I. **Overview**  
September 28, 2012

The Mount Vernon National Advisory Council mission is to protect, promote, expand and advance the Mount Vernon legacy. The Council is comprised of distinguished Mount Vernon Seminary and Mount Vernon College alumnae, Elizabeth J. Somer’s Women’s Leadership Program graduates, business and community leaders and innovative thinkers, committed to the Council’s vision, mission and goals.

Members of the Council provide valuable guidance and input to the Director of Development for the Mount Vernon Campus regarding strategic opportunities, program initiatives, community outreach, and philanthropic pursuits. In addition, the Council advocates for the Mount Vernon Women’s Leadership Program’s interests when possible and appropriate, embracing Elizabeth J. Somer’s motto: *vincit qui se vincit*, “She who conquers self, conquers all.”

During the next year, the Council will establish the organizing principle for the future vision and goals of the Council.

II. **Work and Objectives**

In support of our mission, the Council is committed to four primary goals:

- Creating a worldwide community among the alumnae body and facilitating opportunities for lifelong engagement with the Mount Vernon Campus;
- Representing the interests of the alumnae body by gathering a voice for alumnae and facilitating communication with the University;
- Creating a culture of philanthropy among the alumnae body, to ensure that alumnae continue to contribute their time, talent and financial resources to the betterment of the Mount Vernon Campus and programs “housed” on the Mount Vernon Campus.
- Facilitating supportive engagement between the Mount Vernon Alumnae and George Washington University

The Council is committed to inclusion of all alumnae constituencies in furtherance of these goals. To that end, the Mount Vernon National Advisory Council Executive Committee shall endeavor at all times to reflect the diversity of the Mount Vernon alumnae body, the Women’s Leadership Program graduates and all who participate in programs on the Mount Vernon Campus. Designation of placement on the Executive Council is limited to Mount Vernon Alumnae with an allowance for non-alumnae members to serve on committees.

III. **Guidelines for Membership**

In consultation with the Office of Development and Alumni Relations, the Mount Vernon National Advisory Council extends invitations to join as a new member. Nominations for the Council, which should take into consideration the Council’s Statement of Purpose and guidelines for membership, may be submitted to the Chair of the Mount Vernon National Advisory Council by any member of the University or the Council. A quorum* of the
MOUNT VERNON NATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL:
Statement of Purpose

Council must approve (by a majority vote) all new members. Members are invited to serve for a three-year term, which may be renewed. The Mount Vernon National Advisory Council shall be comprised of not fewer than nine and no more than 25 members. Two-thirds or more of the Council will be comprised of Mount Vernon Alumnae and the Council’s Chair will be a Mount Vernon alumna. The aforementioned membership guidelines can be amended by the Council.

A member of the Mount Vernon National Advisory Council will be elected as Chair by a quorum vote of the Council members and may serve in the role for a term of up to three years and for no more than two consecutive terms. Election for the Chair will be held during the Autumn meeting. The Chair is asked to assist with the following responsibilities:

- Preside at meetings of the Council.
- Help with agenda development.
- Assist with recruitment of new members.
- Sign correspondence as needed.
- Provide vision and mentorship to the Council.

In addition, the Chair will be a member of the GW Council of Chairs which meets twice a year.

IV. The Council’s Executive Committee**

The Executive Committee is comprised of the following members:

(1) The Mount Vernon National Advisory Council Chair
(1) The Council Vice Chair
(1) The Council Secretary
(1) The Council Treasurer
(1) Mount Vernon Delegate to GWAA

Terms: three-years

Eligibility for Office:
- Must have attended Mount Vernon Seminary or Mount Vernon College. No employee of GWU shall be eligible election as an officer of the Mount Vernon National Advisory Council or serve on any committee other than as GWU Advisor;
- In order to be eligible for election as Chair-Elect, the nominee must have served as a member of the Executive Council prior to the commencement of the prospective term;
- All members of the Executive Council shall be required to make an annual financial contribution for the Mount Vernon Campus and/or its programs, facilities or special projects.
**As Mount Vernon National Advisory Council has technically been chaired by Memphis Holland for 4 years but no other positions have been held, a proposal is made that for Term Sept. 2012-Sept. 2013 to be considered a transitional year when all members serve for one-year. As sitting Chair, Holland will provide leadership of the Council to create the vision and brand. In September 2013, all positions, including the Chair, will be open for election and the full three (3) year term would commence at that time.**

V. **Expectations of Members**

Members of the Mount Vernon National Advisory Council are expected to:

- Attend at least one Mount Vernon National Advisory Council meeting a year. The Council meets bi-annually—in the Spring and Autumn. Additional meetings may be called on an ad-hoc basis. Attendance requirements for these ad-hoc meetings will be on an “as needed” basis.
- Contribute insights, relevant knowledge, and ideas to the Director of Development.
- Suggest potential contacts for philanthropic giving and initiate meetings with prospective donors.
- Host gatherings to facilitate dialogue and fundraising.
- Make Mount Vernon a top philanthropic interest.
- Give a thoughtful annual gift to Mount Vernon, at a level commensurate with the member’s means, to advance the Program’s growth, development, and student scholarship opportunities.
- Help grow the National Advisory Council by recommending candidates who can contribute to the overall impact of the Council and Mount Vernon.
- Maintain the living, breathing spirit of Mount Vernon. As appropriate, maintain confidentiality.

VI. **Contact**

For additional information regarding the Mount Vernon National Advisory Council, please contact Liz Raymond at eraymond@gwu.edu and (202) 578-7419.

*For this Statement of Purpose, a quorum is defined as a number greater than half of the total number of current active members.*