

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY CASH MATCH PLAN

Effective April 1, 2000

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PREAMBLE

As required by section 51.1-606 of the Code of Virginia, George Mason University has established the George Mason University Cash Match Plan (the “Plan”), effective April 1, 2000. The Plan was established to hold, administer and invest matching contributions for qualified participants who voluntarily contribute to an eligible deferred compensation plan, as that term is defined under section 457(b) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the “Code”), or a tax deferred annuity, as that term is defined under section 403(b) of the Code. The benefits provided by this Plan are mandated by statute and shall remain in effect as long as the Commonwealth of Virginia appropriates money to fund such benefit. The Plan is intended to be a qualified plan under section 401(a) of the Code funded by annuities that qualify under section 403(a) of the Code and a tax-exempt trust under section 501(a) of the Code, and is a governmental plan as described in section 414(d) of the Code.

SECTION 1 DEFINITIONS

1.1 Accumulation Account

The account of a Participant that is credited with matching contributions pursuant to Section 3.1, transfer contributions pursuant to Section 3.2 and/or contributions on behalf of reemployed returning veterans pursuant to Section 3.4.

1.2 Administrator

The University.

1.3 Board

The Rector and Visitors of George Mason University.

1.4 Code

The Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended.

1.5 Commonwealth

The Commonwealth of Virginia.

1.6 Eligible Employee

Any salaried Employee who is eligible to participate in the VRS or the Defined Contribution Retirement Plan for Faculty of George Mason University.

1.7 Employee

Any individual on the payroll of the Employer whose compensation from the Employer is subject to withholding for the purposes of Federal income taxes and the Federal Insurance Contributions Act. If a person is engaged in an independent contractor or similar capacity and is subsequently reclassified by the Employer, the Internal Revenue Service, or a court as an employee, such person, for purposes of this Plan, shall be deemed an Employee from the actual (and not the effective) date of such reclassification, unless expressly provided otherwise by the Employer.

1.8 Employer

The University.

1.9 Former Participant

Any individual who is no longer a Participant but who continues to have an Accumulation Account.

1.10 415 Compensation

A Participant's wages, salaries, fees for professional service and other amounts for personal services actually rendered in the course of employment with the Employer maintaining the Plan paid or accrued during the Limitation Year. It shall exclude: (1) any distributions from a plan of deferred compensation sponsored by the Employer regardless of whether such amounts are includable in the gross income of the Employee when distributed except any amounts received by an Employee pursuant to an unfunded non-qualified plan of the Employee's Employer to the extent such amounts are includable in the gross income of the Employee; (2) amounts realized from the exercise of a non-qualified stock option or when restricted stock (or property) held by an Employee either becomes freely transferable or is no longer subject to a substantial risk of forfeiture; (3) amounts realized from the sale, exchange or other disposition of stock acquired under a qualified stock option; and (4) other amounts which receive special tax benefits, such as premiums for group term life insurance (but only to the extent that the premiums are not includable in the gross income of the Employee).

1.11 Investment Fund

The funds referred to in Section 5 hereof for the investment and reinvestment of a Participant's share of contributions and assets held under the Plan, sometimes also referred to as "Fund" or "Funds."

1.12 Leased Employee

An individual who is not on the Employer's payroll and provides services to the Employer if such services are provided pursuant to an agreement between the Employer and any other person.

1.13 Limitation Year

The Plan Year.

1.14 Month of Service

Each month for which an Eligible Employee is/was entitled to elect to defer compensation under a deferred compensation plan as described under Code section 457(b) or under a tax deferred annuity as described under Code section 403(b) sponsored or maintained by an employer which is an agency or instrumentality of the Commonwealth.

1.15 Participant

Any Employee who has commenced participation in the Plan in accordance with the provisions of Section 2 of the Plan.

1.16 Plan

The George Mason University Cash Match Plan as set forth in this document and as amended from time to time.

1.17 Plan Year

The twelve (12) month period commencing each January 1.

1.18 Trust

The George Mason University Retirement Benefit Trust Agreement, created by the Trust Agreement entered into pursuant to Section 10 between the University and the Trustees.

1.19 Trustees

The persons and/or bank or trust company which are named as Trustees in the Trust Agreement described in Section 10.1.

1.20 University

George Mason University.

1.21 USERRA

The Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994, as amended.

1.22 Valuation Date

The last day of each Plan Year and each other interim date during the Plan Year on which the portion of the assets of a Participant's or Former Participant's Accumulation Account allocated to the Trust is valued.

