

**COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
COMMITTEE REPORT**

1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20004

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**TO:** All Councilmembers

**FROM:** Chairman Phil Mendelson  
Committee of the Whole

**DATE:** September 19, 2023

**SUBJECT:** Report on PR 25-282, the “Board of Trustees of the University of the District of Columbia Warner Session Confirmation Resolution of 2023”

The Committee of the Whole, to which PR 25-282, the “Board of Trustees of the University of the District of Columbia Warner Session Confirmation Resolution of 2023” was referred, reports favorably thereon, and recommends approval by the Council.

CONTENTS

I.	Background and Need.....	1
II.	Legislative Chronology.....	5
III.	Position of the Executive.....	5
IV.	Comments of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions.....	5
V.	Summary of Testimony.....	5
VI.	Impact of Existing Law.....	6
VII.	Fiscal Impact.....	6
VIII.	Section-by-Section Analysis.....	6
IX.	Committee Action.....	7
X.	Attachments.....	7

**I. BACKGROUND AND NEED**

Proposed Resolution 25-282, the “Board of Trustees of the University of the District of Columbia Warner Session Confirmation Resolution of 2023,” was introduced by Chairman Mendelson at the request of the Mayor on June 15, 2023 and referred to the Committee of the Whole. The purpose of PR 25-282 is to confirm the Mayor’s nomination of Warner Session for appointment to the Board of Trustees of the University of the District of Columbia (Board) for a five-year term to end May 15, 2028. He would fill the seat previously held by Dr. Elaine Crider.

The University of the District of Columbia (UDC) is both a Historically Black College and University (HBCU) and an urban land-grant institution. Formed in 1975 from the merger of the District of Columbia Teachers’ College, the Washington Technical Institute, and Federal City College, UDC serves as the District’s only public university.<sup>1</sup> UDC’s mission is to provide an

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<sup>1</sup> This college was formed from the merger of Miners Teacher College and Wilson Teachers College. See UDC’s History, University of the District of Columbia, <https://www.udc.edu/about/history-mission/>; D.C. Law 1-36 (effective Nov. 1, 1975).

affordable, post-secondary education to District residents and to “prepare students for immediate entry into the workforce, the next level of education, specialized employment opportunities or lifelong learning.”<sup>2</sup>

The Board of Trustees of the University of the District of Columbia was established by the U.S. Congress as a body of the District of Columbia government in 1974.<sup>3</sup> The Board has the authority to independently issue regulations governing the University, own and manage the property of the University, and represent the University in legal proceedings. The Board is also responsible for hiring the President of the University System.

Trustees are charged with establishing and ensuring accreditation of each component of the University System. This includes a liberal arts component, a vocational and technical component, and a school of law. The Trustees approve all programs and majors and set academic policies, such as degree requirements and tuition. In addition, Trustees are responsible for setting the University’s budget in conjunction with the Mayor and City Council.

The Board is comprised of fifteen members.<sup>4</sup> Of the fifteen, eleven are appointed by the Mayor with the advice and consent of the Council, three are alumni from either the University or one of its predecessor institutions, and one is a full-time student elected by the UDC student body.<sup>5</sup> Each Trustee, except for the student trustee, serves a five year term, and each non-student Trustee may serve two consecutive full terms.<sup>6</sup> The following tables depict the current make-up of the UDC Board of Trustees:

**Table A: Elected Alumni and Student Representative to the University of the District of Columbia Board of Trustees**

Elected Trustee	Role	Commencement Date	Term End Date
Travis Henderson	Student	August 21, 2023	May 11, 2024
Dr. Mildred Musgrove	Alumni	May 15, 2020	May 15, 2025
Barrington Scott	Alumni	May 15, 2015	May 15, 2025
Anntoinette White-Richardson	Alumni	May 15, 2020	May 15, 2025

<sup>2</sup> UDC Mission, University of the District of Columbia, <https://www.udc.edu/about/history-mission/>.

<sup>3</sup> Pub. L. 93-198, Dec. 24, 1973.

<sup>4</sup> D.C. Official Code § 38-1202.05 (see a list of the duties of the UDC Trustees).

<sup>5</sup> D.C. Official Code § 38-1202.01(c) (2001 ed.). Of the eleven appointed by the Mayor, seven must reside in the District at the time of their Council confirmation. *Id.* at 38-1202.01(c-1).

