



Faculty Senate

Faculty Senate Standing Committee on Physical Facilities & Campus Safety Annual Report, Academic Year 2023-2024

Submitted By Co-Chairs:

James Tielsch (GWSPH) and John Traub (CCAS)

Committee Members:

James Tielsch, Co-Chair (GWSPH)*

John Traub, Co-Chair (CCAS)

Jonathan Eakle, Faculty Senate Executive Committee Liaison (GSEHD)*

Thomas Choate (GWSB)

Katie Cloud (Interim Registrar)**

Colette Coleman (Vice Provost, Dean of Students)**

Douglas Crawford (CCAS)

Mary DeRaedt (GSEHD)

Mercedes Echevarria (SON)

Vanessa Fontana Keszler (CPS)

Baxter Goodly (Facilities)**

Jeffrey Gutman (LAW)*

Sarah-Kay Hurst (CCAS)

Kyle Levers (GWSPH)

James Mahshie (CCAS)

Eli McCarthy (CCAS)

Terry Murphy (Sr. Vice Provost for Academic Affairs)**

Scott Pagel (LAW)

Arlene Pericak (SON)

Delishia Pittman (GSEHD)*

Mark Reeves (CCAS)

James Tate (GWPD)**

Sharon Testor (GWSC)**

Rebecca Thessin (GSEHD)

Robert Zeman (SMHS)*

**Senate Member*

***Non-Voting Member*

Committee Meeting Dates:

Friday, September 8th, 2023

Friday, October 16th, 2023

Friday, January 12th, 2024

Friday, February 9th, 2024

Friday, November 10th, 2023
Friday, December 8th, 2023

Friday, March 8th, 2024

Fall Topics/Actions Taken:

The September meeting convened with introductions and a review of the [charge from the Faculty Senate Executive Committee](#). Topics for the Committee to address this term include Campus Facilities and Maintenance, the Campus Master Plan status and the newly included responsibility related to Campus Safety and Security. [A resolution followed to change the name of the Committee to Physical Facilities & Campus Safety \(PFCSC,\)](#) which passed with unanimous consent.

An additional responsibility of the PFCSC is the formation and selection of members of the independent advisory committee on the implementation of the new plan for campus safety, which includes the arming of the GW police department. It was agreed that this would be a temporary subcommittee that is tasked with advising the administration on the implementation plan, after which the subcommittee would sunset. A call for volunteers to serve is forthcoming, with a more permanent subcommittee to be formed later with a broader mandate. Additionally, an [independent review board](#) has been established to review any incident where a GW police officer discharges a firearm, and a temporary board has been established to cover the intervening period until the formation of a full board.

A second vote was taken on the motion to include a member of the Board of Trustees who has expertise in real estate as an ex-officio member of the committee, which was approved by unanimous vote and will go to the FSEC for discussion.

A [resolution was submitted](#) regarding the arming of the GW police force. Discussion followed with several proposed amendments to the resolution; however, the motion was tabled for consideration in the October meeting.

[September Meeting Minutes can be found here.](#)

The October meeting convened with a discussion on the process of notification to the University surrounding events related to campus safety, specifically regarding the events surrounding the escape of a suspect from the GW Hospital. It was agreed that there was concern about mixed messages and the appropriate offices would conduct a review. This included discussion on training for faculty and staff during similar incidents, such as classroom lockdown procedures. Chief Tate and staff are available to provide appropriate training upon request.

A revised resolution was introduced regarding the arming of the GWPD. Discussion and a vote followed; the resolution was not supported.

The remainder of the meeting discussed the scope of the PFCSC for the remainder of the term. Items suggested for inclusion included:

- **Update on maintenance needs for campus building.**
- **Update on progress of the new dormitory.**
- **Update on the assignment of classroom spaces.**
- **Plans for the recently acquired “IMF” building.**

- **Update on priorities for development of new academic buildings on Foggy Bottom campus, including plans for a new building for GSEHD.**
- **Plans for on-campus parking given the extensive use of remote work.**
- **Updates on the Campus Master Plan (CMP) for all three campuses.**

The inclusion of a non-voting member of the Board of Trustees to the Committee was not encouraged by university leadership.

[October Meeting Minutes can be found here.](#)

The November meeting convened with a [presentation by the Facilities group](#) on critical short term and long-term maintenance needs, primarily on the Foggy Bottom campus. This included deferred maintenance projects based on the Facilities Condition Assessments performed in 2019, such as Life Safety Systems, Building Envelopes, Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing and Elevators. It also discussed the 5 Year Commitment beginning in FY24, with an adaptable Capital Budget based on the following priorities:

- **Life Safety Systems**
- **Aging Elevators**
- **Broken/Aging HVAC systems**
- **Electrical Systems**
- **Building Envelopes**
- **Emergent Needs**

The presentation also included discussion on FY24 Projects, notably on several Residence Halls as well as Academic/Administrative Buildings. There is also a renewed effort on rodent prevention, to include enhanced trash receptacles around the Foggy Bottom campus.