1.23 VRS

The Virginia Retirement System.

SECTION 2 PARTICIPATION

2.1 Participants

- (a) Each Eligible Employee who, as of the effective date of the Plan, completed at least twelve (12) consecutive Months of Service with the Employer or an employer which is an agency or instrumentality of the Commonwealth shall become a Participant in the Plan as of the effective date of the Plan.
- (b) An Eligible Employee who does not become a Participant under (a) above shall become a Participant on the first day of the first payroll period following completion of at least twelve (12) consecutive Months of Service with the Employer or an employer which is an agency or instrumentality of the Commonwealth.
- (c) Each Employee who was not an Eligible Employee on the date he or she completed twelve (12) consecutive Months of Service with the Employer or an employer which is an agency or instrumentality of the Commonwealth shall become a Participant on the first day he or she becomes an Eligible Employee.

2.2 Obligation of Participant

When an Employee becomes eligible to participate, and thereafter from time to time, the Administrator may require the Employee to furnish such information and fill out, sign and file such forms and documents as may be reasonably required for the administration of the Plan, including beneficiary designation forms, evidence of age and marital status, etc. If a Participant does not comply with any such reasonable requirements neither the Administrator, the Trustees, nor any other person, shall be obligated to administer the Plan for such Participant until such information is properly furnished, and no such person shall incur liability to such Participant or his or her beneficiary to the extent that any intended Plan benefit has not been obtained or is not available because of the Participant's or beneficiary's failure to furnish such information and fill out, sign and file such documents.

2.3 Termination of Participation

(a) General Rule

Participation in the Plan continues until a Participant is no longer an Eligible Employee.

(b) Participants Transferred to Other Entities Controlled by the Board

Notwithstanding (a) above, where a Participant is transferred to another entity controlled by the Board, the University through its Executive Vice President and

Chief Financial Officer, may, in its sole and absolute discretion, declare that the affected Participant will not terminate participation in the Plan as a result of the transfer and will remain a Participant in the Plan regardless of the fact that he is no longer an Eligible Employee.

2.4 Reinstatement as an Eligible Employee

A former Eligible Employee who subsequently becomes an Eligible Employee again shall have the right to participate in the Plan upon completing the requirements of Section 2.1 above following reemployment. A minimum 30-day break in status as an Eligible Employee is required.

**SECTION 3
CONTRIBUTIONS**

3.1 Matching Contributions

(a) Discretionary Match

The Employer shall credit to each Participant's Accumulation Account on a semimonthly basis, an amount equal to a percentage of the Participant's deferrals to an eligible deferred compensation plan, as that term is defined in section 457(b) of the Code, established by the Board of Trustees of the VRS, or to a tax deferred annuity, as that term is defined in section 403(b) of the Code, under the Employer's 403(b) program, provided such Participant is making continuous contributions of at least ten dollars (\$10.00). The percentage described above shall be determined by the Commonwealth, through its designated agency at its sole and absolute discretion.

(b) Maximum Matching Contributions

The Employer's matching contribution on behalf of a Participant shall not exceed the lesser of:

- (I) \$50.00, or
- (II) an amount equal to 50% of the Participant's deferrals for the semimonthly period.

(c) Timing of Contributions

Contributions credited under this Section 3.1 shall be made on a semi-monthly basis.

3.2 Transfer Contributions

The Plan shall receive transfers only of accrued benefits from other Commonwealth matching contribution plans established and maintained pursuant to section 51.1-606 of the Code of Virginia on behalf of a Participant. The Plan shall accept no other transfers or rollovers of any kind.

The Administrator shall allocate the transferred amounts described in the preceding paragraph among the various investment vehicles permitted under the Plan pursuant to Section 5. The Participant shall provide such instructions in writing on a form prescribed by the Administrator.

3.3 Annual Limitation on Contributions

(a) Defined Contribution Limit

In no event shall a Participant's matching contribution under Section 3.1 above for the Limitation Year beginning on January 1, 2001 exceed the lesser of \$35,000 or twenty-five percent (25%) of the Participant's 415 Compensation. For Limitation Years beginning on or after January 1, 2002, a Participant's Employer contributions shall not exceed the lesser of:

- (i) \$40,000, as adjusted under Code section 415(c)(1)(A); or
- (ii) one hundred percent (100%) of the Participant's 415 Compensation.

(b) Participation In More Than One Plan

If the Employer maintains one or more qualified defined contribution plans, as defined in Code section 414(i), the limitation in Section 3.3(a) above shall be administered in the aggregate in accordance with the terms found in the Defined Contribution Retirement Plan for Faculty of George Mason University including the provisions in said plan regarding the Qualified Governmental Excess Benefit Arrangement.