<sup>6</sup> D.C. Official Code § 38-1202.01(f). After the completion of the member’s second consecutive term, he or she must wait five years from the end of his or her second term before being reappointed or reelected to the Board of Trustees. Legislation has recently been adopted by the Council to change this (see D.C. Act 23-326, the “Coronavirus Support Emergency Amendment Act of 2020,” and Bill 23-817, the “UDC Board of Trustees Term Limit Amendment Act of 2020.”) Going forward, Trustees may serve up to three consecutive terms but not more than 15 consecutive years.

**Table B: Mayoral Appointments to the University of the District of Columbia Board of Trustees**

Mayoral Appointee	Resolution Number	Date of Council Approval	Term End Date
<i>Warner Session</i>	<i>PR 25-282</i>	<i>Pending</i>	<i>May 15, 2028</i>
Dr. Carolyn Rudd	PR 25-283	Pending	May 15, 2028
Ken Grossinger	PR 25-284	Pending	May 15, 2028
Lamont Akins	PR 25-295	Pending	May 15, 2028
Christopher Bell	R. 23-554	October 20, 2020	May 15, 2025
Mignon Clyburn	R. 23-555	October 20, 2020	May 15, 2024
Dr. Esther Barazzone	R. 23-316	January 21, 2020	May 15, 2024
Jerome Shelton	R. 23-317	January 21, 2020	May 15, 2024
Vacant*			
Vacant*			
Vacant*			

\*These three seats were last filled by Reginald Felton, whose term expired May 2019, Erol Schwartz, whose term expired May 2023, and Charlene Drew Jarvis, whose term expired May 2023.

Mr. Session earned a Juris Doctor from Georgetown University Law Center in 1982 and a Bachelor of Arts from Stanford University in 1977. He has been a District resident for over 40 years and is currently a Ward 1 resident. He has been the Principal/Owner of Session Law Firm, P.C. since 1991. He has achieved significant success building and growing a professional consulting/legal practice while weathering challenging economic, regulatory, environmental, compliance, and global security situations. Mr. Session has held roles as a staff attorney in local and federal governments including positions with congressional committees.

As a Board Member of the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority and as an attorney for companies and organizations representing multiple industry sectors including aviation/airports, health care, real estate and pharmaceutical, Mr. Session has contributed his expertise and added value to legal and policy matters, legislative advocacy, risk mitigation and oversight for major projects. He has been honored for significant professional and personal leadership contributions to African American and underserved communities.

The University has made great strides over the last decade, despite the COVID-19 pandemic; however, more needs to be done. Moving forward, and during Mr. Session’s time on the Board, the Committee will be paying particular attention to the two following issues.

**Enrollment:** Over the past decade, UDC has struggled to increase enrollment. The struggle was exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic when the University saw another decline in enrollment. A key to a successful education system in the District is a thriving public university, and instrumental to having a thriving public university is its enrollment. Thus, as the District’s only public institution of higher education, it is essential that UDC’s enrollment not only remain steady, but also grow. Given this, the Committee has monitored the University’s enrollment over

the years. A part of this monitoring involves not just watching UDC’s overall enrollment, but also looking at the enrollment of UDC’s four-year institution, Community College (UDC-CC), and law school. Since UDC-CC was formed in 2009, the Committee has focused on UDC’s enrollment data. However, the University has made increasing enrollment a priority. For example, the University now automatically re-enrolls all Community College students, the University has recently on boarded a new Vice President of Enrollment Management, and the University will begin the initial implantation of its Customer Relationship Management (CRM). This tool is a set of integrated, data-driven software solutions that help manage, track, and store information. This will be critical in better understanding and managing enrollment data. The table below shows UDC’s enrollment, broken down by undergraduate, graduate, law school, and community college, from academic year 2012-2013 through its most recent academic year, 2022-2023.

