

**The Faculty Senate Standing Committee on University Urban Affairs (UUA)
Interim Report 2019-2020**

**Submitted by: Shaista E. Khilji, Professor of Human and Organizational Learning &
International Affairs**

In Summer 2019, UUA was reconstituted with several new members under the leadership of a new Chair, Shaista E. Khilji. Throughout the Fall semester, new members have been added to the roster.

Current UUA Members include:

- Shaista Khilji, Chair (GSEHD)*
- Jeff Gutman, Faculty Senate Executive Committee Liaison (LAW)*
- Oluwatomi Adetunji (SEAS)
- Linda Cassar (SON)
- Jillian Catalanotti (SMHS)
- Amy Cohen (CCAS)
- Sarah Frasure (SMHS)
- Ina Gjikondi (CPS Staff)
- Matthew Hess (SON Staff)
- Karen Kesten (SON)
- Samantha Luna (CPS Staff)
- Angela McConnell (SMHS)
- Dave Milzman (SMHS)
- Stacia Moreno (SON)
- Damali Nakitende (SMHS)
- Anne-Marie O'Brien (SON)
- David Rain (CCAS)*
- Dan Schwartz (CCAS)*
- Rebecca Thessin (GSEHD)
- Margaret Venzke (SON)
- Jillian Wolons (GW Student Association)

*Faculty Senators

Committee Mission states:

The Committee on University and Urban Affairs helps foster continued good citizenship between The George Washington University and the greater Washington, DC metropolitan area. The University and Urban Affairs Committee serves as an ongoing catalyst for maximum efficiency in this area and prevents the duplication of effort between GW and the community itself. By affirmatively tracking GW's already allocated resources and initiatives, the University and Urban Affairs Committee "paints the big picture" of GW's community relationship and subsequently

provides the University with a valuable source of advice on continuous improvement and possible future endeavors.

The FSEC also identified the following goals for UUA:

1. Continue annual planning of programs to bring university faculty and administrators together with DC Government, citizen groups, and members of the Foggy Bottom community.
2. Explore ways for the university community to address the rising problem of income inequity and its effects on low income housing and homelessness in DC.

Committee Actions (Fall Semester 2019):

The Committee scheduled to meet once a month for the 2019-2020 academic year. Members have already met in Sept, Oct and Nov 2019.

Below is a snap shot of the ongoing activities that relate to aforementioned Committee Mission and goals:

- *Tracking GW's resources and initiatives to paint the big picture (Committee Mission):*
 - Committee members discussed the many challenges associated with tracking GW's resources and initiatives (for example, silos, ineffective communication, sometimes information overload, and absence of a central repository system), however, they also highlighted the importance of creating a centralized and coordinated database of GW's community engagement initiatives and events.
 - The Committee members crafted a new question, that could be included in the Lyterati system. We believe that this question would allow all GW faculty members to directly input their community engagement activities in the reporting system.
 - We have spoken with the Provost Office, and hope to present the question for possible inclusion in the Faculty Lyterati system. Refer to the proposed question in *Appendix A*.
 - The Committee Chair reached out the custodian of GW Calendar. She is awaiting confirmation of a meeting to discuss possibilities of using the GW Calendar to identify GW community engagement activities, capture additional activities that may, otherwise, be going unreported.
 - UUA Members would disseminate GW Serve link and information among their colleagues to improve communication between GW faculty, students and DC community partners.
 - If supported, these actions can collectively assist GW administration with capturing the 'big picture' of GW resources through targeted reporting and better coordination of all activities at GW.
- *Planning of program to bring GW faculty, administrators with DC government, citizen groups and members of the FB community (Goal 1). Explore Ways for the university community to address the rising problem of income inequity and its effects on low income housing and homelessness in DC (Goal 2):*

- Based on member discussions/ interests and a careful review of goals 1 and 2, UUA has identified 3 projects for 2019-2020:
 - **Project 1- Housing Summit** at GW (led by Ina Gjikondi- CPS and Amy Cohen- CCAS): We are planning to co-host a housing summit in partnership with the DC Dept of Housing and Community Engagement. Expected to be held in Jan 2020 at GW.
 - **Project 2- University Seminar on “Advancing an Interdisciplinary View of Inequality”** (led by Anne-Marie O’Brien- SON): We are planning to submit a proposal for University Seminar funding. Due Date: June 2020.
 - **Project 3- Inequality Awareness Project** (led by Shaista E. Khilji- GSEHD): We are planning to organize a panel discussion focusing on the causes and impact of inequality. This event would be open to GW students and the wider DC community. Expected to be held in Jan 2020.

Please direct all inquiries to UUA Chair- Prof. Shaista E. Khilji at sekhilji@gwu.edu

Reviewed by: UUA Members

Appendix A Proposed Lyterati Question

The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching describes Community Engagement as the collaboration between institutions of higher education and their larger communities (local, regional/state, national and global) for the mutually beneficial exchange of knowledge and resources in a context of partnership and reciprocity.

Please list any teaching, research, and/ or service you have done with GW that meets the aforementioned definition of community engagement. Please make sure to provide name(s) of the partner organization(s) and describe any products of that activity.