(c) No Exceeding 415 Limit

In no event shall the amount of any benefit or annuity determined under this Section 3 exceed the maximum benefit permitted under Code section 415.

3.4 Reemployment of Returning Veterans

(a) Retroactive Contributions

If a Participant is in qualified military service, as that term is defined under USERRA, and he returns to employment with the Employer within ninety (90)

days of the end of his military leave (or such longer period of time as his reemployment rights are protected by law), the Employer shall make the contributions described in Section 3.1 above on behalf of the Participant that he otherwise would have been entitled to but for his absence due to the military leave.

(b) Limitations

Contributions made pursuant to (a) above shall not be counted for purposes of Section 3.3 during the Limitation Year when they are made. Rather such contributions shall be counted for purposes of Section 3.3 in the Limitation Year to which the contributions relate.

(c) Compensation

For purposes of (a) and (b) above, the Administrator shall treat the Participant as receiving Compensation during the period of qualified military service equal to the amount of Compensation the Participant would have received from the Employer during such period, based on the rate of pay the Participant would have received from the Employer but for the absence due to military service, or, if such rate of pay is not reasonably certain, the Participant's average Compensation during (I) the twelve (12) month period immediately before the qualified military service or, (II) if shorter, the period of employment immediately before the qualified military service.

(d) Crediting of Earnings

A Participant who is entitled to a contribution pursuant to (a) above shall not be entitled to receive corresponding retroactive earnings attributable to such contribution.

SECTION 4 VESTING

A Participant shall be fully vested in his or her Accumulation Account at all times under the Plan.

SECTION 5 INVESTMENT OPTIONS

5.1 Investment Options

The Participant shall have the option to allocate the matching contribution made pursuant to Section 3.1 between the following forms of investment:

- (a) an annuity contract that meets the requirements of Code section 403(a), or

- (b) a qualified trust as described in Code section 401(a).

When first becoming a Participant in the Plan, as described in Section 2.1, the Eligible Employee shall also designate on a Plan application form prescribed by the Administrator whether Plan contributions should be invested in an annuity contract or the Trust. A Participant may change the investment allocation at such time or times as the Administrator may prescribe.

5.2 Annuity Contract

The University may offer one or more annuity contracts described in Section 5.1(a) above among which a Participant may choose to allocate contributions made to his or her Accumulation Account. The Administrator shall determine the nature and the quality of the investments offered under each of these contracts. To the extent a Participant may choose among various investments offered under an annuity contract, any communication regarding such investment shall be between the sponsor of the annuity contract and the Participant. Once a Participant chooses an annuity contract to which to allocate Plan contributions, the University shall have no further responsibility regarding such contributions.

5.3 Qualified Trust

(a) Individual Accounts

The Administrator shall establish and maintain an account in the name of each Participant to which there shall be credited (or debited) contributions made in accordance with Section 3.1, 3.2 or 3.4 above that the Participant has designated are to be allocated to the Trust pursuant to Section 5.1(b) above. The Administrator shall adjust, as of each Valuation Date, the balance of each Participant's account to reflect the current market value of the Investment Funds in which each the account was invested. A Participant's interest in any Investment Fund shall be determined and accounted for based on his beneficial interest in any such Fund, and no Participant shall have any interest in or rights to any specific asset of any Investment Fund.

(b) Investment of Accounts

(I) The balance held for the benefit of each Participant in his account shall be invested at the direction of each Participant among one or more of the Plan's Investment Funds. The Administrator in its sole discretion shall determine the nature and the quality of the investments in each of these Funds. There will be at least three Investment Funds to which a Participant may allocate his Accounts and each of these Funds will have a different one of the following primary objectives:

- (A) The generation of the highest level of income consistent with the preservation of capital over the long term;

- (B) Capital appreciation; and
 - (C) A balance between capital appreciation and preservation of capital and generation of income.
- (II) The Administrator shall provide Participants with directions as to how to obtain information sufficient to enable Participants to make informed investment directions. Neither the Administrator nor the Trustees, however, shall provide investment advice to a Participant with respect to an investment.
 - (III) Each Participant shall be responsible for directing the investment of all contributions in his or her account. Participant investment directions shall be made in a manner prescribed by the Administrator. Investments shall be made in one (1) or more of the Investment Funds made available under subsection (I) hereof.
 - (IV) Subject to the terms and limitations of the various Investment Funds, each Participant may direct at such time or times as the Administrator may prescribe that amounts held in one or more of the Investment Funds described in subsection (I) hereof, may be transferred to, from or among such Investment Funds.