**Table GF-B: University of the District of Columbia;  
 Enrollment Academic Years 2012-2022**

Students	Fall 2012	Fall 2013	Fall 2014	Fall 2015	Fall 2016	Fall 2017	Fall 2018	Fall 2019	Fall 2020	Fall 2021	Fall 2022
Undergraduate	2,019	2,026	1,959	2,124	2,051	2,009	1,957	1,938	1,791	1,603	1,440
Graduate	253	299	312	320	368	388	377	371	340	289	290
Law School	380	344	315	313	286	280	256	257	228	240	230
UDC-CC	2,838	2,686	2,532	2,361	1,899	1,850	1,910	1,890	1,594	1,344	1,617
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,490</b>	<b>5,355</b>	<b>5,118</b>	<b>5,118</b>	<b>4,604</b>	<b>4,527</b>	<b>4,500</b>	<b>4,456</b>	<b>3,953</b>	<b>3,476</b>	<b>3,577</b>

*Source: UDC’s FY2022-2023 Performance Oversight Responses, Q. 37.*

**Private Fundraising:** Beginning in fiscal year 2014, the Council has set aside funds for the University as part of a fundraising match. Originally as a means of supporting UDC’s accreditation efforts, the Council set aside a million dollars in matching funds.<sup>7</sup> For every dollar UDC raised in private donations, the District matched those donations dollar for dollar up to a maximum of a million dollars. A District match has continued since 2014. Although the original impetus for the match was to provide additional support for UDC’s accreditation activities, secondary reasons for the match have been to incentivize the University to increase its private fundraising capability and to encourage the UDC Foundation to take a more active role in raising private funds. As discussed in Committee budget reports, UDC has to fight year after year for its subsidy, as well as for capital funds from the District government. The University should continue to increase its private fundraising, even though the Committee believes wholeheartedly that the District should support UDC financially.

Based on his commitment to the mission of the University, his educational leadership, and his dedication to improving equitable outcomes, the Committee recommends the appointment of Mr. Session to the Board of Trustees of the University of the District of Columbia. The Committee of the Whole recommends adoption of PR 25-282.

<sup>7</sup> 5 See Title X, Sec. 10002 of D.C. Law 20-61, the Fiscal Year 2014 Budget Support Act of 2013.

## II. LEGISLATIVE CHRONOLOGY

- June 15, 2023 PR 25-282, the “Board of Trustees of the University of the District of Columbia Warner Session Confirmation Resolution of 2023” is introduced by Chairman Mendelson at the request of the Mayor.
- June 20, 2023 PR 25-282 is “read” at a Legislative meeting; on this date the referral of the PR to the Committee of the Whole is official and the 45-day period for Council review begins. If the Council does not act by November 21, 2023, PR 25-282 will be deemed approved.
- June 22, 2023 Notice of the public hearing is in the Office of Secretary.
- June 23, 2023 Notice of Intent to Act on PR 25-282 is published in the *D.C. Register*.
- June 30, 2023 Notice of Roundtable Published in the District of Columbia Register.
- July 12, 2023 The Committee of the Whole convenes a public roundtable on PR 25-282.
- September 19, 2023 The Committee of the Whole marks up PR 25-282.

## III. POSITION OF THE EXECUTIVE

Mr. Session is the Mayor’s nominee for appointment to the Board of Trustees of the University of the District of Columbia.

## IV. COMMENTS OF ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONS

The Committee received no testimony or comments from any Advisory Neighborhood Commission on PR 25-282.

## V. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY

The Committee of the Whole held a public roundtable on four Board of Trustees of the University of the District of Columbia nominations, including PR 25-282, on Wednesday, July 12, 2023. The testimony summarized below is from that hearing, pertaining to Mr. Session. Submitted copies of testimony are attached to this report.

**Warner Session, Appointee**, testified and answered questions from Chairman Mendelson regarding his background and experience as it pertains to the Board and his interest in serving on the Board. Mr. Session explained that he is particularly proud of being able to enhance the collaboration between UDC and the Airports Authority as UDC operates an aircraft maintenance training facility at one of the hangars at National Airport. He stated he will work to gain a deep

understanding of what UDC’s challenges have been over the years and make best efforts to find creative and sustainable solutions, explore new policies to enhance student support services and academic programs to improve outcomes, and focus attention on infrastructure and facilities to make sure that they meet the highest standards.

## VI. IMPACT OF EXISTING LAW

This confirmation is consistent with existing law. Pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 38-1202.01, the Board shall be comprised of fifteen members – of whom eleven members are appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the Council. Of the eleven members, seven must be District residents at the time of their confirmation. Additionally, each member, except for the student trustee, may serve three, five-year terms or a total of 15 consecutive years.<sup>8</sup> Mr. Session is a Mayoral appointee, is a resident of the District, and is nominated for his first term.

## VII. FISCAL IMPACT

PR 25-282 will have no fiscal impact on the District of Columbia budget or financial plan. Pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 38-1202.04, trustees receive no compensation for their service on the Board.<sup>9</sup> However, each trustee is entitled to be reimbursed up to \$4,000 annually for any “actual and necessary expenses incurred while actually engaged in service as a Trustee.”<sup>10</sup> Such expenses are included as part of the University’s annual budget.

