



Faculty Senate

University and Urban Affairs Committee 2023-2024 Interim Report

Co-chairs: Delishia Pittman, Amy Cohen
FSEC Liaison: Arthur Wilson

The UUA committee was charged by the Faculty Senate Exec Committee to address the issues below and issues as they emerge

- Identify and examine the ways that faculty and university programs interact with the local community for the benefit of scholarship and the community;
- Benchmark effective practices and the institutional practices and policies that support this work at GW and in other institutions;
- Collect and disseminate effective program examples, including for the renewal of the Carnegie Classification for Community Engagement; and
- Seek further updates on the PennWest Initiative, particularly as it is affected by the the arrival of USC in the PennWest area.

The committee determined a monthly meeting cadence and has met three times in the fall semester, with a December meeting planned.

September meeting:

Members of the committee were introduced and discussed their interests in further research and action for the committee:

- Concern about local dining establishments' ability to survive and thrive with the new Dining plan
 - Recognition the new Dining plan may combat food insecurity
 - How can local businesses be supported while supporting student food security?
- Focus on program inventory
 - Multiple different schools/programs do work in DMV area public schools and other establishments, but are very siloed from each other
 - How can we establish some sort of database for GW community members to know of each others' presence in these places and better work together to serve the community?
 - Community-wide survey?
 - How can we benchmark the work that is being done?
 - Can we have support so someone can visit the various schools and collect information on the various programs and opportunities each school has/offers to the broader community?

October meeting:

(Two meetings took place in October)

- Continued discussion of dining and the committee resolved to invite Seth Weinshel, who oversees dining, to talk with the committee about the impact of the new Dining program

- Information about the national Coalition for Urban and Metropolitan Universities conference program: GW co-hosting [CUMU](#) conference 1015-18; reception in the City View Room Tuesday Oct 17, 5 to 7pm. Provost will be speaking about community engagement programs
- March 29 Community Engaged Scholarship event: We are planning an event (all day or 9-3 ish) at University Student Center March 29 to highlight community engaged research and activity and its impact on community and scholarship. It is on President Granberg's calendar already. Would highlight student and faculty work and would include community partners as presenters as well as audience.
 - Committee will advise, participate, identify participants going forward
- GW will apply to renew its voluntary Carnegie Classification as a Community-Engaged Institution. Application materials will be available Jan 2024 and the application will be due in Spring 2025. GW received classification in 2020.
- Discussion on program inventory and identification to support extended research practice and to support the Carnegie reapplication. The Nashman Center uses GivePulse to track both academic and co-curricular community service engagement including most community-engaged courses. Expanding reporting is important
 - Suggestions to expand include:
 - Visit department and school meetings to introduce the definition and practice of community-engaged scholarship – which is widespread at GW – and to introduce the tool and the importance of reporting
 - Announce this at Faculty Senate Meetings
 - Develop a portal in Blackboard to engage more of the university community
- Discussion about Penn-West Innovation District; agree to invite Jim Chung to update the committee
- Suggestion that we find a way to identify GW partnership with community partners and suggested we have a GW Partner sticker

November meeting:

Continued discussion on the ways in which we can capture the considerable faculty Community Engagement:

- Develop a document to collect information and disseminate to Faculty Senate to distribute to the faculty
- Example of Dr. Maranda Ward's work with Dr Wendy Wagner in the Nashman Center to develop a comprehensive GivePulse page to capture community engaged work in SMHS, made public to allow for partners to be able to update their projects
- For consideration: Utilizing Blackboard (or other university wide data system) to house a community engaged survey/database that would provide an opportunity for faculty and students to self manage input of community engaged work and scholarship
- Next steps: Brainstorming session to identify mechanisms for implementing

Dining updates

- UUA joined by Seth Weinshel, Associate Vice President for Business Services to discuss changes and impact of GW dining services
- GW Dining stood up from no plan this semester

- GW dining program is on average \$1600 less per year than competitor programs; 2 meal plans in place. First year students have an unlimited meal plan, second year students have a declining balance plan
- GW dining has delivered over 55k meals each week to date in AY23-24
- Front line dining hall staff are part of a union, CBA includes 10 other schools. Starting pay is significantly more than minimum wage.
- Participate in Swipe out Hunger - students can donate unused meals to help address food insecurity; 5000 meals collected at the end of spring 23 semester