

6 October 2019

As stated in the Faculty Code, faculty may petition to add items to the Assembly Agenda and the Assembly may direct the Faculty Senate.

<https://cpb-us-e1.wpmucdn.com/blogs.gwu.edu/dist/0/196/files/2019/02/Faculty-Organization-Plan-v3-2017-z76h5u.pdf>

Article 2. section 3. Part A.  
SECTION 3. MEETINGS

(a) A regular meeting of the Assembly shall be held at least once during the academic year. 1 A regular meeting may be called by the President, by request of the Senate, or by the petition of twenty or more members of the Assembly; and **the agenda as prepared by the President shall include any matter requested by the Senate or the Executive Committee of the Senate, or by petition of fifteen or more members of the Assembly.** The call of a regular meeting shall contain the time, place, and agenda of the meeting; and it shall be mailed not later than the tenth day preceding the day of the meeting.

And Article 2, section 4.2.  
Functions of the assembly:

..."The Assembly shall have the power to direct the Senate to include in the agenda of the Senate or any of its committees, or to study and report back to the Assembly, or to take such other action as may be appropriate with respect to any matter of concern to the Assembly."

Accordingly, we the undersigned request the following six (6) items be placed on the agenda of the regular 2019 meeting of the Faculty Assembly.

1. The Assembly directs the Faculty Senate as well as the Senate committees on a) Educational Policy & Technology, b) Fiscal Planning & Budgeting, c) Professional Ethics & Academic Freedom, and d) Research, to include on each of their respective agendas the following item: *"Did the adoption of the strategic plan of increasing the ratio of STEM majors and significantly decreasing undergraduate enrollment properly follow recognized principles of shared governance?"* The Senate and each of the four committees mentioned above ( a) Educational Policy & Technology, b) Fiscal Planning & Budgeting and c) Professional Ethics & Academic Freedom, and d) Research) shall report the entirety of their findings on the same webpage where the Senate publishes the minutes of its meetings by December 20, 2019 (<https://facultysenate.gwu.edu/minutes> ) and notify each member of the Faculty Assembly of the electronic location of this report that shall remain on the website of the Senate until at least February 15, 2020.

2. The Assembly directs the Faculty Senate as well as the Senate committees on a) Educational Policy & Technology, b) Fiscal Planning & Budgeting, c) Professional Ethics & Academic Freedom, and d) Research, to include on each of their respective agendas the following items: *“What is the total cost (past and future) of the Culture Initiative? How much money has and will be spent to hire outside consultants including the Disney Institute? Did the Disney Institute culture survey and focus groups use objective methods as recognized in peer-reviewed scientific literature produced by fields specializing in survey design and qualitative interviewing? Are the results of the culture survey and focus group scientifically valid?”* Given answers to these questions, the Senate and each of the four committees mentioned above shall evaluate the return on investment for monies spent on the Culture Initiative. The Senate and each of the four committees mentioned above ( a) Educational Policy & Technology, b) Fiscal Planning & Budgeting, c) Professional Ethics & Academic Freedom, and d) Research) shall report the entirety of their findings on the same webpage where the Senate publishes the minutes of its meetings by December 20, 2019 (<https://facultysenate.gwu.edu/minutes> ) and notify each member of the Faculty Assembly of the electronic location of this report that shall remain on the website of the Senate until at least February 15, 2020.

3. The Assembly directs the Faculty Senate as well as the Senate committees on a) Educational Policy & Technology, b) Fiscal Planning & Budgeting, c) Professional Ethics & Academic Freedom, and d) Research, to include on each of their respective agendas the following items: *“What data supported the decision to reduce undergraduate enrollment by 20% and increase STEM majors by 50%? Who specifically at GWU and who specifically from outside were involved in these decisions? What was the logic that supported these decisions? If outside consultants were involved in these decisions, how were they chosen, how much were they paid, what data was provided to the consultants, and what did the consultants report?”* The Senate and each of the four committees mentioned above ( a) Educational Policy & Technology, b) Fiscal Planning & Budgeting, c) Professional Ethics & Academic Freedom, and d) Research) shall report the entirety of their findings on the same webpage where the Senate publishes the minutes of its meetings by December 20, 2019 (<https://facultysenate.gwu.edu/minutes> ) and notify each member of the Faculty Assembly of the electronic location of this report that shall remain on the website of the Senate until at least February 15, 2020.

4. Given the faculty’s exclusive expertise in determining and delivering curriculum and in conducting research, the Assembly directs the Faculty Senate as well as the Senate committees on a) Educational Policy & Technology, b) Fiscal Planning & Budgeting, c) Professional Ethics & Academic Freedom, and d) Research, to include on each of their respective agendas the following items: *“As no objective and responsible research process involves starting with conclusions, should the charges of the each of the five strategic planning committees (World Class Faculty, High Quality Undergraduate Education, Distinguished and Distinctive Graduate Education, High Impact Research, Strategic Planning Task Force) be amended to include the following charges: 1. What is the best size of the undergraduate student body for delivering on the University mission to promote high quality education and high impact research? 2. Is there in fact an ideal ratio of STEM majors to the entire undergraduate population? If so, how should it be determined, and what should it be? 3. Given that “the mission of the George Washington*