## VIII. SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

<u>Section 1</u>	States the short title of PR 25-282.
<u>Section 2</u>	Confirms the appointment of Warner Session to the Board of Trustees of the University of the District of Columbia to serve a term of five years. <sup>11</sup>
<u>Section 3</u>	Requires that a copy of the resolution, upon adoption, be transmitted to the nominee and to the Mayor.
<u>Section 4</u>	Provides that PR 25-282 shall take effect immediately.

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<sup>8</sup> § 38–1202.01.

<sup>9</sup> § 38–1202.04.

<sup>10</sup> *Id.*

<sup>11</sup> § 2–1599.03(b)(2)(B)(*citing* terms for the initial nongovernmental voting members shall begin on the date that a majority of the members are sworn in, which shall become the anniversary date for all subsequent appointments).

## **IX. COMMITTEE ACTION**

### **X. ATTACHMENTS**

1. PR 25-282 as introduced.
2. Nominee's responses to Committee pre-hearing and post-hearing questions.
3. Written Testimony and Comments.
4. Legal Sufficiency Review.
5. Committee Print for PR 25-282.



**MURIEL BOWSER**  
MAYOR

June 15, 2023

The Honorable Phil Mendelson  
Chairman  
Council of the District of Columbia  
John A. Wilson Building  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 504  
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Chairman Mendelson:

In accordance with section 2 of the Confirmation Act of 1978, effective March 3, 1979 (D.C. Law 2-142; D.C. Official Code § 1-523.01), and pursuant to section 201 of the District of Columbia Public Postsecondary Education Reorganization Act, approved October 26, 1974 (88 Stat. 1424; D.C. Official Code § 38-1202.01), I am pleased to nominate the following person:

Mr. Warner Session  
12th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20009  
(Ward 1)

for appointment as a member of the Board of Trustees of the University of the District of Columbia, replacing Elaine Crider, filling the remainder of an unexpired term ending May 15, 2023, and for a new term to end May 15, 2028.

Enclosed you will find biographical information detailing the experience of the above-mentioned nominee, together with proposed resolution to assist the Council during the confirmation process.

I would appreciate the Council's earliest consideration of this nomination for confirmation. Please do not hesitate to contact me, or Steven Walker, Director, Mayor's Office of Talent and Appointments, should the Council require additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Muriel Bowser".

Muriel Bowser  
Mayor





Chairman Phil Mendelson  
at the request of the Mayor

A PROPOSED RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To confirm the appointment of Mr. Warner Session to the Board of Trustees of the University of the District of Columbia.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the "Board of Trustees of the University of the District of Columbia Warner Session Confirmation Resolution of 2023".

Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia confirms the appointment of:

Mr. Warner Session  
12th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20009  
(Ward 1)

as a member of the Board of Trustees of the University of the District of Columbia, pursuant to section 201 of the District of Columbia Public Postsecondary Education Reorganization Act, approved October 26, 1974 (88 Stat. 1424; D.C. Official Code § 38-1202.01), replacing Elaine Crider, filling the remainder of an unexpired term ending May 15, 2023, and for a new term to end May 15, 2028.

Sec. 3. The Council of the District of Columbia shall transmit a copy of this resolution, upon its adoption, to the nominee and to the Office of the Mayor.

Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

## RESUME

### WARNER H. SESSION, ESQ.

#### **BAR ADMISSIONS**

District of Columbia Court of Appeals  
United States Tax Court

U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia  
United States Claims Court  
United States Supreme Court

#### **EDUCATION:**

- Georgetown University Law Center

#### ***JURIS DOCTORATE 1982***

- Stanford University  
***Bachelor of Arts, 1977, Major: Political Science***

#### **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:**

##### **1/91-Present: SESSION LAW FIRM, P.C.**

Principal/Owner: Business law practice that specializes in real estate, corporate and commercial transactions, government procurement and government relations. Primary emphasis on small business matters and representation.

##### **5/03- 5/12: SESSION TITLE SERVICES, LLC**

Principal/Owner: Full-service title insurance, escrow and settlement company servicing residential and commercial transactions in the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia.

