



**Faculty Senate
Provost Report
Friday, March 1, 2024**

Good afternoon. You will be hearing from me quite a bit regarding Core Indicators in just a few moments, so I have just a few updates.

Strategic Framework Development & Future-Focused Conversation

As President Granberg has mentioned, the GW leadership team has been meeting with members of our community, including faculty, students, staff, alumni, and university partners, to identify GW's unique strengths and areas of opportunity. Throughout these engagements, it has become clear that our university is well-positioned to begin the development of a new strategic framework that can guide GW's future growth over the next five to ten years.

Before this formal framework development process can begin, it is important that we better understand the future for which we are planning and identify the challenges and opportunities higher education will face moving forward. To do this, we have begun a series of discussions on GW's future in the form of virtual conversations open to all members of the community. These one-hour dialogues focus on several key areas, including the future of work and the workforce, the future of higher education, and the future of knowledge. Members of the community have the opportunity to share their thoughts based on questions within these key areas.

We are simultaneously holding conversations with key leadership groups across the university.

Based on the themes that emerge from these conversations, GW leadership will produce a report that will be shared with the community for feedback and then presented to the GW Board of Trustees at the May 2024 meeting. Following the Board's review and endorsement of the report, the formal strategic framework development process will commence in the fall of 2024.

It is important to remember that these future-focused conversations are just the first step in a long-term process. Along the way, we are committed to providing multiple opportunities for the community to engage and share their thoughts, including an online webform for those who cannot attend one of the upcoming virtual sessions.

These conversations have begun in earnest, including several very productive conversations with our faculty this week, and we look forward to further engaging with the community in the coming months as we develop a strategic framework to move GW into the future.

I encourage you to visit the [Strategic Framework Development page](#) on the Provost site for information about registering for sessions, updates and more.

Diversity Summit

We held the 9th Annual Diversity Summit last week. The theme was “Defining Revolutionary: A Call for Justice, Liberation & Empathy.” On the opening night of the summit, I gave welcome remarks that emphasized the importance of events like the Diversity Summit in enabling the university to foster productive dialogue that features a range of diverse opinions, ideologies, identities, and experiences. I also noted that it is important for conversations that begin at an event like the Diversity Summit to continue after the event concludes, in order for the university to fulfill its holistic approach to providing a student learning experience premised upon inclusive excellence.

I am grateful to Caroline Laguerre-Brown and her office for their dedication to this annual event.

Global Food Institute/James Beard Foundation Report

Last week, the Global Food Institute (GFI) and the James Beard Foundation released a collaborative report that is the product of GFI’s first research grant. The report illustrates how climate change is driving up costs for an already vulnerable restaurant industry, undermining the ability of chefs to meet consumers’ expectations for high-quality affordable meals.

The report underpins a broader chef-led policy advocacy initiative launched by the James Beard Foundation, called “Climate Solutions for Restaurant Survival,” which aims to unite chefs across the country to raise awareness, educate federal policymakers, and galvanize action to mitigate the impacts of climate change.

The release of the report signals continued progress in GFI’s commitment to finding solutions to the world’s most urgent problems through the power of food, and we look forward to additional opportunities to showcase our research and policy expertise.

We published a [GW Today story about the report](#) this week, and you can find the report and a blog post written by Professor Tara Scully on the [Global Food Institute website](#).

Global Food Institute Reception

Also in Global Food Institute news, on Tuesday, GFI hosted a reception in City View Room following an event at the White House that announced new commitments in the “White House Challenge to End Hunger and Build Healthy Communities,” which launched last year. This challenge aims to end hunger and reduce diet-related diseases by 2030.

GW welcomed to the reception many congressional, state, and federal officials and representatives from food-focused organizations. José Andrés, founder of GFI, was in attendance to give remarks about the importance of implementing policy that will amplify the excellent work being done in communities to end hunger around the world.

American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) 2024 Annual Meeting

Finally, last week you may have seen a GW Today article about GW’s attendance at the 2024 Annual Meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

AAAS is the world's largest, multi-disciplinary science society, and their annual meeting took place in mid-February in Denver. More than 4,500 attendees from 65 countries attend the meeting each year. They include leading scientists, students, government agencies, foundations and more.

Vice Provost Norris was in attendance, as well as multiple faculty who were participating in scientific sessions. All of them took time to meet attendees at the GW Research booth in the exhibit hall, and they had fruitful conversations with GW alumni and potential future students and collaborators.

Additionally, GW sponsored a workshop on how researchers can incorporate entrepreneurial thinking as they develop research questions and projects. This is a popular workshop that is offered monthly here by our Office of Innovation and Entrepreneurship. I encourage you to check it out.

Next year's AAAS meeting will be held in Boston, and we hope to have a presence there as well. AAAS is currently seeking proposals for scientific sessions and workshops for its 2025 annual meeting. You can look for those details on the organization's website, and Vice Provost Norris will be promoting that opportunity soon as well.

President Granberg, this concludes my report.