



**Faculty Senate November Meeting
Provost Bracey Report
November 8, 2024**

Good afternoon!

Hopefully you all attended last week's Faculty Assembly, where I gave a robust update on all the developments within the academic enterprise. That means I have just a few updates today, but I encourage you to review the draft Assembly minutes available on the Faculty Senate website for the updates I provided in additional areas.

Strategic Framework

First, I am pleased to share several updates in the Strategic Framework process.

Just this morning, we held a retreat with the Faculty Senate. At the retreat, we provided senators with a progress update and timeline for moving forward and solicited feedback on ideas and proposals received thus far from stakeholder groups and the broader community. Of course, one of these key stakeholder groups is the Educational Policy and Technology Committee, which shared several ideas related to undergraduate education. We gave senators the opportunity to break into small groups to discuss ideas received to date, consider new ideas, and report out to their fellow senators. Vice President and CFO Bruno Fernandes also gave an overview of funding sources for this work.

Based on today's discussion, I think we can all agree upon a need to make enhancements or investments in key areas – like our faculty, our students, our infrastructure, interdisciplinary research, and more. Our historic strengths and existing programs and initiatives remain an area of focus even while we think creatively about new and exciting areas of opportunity, and while we understand that the devil is in the details, funding is available for strategic investments and innovation.

This is not the end of the idea generation and discussion process. Ideas will continue to come to light, and senators are free to submit additional idea briefs as you have further conversation with colleagues. We will rely upon the continued engagement of the Faculty Senate as a key stakeholder group through this process.

Consultative Policy

In light of September's Faculty Senate resolution regarding consultation with the Faculty Senate, the Office of the Provost has been working on a draft consultative policy that I plan to share with FSEC for discussion at its next meeting. The policy lays out a process for managing the review of new draft policies or material changes to existing policies. The process contemplates both consultation with the relevant senate committee as well as an extended period for public comment. The policy also provides a mechanism for the adoption of provisional or interim policies that ultimately go through the full review and consultation process. I look forward to getting feedback from FSEC on this new approach and establishing a new process going forward.

2025 Faculty and Graduate Student Teaching Awards

You should have recently received an infomail inviting you to submit nominations for the 2025 faculty and graduate student teaching awards. These awards are how the university honors excellence in teaching, research, and service among faculty members and graduate student teachers, and it is very important that we receive a robust body of nominations to review. Nomination forms for all awards must be submitted by Monday, December 2, and supporting materials for all nominees must be submitted by Friday, January 10, 2025. I encourage you all to visit the Faculty Affairs website for more information about all the awards and nominate some of your colleagues!

Interfaith Week

Finally, I would like to remind everyone that the new Center for Interfaith & Spiritual Life is holding Interfaith Week next week from Sunday, November 10 through Saturday, November 16. Interfaith Week events encompass a range of organized religions and spirituality practices, enabling individuals to form a greater awareness of the rich religious, secular, and spiritual diversity of the GW community. The signature event is the Interfaith Dinner on Thursday evening, held in partnership with the Interfaith Council of Metropolitan Washington.

I encourage you to take a look at the schedule on the [Student Affairs website](#) and make an effort to attend whatever you find compelling.

President Granberg, this concludes my report; I am happy to take questions.