(c) Allocations of Earnings and Losses

Allocations of earnings and losses to Participant accounts shall be accomplished as follows:

- (I) The dividends, capital gains distributions, and other earnings received on any share or unit of an Investment Fund that is specifically credited or earmarked to a Participant's account under the Plan in accordance with the directed investment provisions of this Section 5.3 shall be allocated to such account and immediately reinvested, to the extent practicable, in additional shares or units of such Investment Fund.
- (II) To the extent not otherwise provided in paragraph (I) above, the assets of each Investment Fund shall be valued by the Trustee at their current fair market value of as each Valuation Date, and the earnings and losses of the Investment Fund since the immediately preceding Valuation Date shall be allocated to the accounts of all Participants with interests in that Investment Fund in the ratio that the fair market value of each such interest as of the immediately preceding Valuation Date, reduced by any distributions or withdrawals therefrom since such preceding Valuation Date, bears to the total fair market value of all such interests as of the immediately preceding Valuation Date, reduced by any distributions or withdrawals therefrom since such preceding Valuation Date.

(d) Allocation to Individual Accounts

The accounts of each Participant shall be adjusted as of each Valuation Date by (I) reducing such accounts by any payments made therefrom since the preceding Valuation Date, and then (II) increasing or reducing such accounts by the Participant's share of earnings and losses, determined pursuant to (c) above, and the expense of administering the Investment Funds since the preceding Valuation Date, and (III) crediting such accounts with any contributions allocated thereto since the preceding Valuation Date.

(e) Valuation for Withdrawal and Distribution

For purposes of paying the amounts to be withdrawn or distributed to a Participant or beneficiary pursuant to Section 6.2 below, the value of the Participant's Accumulation Account allocated to the Trust shall be determined in accordance with the provisions of this Section 5.3 as of the Valuation Date that is on or immediately preceding the date the distribution is made.

5.4 Reallocation Among Annuity Contracts and the Trust

A Participant may reallocate all or a portion of his or her Accumulation Account invested in annuity contracts to the Trust, or vice versa, to the extent permitted, if at all, by the sponsor of the annuity and the Administrator.

**SECTION 6
DISTRIBUTIONS**

6.1 Distributions of Amounts Allocated to Annuity Contracts

Distribution of the portion of a Participant's Accumulation Account allocated to annuity contracts shall be distributed in accordance with the terms of the applicable annuity contract.

6.2 Distributions of Amounts Allocated to the Trust

Distribution of the portion of a Participant's Accumulation Account allocated to the Trust shall be distributed in the following manner:

(a) Receipt of Benefits

A Participant no longer employed by the Employer or any other entity controlled by the Board shall receive his or her benefits within sixty (60) days after the day he or she separates from service. The amount to be distributed shall be determined based on the value of the portion of the Former Participant's Accumulation Account balance allocated to the Trust as determined pursuant to Section 5.3(e).

(b) Forms of Distribution

A Participant shall receive a distribution of the portion of his or her Accumulation Account allocated to the Trust in a lump sum.

(c) Mandatory Distribution Date

In no event shall distributions commence later than April 1 of the calendar year following the calendar year in which the Participant attains age seventy-and-one-half (70 1/2), except if the Participant is an Employee in the calendar year he or she attains age seventy-and-one-half (70 1/2), in which case the distribution may commence April 1 of the calendar year following the calendar year in which the Participant retires.

(d) Pre-Distribution Death Benefits

(I) Form of Distribution to a Designated Beneficiary

If a Participant dies prior to having commenced distribution of benefits under Section 6.2(a), the Participant's designated beneficiary shall receive the portion of the Participant's Accumulation Account allocated to the Trust in a lump sum. Distribution shall be made within sixty (60) days of the date of the Former Participant's death. The amount to be distributed shall be determined based on the value of the portion of the Former Participant's Accumulation Account balance allocated to the Trust as determined in accordance with Section 5.3(e).

(II) Absence of Valid Designation of Beneficiaries

If a Participant has no valid beneficiary designation on file with the Administrator, or the beneficiary has predeceased the Participant, the Administrator shall designate as the beneficiary, in the following order of priority; surviving spouse; surviving children, including adopted children, in equal shares; surviving parents, in equal shares; or the Participant's estate. The Administrator's determination of this matter shall be binding. The beneficiary(ies) determined by the Administrator in accordance with this paragraph shall be treated as the designated beneficiary(ies) for purposes of (I) above.