##### **4/89-12/90: U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

###### Government Operations Committee

###### Government Activities and Transportation Subcommittee

- ***Staff Director:*** Responsible for supervision of subcommittee professional and support staff and coordination of administrative functions, including subcommittee budget, activities report and staff travel. Directed oversight investigations related to airline safety and competition, airport security, minority and women-owned business participation in major federal contracts, and telecommunications.

## **1/86-4/89: U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

### Government Operations Committee

#### Government Activities and Transportation Subcommittee

- *Counsel:* Responsible for investigative oversight of Department of Transportation, Coast Guard, NASA and General Services Administration. Duties included drafting of committee reports, hearing preparation, and press coverage. Provided legal advice and interpretation of executive agency rules and regulations. Special emphasis on aviation industry and small business procurement.

## **5/83-12/85: COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

### Committee on the Judiciary

- *Staff Attorney:* Responsible for drafting legislation and Council resolutions, preparing committee reports, and public hearing documents. Duties included providing staff support and technical assistance to the committee and responding to all matters affecting the executive agencies under the committee's purview, including the Department of Corrections, Police Department, Corporation Counsel and Courts.

## **10/82--5/83 HARMON & WILMOT, P.C., Washington, D.C.**

- *Associate:* Responsible for general associate duties, including civil and criminal litigation, immigration, government contracts, and corporation and association matters.

## **AFFILIATIONS/MEMBERSHIPS**

*Airport Minority Advisory Council*

*DC Chamber of Commerce*

*DC Land Title Association*

*DC Bar Lawyers Counseling Committee - Chair (2002-2003)*

*DC Building Industry Association*

*Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (Chairman 2018-2019)*

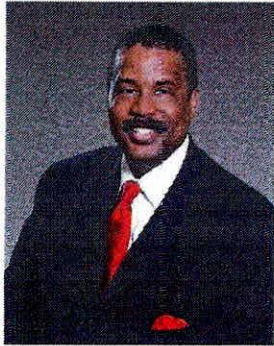
*President Lincoln's Cottage*

*Thurgood Marshall Center Trust*



Executive Office of the Mayor - Office of Talent and Appointments  
John A. Wilson Building | 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, Suite 600 | Washington, DC 20004

### Warner Session



Warner H. Session has been the Principal/Owner of Session Law Firm, P.C. since 1991. He has achieved significant success building and growing a professional consulting/legal practice while weathering challenging economic, regulatory, environmental, compliance, and global security situations. Mr. Session's unique ability to build sustainable relationships has resulted in 100% of his business being generated from referrals as a trusted advisor and counsel. He has held roles as a staff attorney in local and federal governments including positions with congressional committees.

As a Board Member of the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority and as an attorney for companies and organizations multiple industry sectors including aviation/airports, health care, real estate and pharmaceutical, Mr. Session has contributed his expertise and added value to legal and policy matters, legislative advocacy, risk mitigation and oversight for major projects, as well as for business compliance issues.

Mr. Session has been honored for significant professional and personal leadership contributions to African American and underserved communities.

A Ward 1 resident, Mr. Session received a Bachelor of Arts from Stanford University and a Juris Doctor from Georgetown University Law Center.



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
Executive Office of Mayor Muriel Bowser



Office of the General Counsel to the Mayor

**To:** Tommy Wells, Steve Walker  
**From:** Betsy Cavendish  
**Date:** March 30, 2023  
**Subject:** Legal sufficiency review of Resolutions nominating Ken Grossinger, Dr. Carolyn Rudd, and Warner Session as members of the Board of Trustees of the University of the District of Columbia

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**This is to Certify** that this office has reviewed the above-referenced resolutions and found them to be legally unobjectionable. If you have any questions in this regard, please do not hesitate to call Vanessa Careiro, Deputy General Counsel, Executive Office of the Mayor, at 202-724-1303, or me at 202-724-7681.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Elizabeth A. Cavendish'. The signature is written in a cursive style.

