

Charter of the United States Merchant Marine Academy Board of Visitors

1. **Advisory Committee's Official Designation:** United States Merchant Marine Academy Board of Visitors (hereinafter referred to as "the Board").
2. **Authority:** This charter establishes the Board pursuant to 46 U.S.C. § 51312 (as amended) and sets forth policies for its operation. The Board is established in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) (5 U.S.C. ch. 10).
3. **Objectives and Scope of Activities:** The Board shall provide independent advice and recommendations on matters relating to the United States Merchant Marine Academy (hereinafter referred to as "the Academy").
4. **Description of Duties:** The Board shall provide independent advice and recommendations concurrently to the President of the United States, the Secretary of Transportation (hereinafter referred to as "the Secretary"), Congress, and the Superintendent of the Academy (hereinafter referred to as "the Superintendent") on matters related to the state of morale and discipline, curriculum, instruction, physical equipment, fiscal affairs, academic methods of the Academy, and any other matters relating to the Academy that the Board decides to consider.

The Board shall visit the Academy annually on a date selected by the Board, in consultation with the Secretary and the Superintendent. In cooperation with the Superintendent, the Board or its members may make other visits to the Academy in connection with the duties of the Board.

While visiting the Academy, members of the Board shall have reasonable access to the grounds, facilities, midshipmen, faculty, staff, and other personnel of the Academy for the purpose of carrying out the duties of the Board.

The Board shall submit a written report to the President within 60 days after its annual visit to the Academy, to include the Board's actions, views and recommendations pertaining to the Academy. Any report of a visit, other than the annual visit, if approved by a majority of the members of the Board, shall be submitted to the President within 60 days after the approval.

Any report submitted to the President shall be concurrently submitted to the Secretary, the Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation of the Senate, and the Committee on Armed Services of the U.S. House of Representatives.

5. **Agency of Federal Officer Receiving the Advisory Committee's Advice/Recommendations:** The Board shall report to the President of the United States. The U.S. Department of Transportation is responsible for the management of the Board in the form of items specifically outlined within this charter (logistics, scheduling, travel, etc.).

6. **Support:** The Secretary, through the Department's Maritime Administration and the Academy, shall provide support, as deemed necessary, for the performance of the Board's functions, including:
 - a. Selection of a Designated Federal Officer (DFO), who shall be a full-time or permanent, part-time Department employee and shall be appointed in accordance with governing Department policies and procedures, to support the performance of the Board's functions;
 - b. In coordination with the Maritime Administration and Superintendent, advise the Board of any institutional issues, consistent with applicable laws concerning the disclosure of information; and
 - c. Transmit written reports to the President.

In addition, each Chairman of the Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation of the Senate and of the Committee on Armed Services of the U.S. House of Representatives may designate staff members of such Committee to serve as staff for the Board, without additional reimbursement except for travel and per diem for official travel, as authorized under section 5702 of title 5, United States Code.

7. **Estimated Annual Operating Cost and Staff Years:** The estimated annual operating costs are broken down as follows:
 - a. **Federal Personnel:** The estimated annual staff support required is 0.5, at an estimated cost of \$170,600. The estimate for other Federal costs is \$30,000.
 - b. **Proposed Payments to Members:** The committee will be comprised of no more than 17 Representative members who will not receive payment for their service while on the committee.
 - c. **Reimbursable Costs:** The estimate for reimbursable costs for members' travel expenses is \$18,000 and the estimate for reimbursable costs for staff travel expenses is \$7,500.
8. **Number and Frequency of Meetings:** The Board shall meet at the call of the DFO, in consultation with the Chairman. The Board will meet at least three times per year. One of those meetings shall be held at the Academy, and all other meetings will be held virtually (or in a hybrid forum that does not require additional use of Federal funds), unless otherwise required by law or approved by the Secretary. The date of the Academy visit shall be selected by the Board, in consultation with the Secretary and the Superintendent. Members of the Board will be notified at least 30 days prior to the Academy visit date.