(III) Surviving Spouse Dies Prior to Receiving Benefits as Described in (I) and (II) Above

If the surviving spouse dies after the Participant, but before payments to such spouse begin, the provisions of (I) shall be applied as if the surviving spouse were the Participant.

(IV) Children as Beneficiaries

For purposes of this Section 6.1(d), any amount paid to a child of the Participant will be treated as if it had been paid to the surviving spouse if the amount becomes payable to the surviving spouse when the child reaches the age of majority.

(e) Incompetence of Distributee

If the Administrator receives evidence that a person entitled to receive any distribution under the Plan is physically or mentally incompetent or incompetent by any reason of age to receive such distribution and give valid release therefore, the Administrator shall direct the Trustee to make such distribution to the Participant's legal representative (such as a guardian) provided the Administrator, in its sole and absolute discretion, determines that such individual has the authority as legal representative to request payment from the Plan. Any such payment made under this Section 6.2(e) shall constitute a complete discharge of any liability under the Plan.

(f) Location of Participant or Beneficiary Unknown

In the event that all, or any portion, of the distribution payable to a Participant or his or her beneficiary under this Section 6.2 remains unpaid solely by reason of the inability of the Administrator to ascertain the whereabouts of such Participant or beneficiary after sending a registered letter, return receipt required, to the last known address on file with the Administrator, and further diligent effort, a savings account at a local financial institution shall be established in the person's name and the distribution shall be deposited therein.

(g) Direct Rollover

(I) General

Notwithstanding any provision of the Plan to the contrary that would otherwise limit a distributee's election under this Section 6.2(g), a distributee may elect, at the time and in the manner prescribed by the Administrator, to have any portion of an eligible rollover distribution paid directly to an eligible retirement plan specified by the distributee in a direct rollover.

(II) Definitions

(A) Eligible Rollover Distributions

An eligible rollover distribution is any distribution of all or any portion of the balance to the credit of the distributee, except that an eligible rollover distribution does not include: any distribution that is one of a series of substantially equal periodic payments (not less

frequently than annually) made for the life (or life expectancy) of the distributee or the joint lives (or joint life expectancies) of the distributee and the distributee's designated beneficiary, or for a specified period of ten (10) years or more; any distribution to the extent such distribution is required under Code section 401(a)(9); and the portion of any distribution that is not includable in gross income (determined without regard to the exclusion for net unrealized appreciation with respect to employer securities).

(B) Eligible Retirement Plan

An eligible retirement plan is an individual retirement account described in Code section 408(a), an individual retirement annuity described in Code section 408(b), an annuity plan described in Code section 403(a), or a qualified trust described in Code section 401(a), that accepts the distributee's eligible rollover distribution and, effective for distributions made on or after January 1, 2002, an eligible deferred compensation plan described in Code section 457(b) maintained by a governmental employer described in Code section 457(e)(1)(A), or an annuity contract/custodial account described in Code section 403(b), that accepts the distributee's eligible rollover distribution. However, in the case of an eligible rollover distribution to the surviving spouse made prior to January 1, 2002, an eligible retirement plan is an individual retirement account or individual retirement annuity.

(C) Distributee

A distributee includes an Employee or former Employee. In addition, the Employee's or former Employee's surviving spouse and the Employee's or former Employee's spouse or former spouse who is the alternate payee under an administrative domestic relations order are distributees with regard to the interest of the spouse or former spouse.

(D) Direct Rollover

A direct rollover is a payment by the Plan to the eligible retirement plan specified by the distributee.

6.3 Reemployment of Participant

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the foregoing, if a Former Participant returns to the service of the Employer after distribution of his or her benefits has begun, and is eligible to participate in the VRS or the Defined Contribution Retirement Plan for Faculty of George Mason University, such distributions shall immediately cease and no benefits shall be paid until such Participant again becomes entitled to benefits under the terms of

this Plan.

6.4 Payments Made Pursuant to an Administrative Domestic Relations Order

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Plan, the Administrator may direct the distribution of any portion of the Participant's Accumulation Account payable to an alternate payee (as defined in Code section 414(p)(8)) pursuant to an administrative domestic relations order prior to the date on which the Participant attains his or her earliest retirement age (as defined in Code section 414(p)(4)), provided that the Administrator has properly notified the affected Participant and each alternate payee of the order and has determined that the order is an administrative domestic relations order. The alternate payee shall be paid his or her separate accounts or his or her percentage of the Participant's Accumulation Account in a lump sum payment unless the domestic relations order specifies a different manner of payment permitted by the Plan.

