



Faculty Senate

Report from the Joint FSEC-BoT Executive Committee Meeting February 1, 2024

The meeting of FSEC and the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees focused on discussion of three items:

1) GW's Medical Enterprise

We discussed ongoing concerns about the MFA's financial situation, a concern shared by faculty, board members, and the administration. Board members described their strong attention to MFA finances, noting that a subcommittee of the Board has been established that will focus on this question. In addition to the quarterly reporting that Bruno Fernandes already provides to the faculty Senate, the Senate Finance and Budget Committee will also receive reports about the MFA recovery plan as well as projection data.

2) Academic Freedom During Challenging Times

Our discussion was framed by a shared view that academic freedom, and freedom of expression, are vital principles for the university. We also discussed the variety of challenges that can arise in the effort to support and affirm these vital principles, under the best of circumstances. We acknowledged that because of our different locations within the university, we confront these issues in different ways, and may even have different understandings of what these terms mean. Continued conversation will be valuable.

3) Strategic Planning Discussion: The Future of Higher Education

As the university prepares to embark on the first phase of the strategic planning process---thinking about the future that we are planning for---we had a wide-ranging conversation about what that future might look like. We acknowledged the importance of considering what a future workforce will look like, as well as the difficulties in predicting this shifting landscape. We discussed the importance of skills, fundamentals, critical thinking, and citizenship education in preparing our students for life-long success after they graduate from GW.