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# THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

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## WASHINGTON, DC

### Faculty Senate Research Committee Standing Committee Annual Report

**Members of the committee,** Faculty Senate year 2018/19: McDonnell (Co-Chair), Sarkar (Co-Chair), Briscoe (Executive Committee liaison), faculty (voting): Applebaum, Burkinsky, Cohen-Cole, El-Ghazawi, Griesshammer, Harizanov, Hsu, Kay, Kolbe, Kouveliotou, Kusner, Leftwich, Merluzzi, Rimal, Roche, Schultheiss, Streitwieser, Tuckwiller, Zhou; postdoc: DeNieu (voting); ex officio (non-voting);, ADRs Rong (CCAS), Freund (GSEHD), Korman (SEAS), Cornwell (ESIA), Mallinson (SMHS), Hyder (SPH), VP Research Miller, AVP Research Lohr, Provost Maltzman.

**Meetings:** The Faculty Senate Research Committee held monthly meetings on the first Friday afternoon of every month in SEH 2000. Webex is offered for all members who cannot attend in person. The committee has met as a whole eight times this year (4 meetings per semester).

**Research Ecosystem:** The agenda for the Faculty Senate Research Committee has centered around the Research Ecosystem Review. The Committee embarked on an examination of the Research Ecosystem; both in the present form and potential for development to support the University in its quest to be a global preeminent research institution. The Fall semester efforts centered on the first phase of the review included four groups as voted on by the Committee in the Spring of 2018.

1. Pre-award system
2. Award set up and post-award system
3. Research Integrity and Compliance
4. Non-Sponsored Research and Scholarship.

Working groups solicited representation from each of the schools/colleges as well as administrative personnel that are actively involved in each of the four working group processes.

Each working group establish goals and objectives for the working group to achieve in a delimited timespan from September 17<sup>th</sup> (Kick off) to November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2018 (draft report due) with a presentation to the committee as a whole on December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Each working group had a corresponding leader who provided guidance and feedback to the Committee. Each Working Group was responsible for the presentation of a brief (5-7 page) report outlining the current landscape and potential areas for development to support the University in its quest to be a global preeminent research institution.

The final report was delivered to President LeBlanc on February 1, 2019. A meeting between President LeBlanc and the chairs of the committee was held on March 21, 2019, along with VP Miller, Provost Maltzman, and AVP Lohr. The report and recommendations were reviewed, and a process to build solutions based on the report were formulated. To ensure widespread communication regarding the Ecosystem report, a GW Today story was printed on Monday April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019 to communicate the findings of the report to the general GW community (<https://gwtoday.gwu.edu/research-ecosystem-report-emphasizes-communication-flexibility>). The full report is available on the Ecosystem page ([https://strategicinitiatives.gwu.edu/sites/g/files/zaxdzs2536/f/downloads/GW%20Strategic%20Initiative%20Research%20Ecosystem%20Report%20Summary\\_.pdf](https://strategicinitiatives.gwu.edu/sites/g/files/zaxdzs2536/f/downloads/GW%20Strategic%20Initiative%20Research%20Ecosystem%20Report%20Summary_.pdf)). The agenda for the March and April meetings were productive brainstorming sessions within the committee with VP Miller and AVP Lohr to

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reflect upon the findings of the Ecosystem report and formulate a process to ensure faculty input towards program development, monitoring, and evaluation.

In the Spring semester the committee began efforts for the second phase of the Ecosystem review and this phase will include four groups as voted on by the Committee in the February/March of 2019.

1. Shared Facilities This group will examine what makes a facility a core/shared facility and how to best utilize/ maximize facility usage. Shared facilities include Nanofabrication and imaging center the vivarium (animal facility), proteomics core, Division of IT (processing and storing data), genomics, pathology core lab, SMPA (studio), biosafety lab among others.
2. High-Performance Computing and Big Data Service Center: GWU has a Big Data Initiative and this group will examine what is working well with this initiative, what are the pain points, and proposed directions to enhance utilization.
3. Workforce Development: This group will have a particular focus on the HR classification system as it pertains to post-doc and developing the research workforce pipeline.
4. Resource allocation. This group will examine (space, funding) how intramural research monies are allocated.

A similar review process as outlined above for the first phase Working Groups will be followed for this phase with a final report due to the President Spring of 2020.

**Tobacco Funding at GWU:** The Faculty Senate Executive Committee has tasked this committee with looking into and discussing the role of tobacco funding at the university. After lengthy discussion, the Committee voted to not ban tobacco funding. However, in a subsequent meeting a copy of the “Statement on the Foundation for a Smoke Free World” (found <https://www.jhsph.edu/about/dean-mackenzie/news/smoke-free-world.html>) was put for consideration. The statement is a consensus statement stemming from the World Health Organization and other organizations that support smoking prevention and tobacco control efforts in the United States and around the world have pledged not to work with the Foundation for a Smoke-Free World. The committee discussed the statement and supported the GWSPH in seeking the consensus of the school faculty to sign on in support.

\*\*The committee would like to formally acknowledge the efforts of the Research Ecosystem working group members. These efforts were the product of a highly collaborative and integrative process that included multiple stakeholder points of engagement. We would like to thank our dedicated faculty, staff, and administrative partners and support mechanisms. We are indebted to their continued support and perseverance to ensure the highest quality product is produced and disseminated. We are indebted to the four Phase I working groups including the four tireless leaders (Kim Acquaviva, Jamie Cohen-Cole, Matthew Kay, and Melissa Perry), the dedicated 32 faculty working group members, over 20 staff and administrators, the GW faculty who provided valuable insight, and the Faculty Senate Research Committee, who have been working to enhance the research ecosystem from the very beginning and walked with us every step of the way. Many thanks to Don Reagan for providing coordinating support through the planning and implementation of this process. Lastly, we are indebted to the GW community for recognizing the vital role research and scholarship has in furthering the University mission to be a preeminent global research university. \*\*