SECTION 7

AMENDMENT AND TERMINATION

7.1 Amendment

The University reserves the right to amend the Plan, through affirmative action by the Board at any time and from time to time, in whole or in part, including, without limitation, retroactive amendments necessary or advisable to qualify the Plan and Trust under the provisions of Code sections 401(a) and 403(a). However, except as set forth in Section 7.3, no such amendment shall (1) cause any part of the assets of the Plan and Trust to revert to or be recoverable by the University, or be used for or diverted to purposes other than the exclusive benefit of Participants, Former Participants, and beneficiaries; (2) deprive any Participant, Former Participant, or beneficiary of any benefit already vested; (3) alter, change, or modify the duties, powers, or liabilities of the Trustee without its written consent; or (4) permit any part of the assets of the Plan and the Trust to be used to pay premiums or contributions of the University under any other plan maintained by the University for the benefit of its Employees. No amendment to the vesting schedule shall deprive a Participant of non-forfeitable rights to benefits accrued to the date of the amendment.

7.2 Termination, Partial Termination, or Complete Discontinuance of Contributions

Although the Plan is established with the intention and expectation that contributions will be made indefinitely, nevertheless the Employer shall not be under any obligation or liability to continue contributions or to maintain the Plan for any given length of time. The Employer may in its sole and absolute discretion through an affirmative action by its Board discontinue contributions or terminate the Plan in whole or in part in accordance with its provisions at any time without any liability for the discontinuance or termination. However, the Trust shall continue until the portions of Participants' Accumulation Accounts that have been allocated to the Trust have been completely distributed to or for the benefit of such Participants in accordance with the Plan.

7.3 Permissible Reversions

- (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of the Plan:
 - (I) No Participant or beneficiary shall have any right or claim to any assets of the Trust or to any benefit under the Plan before the Internal Revenue Service determines that the Plan and Trust qualify under the provisions of Code section 401(a), or any statute of similar import, other than any vested rights or benefits accrued represented by any assets transferred from the VRS, to the extent vested upon transfer to this Plan and Trust from the VRS. Upon the distribution to the Participants of any vested amounts or benefits transferred from the VRS and the return of any remaining contributions to the Employer following the denial of initial qualification of the Plan and Trust under the provisions of Code section 401(a), the Trust provided for in this Plan shall be terminated and the Trustees shall be discharged from all obligations hereunder.
 - (II) To the extent the matching contributions are made by reason of a mistake of fact, they may be returned to the Employer within one (1) year from the date of contribution.
- (b) The amounts that may be returned to the Employer under Section 7.3(a)(II) above shall be the excess of the amounts contributed over the amounts that would have been contributed had there not been a mistake of fact. No earnings on the mistaken contributions may be returned to the Employer and losses sustained by the Trust after the date of contribution shall proportionately reduce the amount that may be returned to the Employer.

SECTION 8 CLAIMS

8.1 Claims for Benefits Under an Annuity Contract

A Participant's (or beneficiary's) claim for benefits for the portion of the Participant's Accumulation Account allocated to an annuity contract shall be resolved by the sponsor of the annuity contract based on procedures it has established.

8.2 Claims for Benefits Under the Trust

A Participant's (or beneficiary's) claim for benefits for the portion of the Participant's Accumulation Account invested in the Trust may be presented in writing by the Participant to the Administrator. If the claim for benefits is wholly or partially denied, the Administrator shall notify the Participant (or beneficiary) in writing of such denial of benefits within sixty (60) days of receipt of the claim.

Any notice of a denial of benefits shall advise the Participant (or beneficiary) of:

- (a) the specific reason or reasons for the denial;
- (b) the specific provisions of the Plan on which the denial is based;
- (c) any additional material or information necessary for the Participant (or beneficiary) to perfect the claim and an explanation of why such material or information is necessary; and
- (d) the steps which the Participant (or beneficiary) must take to have the claim reviewed.

A Participant (or beneficiary) whose claim has been denied may file a written request for a review by the Administrator of the denial of this claim. Such written request for review must be filed within sixty (60) days after receipt of written notification of the denial of this claim. The Administrator shall review the written comments and any submissions of the Participant (or beneficiary) and render its decision regarding the appeal within sixty (60) days of receipt of such appeal. Such decision shall be in writing setting forth the specific reasons and specific Plan provisions on which the Administrator based its decision.