[November Meeting Minutes can be found here.](#)

The December meeting convened with a discussion of the charge to the newly formed [Implementation Advisory Subcommittee](#) from the FSEC, which is to “monitor the implementation of the arm to arm some members of the GWPD.” It was also determined that the Subcommittee would provide “input and feedback on policies and procedures under development” and “...help define the scope and charge of the administration-led planned Campus Safety Advisory Committee and will nominate faculty to serve on the administration’s Independent Review and Campus Safety Advisory Committees.”

It was reiterated that the Committee would sunset once the advisory role is complete. Chief Administrative Officer Paulson was designated as the primary point of contact. A draft roster for the IA Subcommittee was submitted, consisting of 10 members representing numerous schools and administrative units.

[Spring Topics/Actions Taken:](#)

The January meeting convened with updates from the Facilities and Campus Safety team, including work that was completed over the Winter Break. This included discussion of Bell Hall concerns; progress on the Flagg building renovation; deployment of mini-HEPA filtration units; and future possibilities for the so called “Whole Foods Apartment” complex that was recently purchased.

Updates from the Implementation Advisory Subcommittee followed. The IA Subcommittee was working on electing a Chair, as well as arranging the process to conduct and report back on business as well as determine its scope and focus. Future meetings also planned on generating more targeted questions and recommendations, with no specific timeline determined yet.

The meeting concluded with a discussion on the number of events on campus related to the Israel/Gaza conflict, and methods for discussion and engagement. There was broad agreement of a need for this at the university level, while acknowledging that much of this work could be occurring already at the school level.

[January Meeting Minutes can be found here.](#)

The February meeting convened with updates from the Facilities & Campus Safety team, specifically the deployment of rodent proof trash/recycling receptacles as well as adjustments to their design. The scope was slated to eventually include all exterior receptacles, with 90 sets ordered and rollout continuing through the semester. The Committee also received updates on the Phase IV Initiative of the Emergency Security Measures installation package. There were questions regarding missed classrooms and the inclusion of Laboratories and related spaces as well as conference rooms and other gathering areas not included in the original scope of work.

Facilities & Campus Safety was also actively developing Capital Requests for FY25, with safety issues taking priority as previously determined. Projects would be phased given the scarcity of swing space, as well as targeting specific projects during the summer session.

The Committee then received updates from the Implementation Advisory Subcommittee. Recent IA Subcommittee meetings included discussions with GW Police Chief Tate related to training, community and psychological safety, training positionings and questions surrounding the use of weapons policy. The IA Subcommittee also elected Monica Ruiz and Eli McCarthy as Co-Chairs. Additionally, the IA Subcommittee was in process of developing recommendations and further questions for consideration for the future Campus Safety Advisory Committee (CSAC) as well as a list of recommended individuals to include in the permanent standing Committee. It also planned to open Committee nominations on March 1st, 2024, with finalization by the end of March and the first full Committee meeting by the end of the Spring 2024 semester.

[February Meeting minutes can be found here.](#)

The March meeting convened with updates from the Facilities & Campus Safety team, including the rodent proof waste containers which had been almost 90% deployed; the call for nominations for the Campus Safety Advisory Committee, which at the time of this meeting had over 40 applicants and would remain open until March 20th, 2024; questions surrounding pricing on classroom card tap technology with an emphasis on safety and equity; and progress on the Flagg Building renovations which aim for a summer 2024 completion target.

The Committee then received updates from the Implementation Advisory Subcommittee, which had generated a series of recommendations for the GW Police team and relevant leadership. The future Campus Safety Advisory Committee (CSAC) would be working through multiple rubrics of experience, safety, and other relevant questions. The CSAC would include approximately five faculty representatives, with at least one from the PFCSC; five staff, five administrators, and one

community member. It was noted that the nominations thus far contained generally good representation from the various stakeholder groups, although there was hope for further participation from faculty. Finally, the CSAC will also take on the questions related to the Faculty Senate Resolution 24/5 from Fall 2023.

By prior request, the Committee then received a detailed update from the Associate Vice President of Business Services Seth Weinshel and Colonial Parking Senior Operations Manager Ben Cave regarding parking utilization and EV incentivization on campus. Changes over the previous four years in GWorld Daily, Monthly and Transient parking were explained; mixed results were attributed to both aftereffects of the pandemic as well as the further transition to hybrid work schedules.

Many student extension requests involved safety concerns.

Questions were also posed regarding the Electric Vehicle (EV) charging station network, and the possibility and challenges of expanding the network in the near future.

[March Meeting Minutes can be found here.](#)