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Elizabeth A. (Betsy) Cavendish



Executive Office of the Mayor – Mayor’s Office of Talent and Appointments  
John A. Wilson Building | 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, Suite 600 | Washington, DC 20004

**Warner Session Council Questionnaire**  
**Board of Trustees of the University of the District of Columbia**

1. Please provide a copy of the Financial Disclosure Statement you filed with the Office of Campaign Finance or the Board of Ethics and Government Accountability. If you have not filed a Financial Disclosure Statement, please provide answers to questions no. 2-8 in lieu of that statement.
  - a.
2. Please provide the name of each business entity transacting any business with the District Government in which you have a beneficial interest valued in excess of \$1,000, including publicly traded stock.
  - a. Session Law Firm, PC
3. Please provide the name of each business entity transacting any business (including consulting) with the District Government from which you or your immediate family have received (or are receiving) income for services rendered in excess of \$200 during the past two years.
  - a. None
4. Please provide the name of each business entity transacting business with the District Government in which you or any member of your immediate family serves as an officer, director, partner, or agent. Also list the position(s) held, a brief description of the entity, and any other pertinent details.
  - a. None
5. Please provide the name of any lender and the amount of liability for each outstanding liability borrowed by you or any member of your immediate family in excess of \$1,000. Do not include loans from a federal or state insured or regulated financial institution, or from any business enterprise regularly engaged in the business of providing revolving credit or installment accounts.
  - a. None
6. Please list the location of all real property located in the District of Columbia in which you have an interest with a fair market value in excess of \$1,000.
  - a. 1811 12th Street, NW
7. Please list all professional and occupational licenses held by you.
  - a. DC Bar License (# 391429)



8. Please list any professional organizations of which you are currently a member.
  - a. DC Bar Association
  
9. Please list all boards and commissions connected with the District government on which you are or have been a member and include the term of service for each.
  - a. Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (2011 - 2022)
  - b. Human Rights Commission (2004 -2008)
  
10. Please list any other boards ( e.g., Board of Directors of a non-profit) on which you are currently a member.
  - a. Thurgood Marshall Center Trust  
President Lincoln's Cottage  
Faunteroy Community Enrichment Center  
DC Statehood PAC  
Butler Wyatt Thompson, Jr. # 2 Boys and Girls Club
  
11. Do you have any outstanding liability for taxes, fees, or other payments to the District, federal, or other state or local governments, either contested or uncontested? If so, please provide documentation of attempts to pay the amount owed or to resolve the disputed claim.
  - a. None
  
12. Do you or any member of your immediate family have any interest, financial or otherwise, that may directly or indirectly pose a conflict of interest for you in performance of your duties as a member of the Board of Trustees of the University of the District of Columbia?
  - a. No
  
13. Please describe any local political activity (i.e. the District of Columbia local elections or campaigns) that you have engaged in over the past five years, including all campaign contributions to a D.C. candidate or political committee.
  - a. Mayor Muriel Bowser  
Chairman Phil Mendelson  
Councilmember Brianne Nadeau  
Councilmember Brooke Pinto  
Councilmember Matt Fruman  
Councilmember Zachary Parker  
Councilmember Vince Gray  
Councilmember Trayon White  
Councilmember Robert White  
Councilmember Anita Bonds  
Attorney General Brian Schwab



14. Are you registered with any local, state, or federal government to lobby? If so, list the jurisdiction(s) in which you are registered.

- a. District of Columbia

15. Why have you agreed to serve and how do you plan to help the Board fulfill its role and mission during your time on the Board?

- a. I agreed to serve because of my long-standing passion for public service in the District of Columbia. I am fully committed to contribute my time, talent, and creativity, as well as governance experience, to help the Board fulfill its mission.





**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF THE  
DISTRICT OF COULMBIA**



**Public Roundtable on**

**PR 25-0282, the “Board of Trustees of the University of the District of  
Columbia Warner Session Confirmation Resolution of 2023”**

**Testimony of**

**Warner Session**

**Before the  
Committee of the Whole  
Council of the District of Columbia  
The Honorable Phil Mendelson, Chairperson**

**JULY 12, 2023**

**11:00 AM**

**The John A. Wilson Building Room 412  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20004**

Good morning, Chairman Mendelson and Members of the Council. Thank you for this opportunity to appear before you today in support of my nomination to the Board of Trustees of the University of the District of Columbia (UDC). I am Warner Session, founder, and principal of Session Law Firm in the District of Columbia.

I want to first thank Mayor Muriel Bowser for this tremendous opportunity for public service. I am excited and eager to get started. I am absolutely confident that I will bring value, wisdom, and vision to the UDC Board.