SECTION 9 ADMINISTRATION

9.1 Plan Administrator

The Administrator shall administer the Plan. The President of the University is designated as the agent of the Plan for the service of legal process.

The Administrator's duties shall include, without limitation, powers with respect to the administration of the Trust as may be conferred upon it by the Trust. It shall have the power to take all action and to make all decisions that shall be necessary or proper in order to carry out the provisions of the Plan and, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, it shall have the following powers:

- (a) to make (and enforce by suspension or forfeiture) such rules and regulations as it shall deem necessary or proper for the efficient administration of the Plan;
- (a) to interpret or construe the Plan;
- (c) to decide questions concerning the Plan and the eligibility of any Employee to participate therein and the right of any person to receive benefits thereunder;
- (d) to decide any dispute arising under the Plan;
- (e) to compute the amount of benefits which shall be payable to any person in accordance with the provisions of the Plan;
- (f) to authorize all disbursements by the Trustees;

- (g) to prescribe and require the use of such forms as it shall deem necessary or desirable in connection with the administration of the Plan;
- (h) to supply any remedies or corrections to omissions in the Plan;
- (i) to reconcile and correct any errors or inconsistencies in the Plan; and
- (j) to make equitable adjustments for any mistakes or errors made in the administration of the Plan.

The Administrator shall establish rules and regulations and shall take other necessary or proper action to carry out its duties and responsibilities.

9.2 Actions Conclusive

Benefits under this Plan will be paid only if the Administrator decides in its discretion that the applicant is entitled to them. The decisions of the Administrator on any matter within its authority shall be made in the sole discretion of the Administrator and shall be final and binding on all parties, including without limitation, the Employer, Participants and beneficiaries.

9.3 Appointment of Agents

The Administrator may employ or engage such accountants, counsel, other experts and other persons as it deems necessary in connection with the administration of the Plan to the extent permitted by law.

9.4 Reliance on Opinions, Etc.

The Administrator and each person to whom it may delegate any power or duty in connection with administering the Plan shall be entitled to rely conclusively upon, and shall be fully protected in any action taken by them or any of them in good faith reliance upon any valuation, certificate, opinion, or report which shall be furnished to them or any of them by the Trustees or by any accountant, counsel, other expert, or other person who shall be employed or engaged by the Trustees or the Administrator.

9.5 Records and Accounts

The Administrator shall keep or cause to be kept all data, records and documents pertaining to the administration of the Plan, and shall execute all documents necessary to carry out the provisions of the Plan. The Administrator shall advise the Trustees of such facts as may be pertinent to the Trustees' administration of the Trust and shall give proper instruction to the Trustees for carrying out the purposes of the Plan.

9.6 Payment of Expenses

- (a) Subject to the provisions of paragraph (b) below, expenses in connection with the administration of the Plan and Trust including commissions, taxes, and expenses of the Trustees and of any accountant or other person who shall be employed by the Administrator or Trustees in the administration thereof, shall be paid by the Trust unless paid by the Employer.
- (b) In the event of permanent discontinuance of contributions or termination any further payment of expenses which arise or have arisen in connection with the administration of the Plan and Trust shall be paid by the Trust unless paid by the Employer.

9.7 Liability

The Administrator shall incur no liability for any action taken or not taken in good faith reliance on advice of counsel, who may be counsel for the University or taken or not taken in good faith reliance on a determination as to a matter of fact which has been represented or certified by a person reasonably believed to have knowledge of the fact so represented or certified, or taken or not taken in good faith reliance on a recommendation or opinion expressed by a person reasonably believed to be qualified or expert as to any matter where it is reasonable or customary to seek or rely on such recommendations or opinions. Nor shall any employee of the Administrator be liable for the wrongful or negligent conduct of any other or any person having fiduciary responsibilities with respect to the Plan unless the employee (i) knowingly participates in or undertakes to conceal an act or omission of such other person knowing the act or omission is a breach of fiduciary duty, (ii) by failing to act solely in the interests of Participants and beneficiaries or to exercise the care, skill, prudence and diligence under the circumstances prevailing from time to time that a prudent man acting in a like capacity and familiar with such matters would exercise, has enabled the other fiduciary to commit a breach, or (iii) has knowledge of a breach by the other fiduciary and does not make reasonable efforts under the circumstances to remedy it. The University shall indemnify any employee and hold him harmless from loss, liability and expense in respect of the Plan for actions taken within the scope of his duties, including the legal cost of defending claims and amounts paid in satisfaction or settlement thereof provided only that no indemnification is intended that would be void as against public policy or the laws of the Commonwealth.