*University is to educate individuals in liberal arts, languages, sciences, learned professions, and other courses and subjects of study, and to conduct scholarly research and publish the findings of such research," and that "the university is committed to recruiting, admitting and enrolling undergraduate and graduate students drawn from varying backgrounds or identities throughout all schools and departments," what impact will changing the student body's size and composition have on the curricular, research, and diversity and inclusion missions of the university? 4. How can GWU produce high impact research that does not require its faculty to conduct team-based scholarship? In which instances does top-down mandates for team research undermine creativity and impact?"* The Senate and each of the four committees mentioned above ( a) Educational Policy & Technology, b) Fiscal Planning & Budgeting, c) Professional Ethics & Academic Freedom, and d) Research) shall report the entirety of their findings on the same webpage where the Senate publishes the minutes of its meetings by December 20, 2019 (<https://facultysenate.gwu.edu/minutes> ) and notify each member of the Faculty Assembly of the electronic location of this report that shall remain on the website of the Senate until at least February 15, 2020.

5. Given the faculty's exclusive expertise in determining and delivering curriculum and in conducting research, the Assembly directs the Faculty Senate as well as the Senate committees on a) Educational Policy & Technology, b) Fiscal Planning & Budgeting, c) Professional Ethics & Academic Freedom, and d) Research, to include on each of their respective agendas the following item: *"Should the four strategic planning committees appointed by the President (World Class Faculty, High Quality Undergraduate Education, Distinguished and Distinctive Graduate Education, High Impact Research) report their findings to the Faculty for approval and /or amendment before these reports are sent to the Strategic Planning Task Force or the GWU administration?"* The Senate and each of the four committees mentioned above ( a) Educational Policy & Technology, b) Fiscal Planning & Budgeting, c) Professional Ethics & Academic Freedom, and d) Research) shall report their findings at a Senate meeting by November 8, 2019.

6. The Assembly directs the Chair of the Senate Executive Committee to call a special meeting of the Assembly between January 13, 2020 and January 24, 2020. The Agenda of that Assembly meeting shall include reports from the Senate and its committees to questions 1-5 above and the Assembly shall vote to approve or reject in separate votes.

**Signatories:**

1. Guillermo Orti, Dept. of Biological Sciences. [gorti@gwu.edu](mailto:gorti@gwu.edu)
2. Jamie Cohen-Cole, Dept. of American Studies. [jcohencole@gwu.edu](mailto:jcohencole@gwu.edu)
3. Bernard Wood, Dept. of Anthropology. [bernardawood@gmail.com](mailto:bernardawood@gmail.com)
4. Sarah Wagner, Dept. of Anthropology. [sewagner@email.gwu.edu](mailto:sewagner@email.gwu.edu)
5. Ivy Ken, Dept. of Sociology, [ivyleighken@gmail.com](mailto:ivyleighken@gmail.com)
6. Harald Griesshammer, Dept. of Physics. [hgrie@gwu.edu](mailto:hgrie@gwu.edu)

7. Katrin Schulteiss, Dept. of History. [k.schultheiss9@gmail.com](mailto:k.schultheiss9@gmail.com)
8. Michael Barnett, International Affairs and Political Science. [barnett@gwu.edu](mailto:barnett@gwu.edu)
9. Catherine Forster, Dept. of Biological Sciences, Prog. Geological Sciences. [forster@gwu.edu](mailto:forster@gwu.edu)
10. Gregory D. Squires, Dept. of Sociology. [squires@email.gwu.edu](mailto:squires@email.gwu.edu)
11. Melani McAlister, Dept. of American Studies & International Affairs. [mmc@gwu.edu](mailto:mmc@gwu.edu)
12. Andrew Zimmerman, Dept. of History. [azimmer@gwu.edu](mailto:azimmer@gwu.edu)
13. Katherine Kleppinger, French and Francophone Studies. [kleppinger@email.gwu.edu](mailto:kleppinger@email.gwu.edu)
14. Christopher Britt, Spanish and Latin American Studies. [cbritt@gwu.edu](mailto:cbritt@gwu.edu)
15. Dara Orenstein, Dept. of American Studies. [dorenstein@gwu.edu](mailto:dorenstein@gwu.edu)
16. Erin Chapman, Dept. of History. [echapman@gwu.edu](mailto:echapman@gwu.edu)
17. Masha Belenky, French Literature Program. [belenky@gwu.edu](mailto:belenky@gwu.edu)
18. Katherine Larsen, University Writing Program. [klarsen@gwu.edu](mailto:klarsen@gwu.edu)
19. Kelly Pemberton, Religion, Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. [kpembert@gwu.edu](mailto:kpembert@gwu.edu)
20. Jennifer James, Dept. of English. [jjc@gwu.edu](mailto:jjc@gwu.edu)
21. Thomas A. Guglielmo, Dept. of American Studies. [tgugliel@gwu.edu](mailto:tgugliel@gwu.edu)
22. Sara Matthiesen, Dept. of History. [sara\\_matthiesen@email.gwu.edu](mailto:sara_matthiesen@email.gwu.edu)
23. Joanna Spear, Elliott School of International Affairs. [jspear@gwu.edu](mailto:jspear@gwu.edu)