomarchio '96, Heidi Murdy-Michael, John Wobensmith '93, Melanie Rosalez '92, Ray Wernecke, Pres. Rhonda Phillips

Committee Members Absent: N/A

Staff Members Present: Brandon Engle (President's Office), Robert Artiga-Valencia (President's Office)

Others Present: N/A

Executive Summary

The meeting was called to order at 1:01 pm. Trustees discussed potential candidates to serve as the Commencement Speaker and potential recipients of an honorary degree as part of the 2026 Commencement Ceremony proceedings. Trustees also discussed progress made by the Shared Governance Working Group. At 1:16 pm, the meeting was closed to discuss potential candidates to serve on the College's Board of Trustees following the expiration of terms for current Trustees. The meeting returned to open session to summarize closed session discussion items at 1:37 pm, and adjourned at 1:39 pm.

Discussion Items

Spring '26 Commencement – Honorary Degree Recipient

Dr. Phillips provided an update regarding the potential recipient of an honorary doctorate from SMCM as part of the 2026 Commencement Ceremony. While a specific recipient has not yet been identified and approved, candidates are under active consideration by the Board.

Spring '26 Commencement – Commencement Speaker

Dr. Phillips provided an update regarding potential keynote speakers for the 2026 Commencement Ceremony. Several candidates have been identified, and an invitation has been prepared and sent by the President's Office.

Shared Governance Working Group Statement

Trustee Murdy-Michael provided an overview and update of the Shared Governance Working Group's progress since its establishment in Fall 2025. The Working Group's first action was to develop a Statement on Principles of Shared Governance to identify guiding and operating principles of shared governance which align best practices with the unique mission and status of St. Mary's College of Maryland. Following consideration and approval of this Statement by the Board of Trustees, the Working Group will then identify specific recommendations to further improve shared governance at St. Mary's College of Maryland.

A motion to recommend the Statement for consideration by the full Board was made at 1:14 pm by Trustee Wernecke and seconded by Trustee Wobensmith. No dissenting votes were cast.

Motion to Close

A motion to close in accordance with Maryland General Provisions §3-305 (b) was made at 1:16 pm by Trustee Wernecke and seconded by Trustee Wobensmith. No dissenting votes were cast.

Return to Open Session & Adjournment

After returning to open session to summarize closed session discussion items, including the discussion of potential candidates to serve on the College's Board of Trustees following the expiration of terms for current Trustees. Neither a vote nor any official action occurred during closed session. At 1:37 pm, a motion to adjourn was made by Trustee Wernecke and seconded by Trustee Murdy-Michael. The meeting adjourned at 1:39 pm

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
TRUSTEE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

APRIL 2, 2026

**ACTION ITEM 1-25-26
BOARD OF TRUSTEES THREE-YEAR CALENDAR
MAY 2026 THROUGH OCTOBER 2028**

RECOMMENDED ACTION

The Governance Committee recommends the adoption of the following three-year calendar to establish working parameters for Board business

CALENDAR YEAR 2026

May 15, 2026 – Board Meeting
May 16, 2026 – Commencement
July 29, 2026 – Board Retreat
July 30, 2026 – Board Retreat
October 9, 2026 – Board Meeting
October 10, 2026 – Board Meeting

CALENDAR YEAR 2027

February 19, 2027 – Board Meeting
February 20, 2027 – Board Meeting
May 14, 2027 – Board meeting
May 15, 2027 – Commencement
July 15, 2027 – Board Retreat*
July 16, 2027 – Board Retreat*
October 15, 2027- Board Meeting
October 16, 2027 – Board Meeting

CALENDAR YEAR 2028

February 18, 2028 – Board Meeting
February 19, 2028 – Board Meeting

May 12, 2028 – Board Meeting
May 13, 2028 – Commencement
July 14, 2028 – Board Retreat*
July 15, 2028 – Board Retreat*
October 13, 2028 – Board Meeting
October 14, 2028 – Board Meeting

DRAFT

**STATEMENT REGARDING CLOSING A MEETING OF THE ST. MARY'S
COLLEGE OF MARYLAND BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

TRUSTEE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Date: April 2nd, 2026
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Location: St. Mary's College of Maryland, via Zoom

**STATUTORY AUTHORITY TO CLOSE A SESSION
Md. Gen. Prov. Code Ann. §3-305 (b):**

- (1) To discuss:
 (i) The appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom it has jurisdiction; or
 (ii) Any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals.
- (2) To protect the privacy or reputation of individuals with respect to a matter that is not related to public business.
- (3) To consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto.
- (4) To consider a preliminary matter that concerns the proposal for a business or industrial organization to locate, expand, or remain in the State.
- (5) To consider the investment of public funds.
- (6) To consider the marketing of public securities.
- (7) To consult with counsel to obtain legal advice on a legal matter.

- (8) To consult with staff, consultants, or other individuals about pending or potential litigation.
- (9) To conduct collective bargaining negotiations or consider matters that relate to the negotiations.
- (10) To discuss public security, if the public body determines that public discussions would constitute a risk to the public or public security, including:
 - (i) the deployment of fire and police services and staff; and
 - (ii) the development and implementation of emergency plans.
- (11) To prepare, administer or grade a scholastic, licensing, or qualifying examination.
- (12) To conduct or discuss an investigative proceeding on actual or possible criminal conduct.
- (13) To comply with a specific constitutional, statutory, or judicially imposed requirement that prevents public disclosures about a particular proceeding or matter.
- (14) Before a contract is awarded or bids are opened, to discuss a matter directly related to a negotiation strategy or the contents of a bid or proposal, if public discussion or disclosure would adversely impact the ability of the public body to participate in the competitive bidding or proposal process.

TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED: Potential candidates for the SMCM Board of Trustees.

REASON FOR CLOSING: To protect the privacy and identity of individuals who may be discussed or matters that may not require public disclosure at this point in time.