



# Faculty Senate

## Report from the joint FSEC-BoT Executive Committee Meeting October 5, 2023

The meeting of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSEC) and the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees focused on two items:

### 1) Strategic planning process

Anticipating that the university will soon be embarking on developing a new strategic plan, the bulk of the meeting was devoted to a wide-ranging discussion between FSEC, board members, and administrators about issues to consider in the process. With the idea that the process will begin by seeking broad community input into the process, our discussion explored a number of issues that will be important to the future of the university. These included GW's distinctive features, competitive pressures, future workforce needs, research strengths, and how to provide world-class, life-changing experiences for our students. Trustees heard from faculty and administrators about how they assess the current quality of GW's offerings and make decisions about directions to develop. All participants expressed appreciation for the engaged and thoughtful conversation.

### 2) Pathways for improving shared governance

Looking forward from the recent decision-making process to arm some members of the GWPD, FSEC offered some suggestions for increasing faculty input in policy decisions. Recognizing that when faculty have been involved in discussions leading to a decision, the decision is far more likely to receive faculty support or, where faculty disagree, acceptance, FSEC outlined multiple ways the Board of Trustees can bring faculty into policy planning. These include: 1) Engage individual faculty experts. The Faculty Senate can help develop a list of experts on particular areas of concern to the board; 2) Engage relevant Senate committees and/or ad hoc committees. FSEC can serve as a conduit to identify the right committee for a particular issue or to establish an ad hoc committee as appropriate; 3) Engage the wider faculty (and university) community through town halls and other fora. Different policy discussions will benefit from slightly different combinations of these pathways; FSEC can be a sounding board for which to pursue on a given issue. Trustees expressed appreciation for and interest in these suggestions and also indicated that some issues the Board considers require confidentiality. FSEC noted that the question of confidentiality is a matter of ongoing discussion within the Senate.