My confidence stems from my over 40 years of active engagement in the political, public, and professional affairs of the District of Columbia. I came to Washington in 1979 to attend Georgetown University Law School. Upon graduation, I joined the staff of Ward 8 Councilmember Wilhelmina J. Rolark as a Staff Attorney. It was in Councilmember Rolark's Office that I first became embedded in District public policy matters and had the opportunity to work on important issues of the day, such as bail reform and public safety. After leaving the Council, I worked on Capitol Hill for a House Oversight Committee chaired by the Hon. Cardiss Collins (D-IL). In 1992, I left the Hill and formed Session Law Firm, where I have been for the last 31 years.

While building a law practice, I continued to be active in District of Columbia affairs as a member of the DC Bar and was appointed by Mayor Marion Barry to serve on the Human Rights Commission. I also worked closely with the Council and the Executive Office of the Mayor over many years on small and minority business issues, helping to shape legislation which we now know as the Certified Business Enterprise law to advance and promote the utilization of local District firms.

In 2011, I was appointed by Mayor Vince Gray to the Board of the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA - National and Dulles Airports) and reappointed by Mayor Muriel Bowser in 2017. During my 12 years on the MWAA Board, I served 4 years as Vice Chairman and 2 years as Chairman. That time was well-spent as I was able to substantially expand the number of DC-based businesses that were able to pursue opportunities at the Airports Authority.

I am particularly proud of being able to enhance the collaboration between UDC and the Airports Authority. UDC operates an aircraft maintenance training facility at one of the hangars at National Airport. It was through that collaboration that I came to know and work with President Ron Mason. I expect to build on the success of that program as a Trustee.

I will approach this assignment as a UDC Trustee the same way as I have with all new professional tasks that I have undertaken. I will begin with a proactive on-boarding process that would entail meeting with former and current Trustees, meeting with the new President, Dr. Maurice Edington, and members of his senior staff, and collecting information and intelligence on best practices in higher education and similarly situated institutions as UDC. I will work to gain a deep understanding of what UDC's challenges have been over the years and make best efforts to find creative and sustainable solutions. I will also explore new policies to enhance student support services and academic programs to improve outcomes. Further, I will focus attention on infrastructure and facilities to make sure that they meet the highest standards.

Finally, I will seek to leverage the considerable professional and civic resources that I now enjoy through by current participation in the DC Bar, Federal City Council, and other organizations such as the DC Statehood PAC, Thurgood Marshall Center Trust, and President Lincoln's Cottage.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman for the opportunity to testify before the Committee of the Whole. I am happy to respond to any questions.



**OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL**

Council of the District of Columbia  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 4  
Washington, DC 20004  
(202) 724-8026

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO: Chairman Phil Mendelson**

**FROM: Nicole L. Streeter, General Counsel *NLS***

**DATE: August 2, 2023**

**RE: Legal sufficiency determination for the Board of Trustees of the University of the District of Columbia Warner Session Confirmation Resolution of 2023, PR 25-282.**

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The measure is legally and technically sufficient for Council consideration.

The proposed resolution would confirm the appointment of Mr. Warner Session as a member of the Board of Trustees of the University of the District of Columbia, established by section 201 of the District of Columbia Public Postsecondary Education Reorganization Act, approved October 26, 1974 (88 Stat. 1424; D.C. Official Code § 38-1202.01), for a term to end on May 15, 2028.

I am available if you have any questions.

1 **COMMITTEE PRINT**  
2 Committee of the Whole  
3 September 19, 2023  
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5  
6

7 **A PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

8  
9 25-282

10  
11 **IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**  
12  
13  
14  
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16 To confirm the appointment of Mr. Warner Session to the Board of Trustees of the University of  
17 the District of Columbia.

18  
19 **RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,** That this  
20 resolution may be cited as the “Board of Trustees of the University of the District of Columbia  
21 Warner Session Confirmation Resolution of 2023”.

22  
23 **Sec. 2.** The Council of the District of Columbia confirms the appointment of:

24  
25 Mr. Warner Session  
26 12th Street, NW  
27 Washington, DC 20009  
28 (Ward 1)  
29

30 as a member of the Board of Trustees of the University of the District of Columbia, established  
31 by section 201 of the District of Columbia Public Postsecondary Education Reorganization Act,  
32 approved October 26, 1974 (88 Stat. 1424; D.C. Official Code § 38-1202.01), replacing Elaine  
33 Crider, for a term to end May 15, 2028.

34 **Sec. 3.** The Council shall transmit a copy of this resolution, upon its adoption, to the  
35 nominee, the Board of Trustees of the University of the District of Columbia, and the Office of  
36 the Mayor.

37 **Sec. 4.** This resolution shall take effect immediately.