SECTION 10
TRUST AGREEMENT

10.1 The Trust Agreement

“Trust Agreement” means the “George Mason University Retirement Benefit Trust Agreement.” The Trustees are to hold, invest, and distribute the Trust’s fund in accordance with the terms and provisions of the Trust Agreement. The duties and rights of the Trustees shall be determined solely by reference to the Trust Agreement.

10.2 No Diversion of Corpus or Income

In no event shall any portion of the corpus or income of the Trust Fund be used for or diverted to purposes other than the exclusive benefit of Participants and their beneficiaries.

SECTION 11
MISCELLANEOUS

11.1 Limitation of Rights; Employment Relationship

Neither the establishment of the Plan and the Trust nor any modifications of them, nor the creation of any fund or account, nor the payment of any benefits, shall be construed as modifying or affecting in any way the terms of employment of any Employee.

11.2 Merger; Transfer of Assets

- (a) If the Employer merges or consolidates with or into another entity, or if substantially all the assets of the Employer are transferred to another entity, the Plan shall terminate on the effective date of the merger, consolidation, or transfer. However, if the surviving entity resulting from the merger or consolidation, or the entity to which the assets have been transferred, adopts this Plan, the Plan shall continue and the successor entity shall succeed to all rights, powers, and duties of the Employer under the Plan, and the employment of any Employee who is continued in the successor entity’s employ shall not be deemed to have been terminated for any purpose under the Plan.
- (b) This Plan shall not be merged or consolidated with any other employee benefit plan, nor shall there be any transfer of assets or liabilities from this Plan to any other plan, unless, immediately after the merger, consolidation, or transfer, each Participant’s benefits, if the other plan were then to terminate, are at least equal to the benefits to which the Participant would have been entitled had this Plan been terminated immediately before the merger, consolidation, or transfer.

11.3 Prohibition Against Assignment

- (a) Except as provided below, the benefits provided by this Plan may not be assigned or alienated. Neither the Administrator nor the Trustees shall recognize any transfer, mortgage, pledge, hypothecation, order, or assignment by any Participant or beneficiary of all or part of his or her interest under the Plan, and the interest shall not be subject in any manner to transfer by operation of law and shall be exempt from the claims of creditors or other claimants from all orders, decrees, levies, garnishment, and/or executions, and other legal or equitable process or proceedings against the Participant or beneficiary to the fullest extent that may be permitted by law.
- (b) This provision shall not apply to the extent a Participant or beneficiary is indebted to the Plan, for any reason, under any provision of this Agreement. At the time a distribution is to be made to or for a Participant's or beneficiary's benefit, such proportion of the amount distributed as shall equal such indebtedness, shall be paid by the Trustees to the Trustees or the Administrator, at the direction of the Administrator, to apply against or discharge such indebtedness. Prior to making a payment, however, the Participant or beneficiary must be given written notice by the Administrator that such indebtedness is to be so paid in whole or in part from his account. If the Participant or beneficiary does not agree that the indebtedness is a valid claim against his vested Accounts, he shall be entitled to a review of the validity of the claim in accordance with procedures provided in Section 8.
- (c) This provision shall not apply to an administrative domestic relations order, and those other domestic relations orders permitted to be so treated by the Administrator. To the extent provided under an administrative domestic relations order, a former spouse of a Participant shall be treated as the spouse or surviving spouse for all purposes under the Plan.

11.4 Applicable Law; Severability

This Plan shall be construed, administered, and governed in all respects in accordance with the laws of the Commonwealth, provided, however, that if any provision is susceptible to more than one interpretation, it shall be interpreted in a manner consistent with the Plan's being a qualified plan within the meaning of the Code. If any provision of this instrument shall be held by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid or unenforceable, the remaining provisions of the Plan shall continue to be fully effective.

11.5 Reliance Upon Copy of Plan

Any person dealing with the Trustees may rely upon copies of the Plan and the Trust Agreement, and any amendments thereto, certified by the Administrator to be true and correct copies.

11.6 Gender and Number; Captions or Headings

Wherever appropriate to the meaning or interpretation of this Plan, the masculine gender shall include the feminine, and the singular number shall include the plural and vice versa. Captions or headings are inserted and intended for organizational format and convenience of reference only; they are not to be given independent substantive meaning or effect.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, being an authorized officer of the University, has caused this Plan to be executed on behalf of the University this ___ day of _____, 2001.

By: _____

Title: _____