
THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

WASHINGTON, DC

Faculty Senate Research Committee

Standing Committee Annual Report

Members of the committee, Faculty Senate year 2019/20: McDonnell (Co-Chair), Sarkar (Co-Chair), Briscoe (Executive Committee liaison), faculty (voting): Applebaum, Cohen-Cole, Dowling, El-Ghazawi, Fernandes, Gabiam, Kay, Kumar, Kusner, Lambert, Leftwich, Medlej, Mylonas, Pan, Pintz, Roche, Sommers, Speck, Subiaul, Streitwieser, Tuckwiller, Zhou; postdoc: Bouarab (voting); student: Lahiri, ex officio (non-voting); ADRs Downie (CCAS), Freund (GSEHD), Korman (SEAS), Cornwell (ESIA), Hall (SMHS), Geiger-Brown (SON), Hyder (SPH), Regan, VP Research Miller, AVP Research Lohr, Provost Blake.

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 three times this year.

Research Ecosystem: After the successful completion of Phase I of the Research Ecosystem Review completed in 2019, the agenda for the 2019-2020 Faculty Senate Research Committee was dominated in the earlier part by the Phase II of the Research Ecosystem Review. As in Phase I, the objective has been 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. For this phase, the committee focused on four areas:

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.

Each area was assigned to a working group consisting primarily of faculty members from all the schools/colleges. Each working group established its goals and objectives, gathered input from the faculty belonging to all the schools and colleges, and submitted its report to the Faculty Senate Research Committee.

The final report was delivered to President LeBlanc on February 18, 2020. A meeting between President LeBlanc and the chairs of the committee and the chair of the Phase II Committee was held on March 11, 2020, along with VP Miller, Provost Blake to review the report and recommendations.

A status report on the Phase I Review was periodically presented in monthly meetings by VP Research Miller listing the steps taken in response to the Phase I Report.

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Resolution resulting from October 22 Faculty Assembly: The Faculty Senate Research Committee discussed the petition adopted in the Faculty Assembly and passed a resolution.

The High Impact Research Strategic Planning Group (Chairman Alan Greenberg) has worked collaboratively with FSRC, provided periodic updates on their activities and shared their interim report.

Discussion/Reactions/Response to the Strategic Planning Committee Interim Reports: FSRC members discussed interim reports of the four Strategic Planning Committees. Their responses were presented to the Senate at its March meeting.

The committee will continue to be engaged in its overseeing of the Research enterprise of the university. It work closely with the OVPR in mitigating the concerns raised in the Research Ecosystem Review and implementing its recommendations.