



Faculty Senate: Provost Report
Friday, April 12, 2024

The end of the semester is rapidly approaching, with the last day of classes just a few weeks away. I encourage you all to continue devoting your energies to supporting our students and helping them stay focused while they work toward the finish line, and please remember to continue looking after yourselves as well during this busy time of year.

I have several updates to share today.

Strategic Framework Update

First, an update on where we are in the pre-work phase of our strategic framework development process.

As you know, in February and March, we held a series of future-focused conversations that marked the first step in a strategic framework development process that will guide the university's growth in the coming years. The conversations, intended for us to understand the future into which GW is planning, tailored questions for students, faculty, staff, and alumni around the key areas of the future of the workforce and work, the future of higher education, and the future of knowledge.

I am pleased to share that a summary report of these conversations, plus feedback that was submitted online, will be distributed to the community in the very near future. The report summarizes the information we learned and hopefully begins to bring into focus the major ideas and commonalities expressed among constituencies. The Faculty Senate will receive the report today and leadership will meet with the Senate next week to talk further on this topic.

When the report is distributed to the community, we will post a web form that the community can use to submit thoughts about the report. This feedback will provide additional helpful context as we begin to distill the many exciting and insightful ideas we have learned into a set of themes that will inform the university's strategic framework in the coming academic year.

Whether you joined a conversation or submitted feedback online, I deeply appreciate your engagement with this advance work.

Diversity Program Review Report

The Provost Office has received the Diversity Program Review Team's final report, which is the culmination of collaboration and dedication from individuals across our university community. It provides a review of GW's strengths, areas of opportunity, and recommendations aimed at fostering a more inclusive, equitable, and enjoyable environment for the GW community. I look forward to reviewing this action plan, following up with stakeholder groups, and sharing next steps with the community.

I would like to thank Vice Provost Caroline Laguerre-Brown, Associate Vice Provost Jordan West, and all the members of the Diversity Program Review Team sub-groups, who have put tremendous effort into getting this report over the finish line.

GWALA

The fourth cohort of the GW Academic Leadership Academy, or GWALA, graduated just a few short hours ago. You may recall that I created this program in 2019 with then-Provost Forrest Maltzman to enable our academic leaders to step

outside their day-to-day functions and dedicate time to professional development, relationship-building, and enhancing their skill sets. I am grateful to Associate Provost Jeff Brand and Sara Melita for facilitating this important initiative.

Of course, we have a number of end-of-year events on the horizon.

Commencement

The countdown to Commencement continues! Hopefully, you saw a note from me encouraging you to register for Commencement Week activities, including school celebrations and Commencement on the National Mall on Sunday, May 19. A strong faculty showing at graduation events demonstrates to our graduating students and their families and friends that we are proud to see them cross the finish line and are excited about their future endeavors, so I encourage you to register if you have not yet done so. Registration details are available on the [Commencement website](#), and faculty registration will close on Friday, May 3.

Academic Honors and Faculty Honors Ceremonies

We are also looking forward to our annual celebrations of student, faculty, and graduate teaching assistant achievement. The Academic Honors ceremony, which recognizes each school's Distinguished Scholars as well as their Outstanding Academic Achievement Award recipients, will take place next week on April 18. The 14th Annual Faculty Honors Ceremony will take place on April 23. All are welcome to the Faculty Honors Ceremony, so please [register](#) if you have not yet done so.

Interfaith Week

You should have received infomails promoting Interfaith Week, which takes place next week from April 15-19. It is an exploration and celebration of the many religious and spiritual communities that are an integral part of the GW community, and all are welcome to attend the many events on the calendar. I invite you to visit the [Office for Diversity, Equity and Community Engagement website](#) to view the schedule. President Granberg and I look forward to attending the Interfaith Dinner on the evening of April 18.

Celebration of the GW Alliance for a Sustainable Future

Finally, we are also looking forward to next week's celebration of the [GW Alliance for a Sustainable Future](#). You will recall that the alliance launched in November, led by executive director Frank Sesno. On April 17, we will celebrate the creativity, scholarship and leadership that is working to advance a more sustainable way of life for the health of our planet. The program will include a roundtable discussion with GW faculty experts; a keynote conversation with Delaware senator Chris Coons, the co-founder and co-chair of the bipartisan Senate Climate Solutions Caucus; and the East Coast premiere of Sacred Place, a choral work celebrating our relationship with the earth. This performance will feature the University Singers and vocal and instrumental soloists, led by Corcoran faculty member Erin Freeman. I encourage you all to register for and attend this exciting event.

This concludes my report, and I will open the floor to questions.