9. **Duration:** Continuing
10. **Termination:** This charter shall terminate 2 years after its filing date unless renewed in accordance with FACA.
11. **Membership and Designation:** The Board, pursuant to 46 U.S.C. § 51312, shall be constituted biennially and comprise 13 appointed members and six ex officio members. The Board membership shall include:
- a. Two Senators appointed by the Chairman of Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate in consultation with the Ranking Member of such Committee;
 - b. Three Members of the U.S. House of Representatives appointed by the Chairman of the Committee on Armed Services of the U.S. House of Representatives in consultation with the ranking member of such Committee;
 - c. One Senator appointed by the Vice President, who shall be a member of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;
 - d. Two Members of the U.S. House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, in consultation with the Minority Leader, at least one of whom shall be a member of the Committee on Appropriations of the U.S. House of Representatives;
 - e. Five members designated by the President. Of the individuals appointed by the President, at least two shall be graduates of the Academy; at least one shall be a senior corporate officer from a United States maritime shipping company that participates in the Maritime Security Program, or in any Maritime Administration program providing incentives for companies to register their vessels in the United States, and this appointment shall rotate biennially among such companies; at least one shall be a representative of a maritime labor organization; and one or more may be a Senate confirmed Presidential appointee, a member of the Senior Executive Service, or an officer of flag-rank from the Coast Guard, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, or any of the military services that commission graduates of the Academy, other than the individuals who are members of the Board under 46 U.S.C. § 51312(b)(1)(F)(i) and (ii);
 - f. As *ex officio* members-
 - i. the Commander of the Military Sealift Command;
 - ii. the Deputy Commandant for Operations of the Coast Guard;
 - iii. the chairman of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate;

- iv. the chairman of the Committee on Armed Services of the U.S. House of Representatives;
- v. the chairman of the Advisory Board to the Academy established under 46 U.S.C. § 51313; and
- vi. the Member of the U.S. House of Representatives for the Congressional district in which the Academy is located, as a nonvoting member, unless such Member of the U.S. House of Representatives is appointed as a voting member of the Board under subparagraph (B) or (D) of 46 U.S.C. § 51312(b).

Each member of the Board, other than an ex officio member, shall serve for a term of 2 years commencing at the beginning of each Congress. Such member shall continue to serve until a successor is appointed unless he or she is no longer a Member of Congress.

If a member of the Board is no longer able to serve on the Board or resigns, the Designated Federal Officer shall immediately notify the person who appointed such member. Not later than 60 days after that notification, such person shall designate a replacement to serve the remainder of such member's term.

On a biennial basis, the Board shall select from among its members a Member of the U.S. House of Representatives or a Senator to serve as the Chairman. A Member of the U.S. House of Representatives and a Member of the Senate shall alternately be selected as the Chairman. An individual may not serve as a Chairman for consecutive terms.

Board members who are full-time or permanent part-time Federal officers and employees shall be appointed as regular government employees or ex officio members as appropriate. Board members designated by the President, who are appointed solely for their expertise and are not full-time or permanent part-time Federal officers or employees, shall be appointed to serve as special government employees under the authority of 5 U.S.C. § 3109. Members will serve without compensation; however, members shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, as authorized under 5 U.S.C. 5703.

The Board may call upon advisers for consultation regarding the execution of the Board's responsibility or to assist in the preparation of a report, pursuant to 41 CFR 102-3.130. These advisers shall serve without compensation but shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem.

If the Military Sealift Commander, the Deputy Commandant for Operations of the Coast Guard, or any senior corporate officer from a United States maritime shipping company or any Senate-confirmed Presidential appointee, Senior Executive Service member, or flag-rank officer appointed by the President under 46 U.S.C. § 51312(b)(2)(B) or (C) is unable to attend any meetings or visits or otherwise fulfill his or her responsibilities, he or she may designate another individual to serve as a substitute member of the Board, on a temporary

basis, to attend or participate in such activity. A substitute member must be a Senate-confirmed presidential appointee, a Senior Executive Service member, or a flag-rank officer employed by the Coast Guard or the Military Sealift Command. A substitute member shall fully participate in the Board's proceedings and activities, including preparation of reports related to any proceedings or activities in which the substitute member participated. Further, no later than 15 days following the substitute member's participation in any Board activities, he or she shall report on those activities to the member who appointed him or her.

12. **Subcommittees**: The Secretary may create subcommittees or work groups. All subcommittees and work groups shall report their recommendations and advice to the full Board for deliberation and discussion and may not provide advice or work products directly to the Department.
13. **Filing Date**: The charter is effective April 20, 2026. It will expire on April 20, 2028, unless renewed.