



## Faculty Senate Standing Committee on Physical Facilities & Campus Safety Interim Report, AY 2024-2025

### Submitted By Co-Chairs:

James Tielsch (GWSPH) and John Traub (CCAS)

### Committee Members:

James Tielsch, Chair (GWSPH)\*

John Traub, Co-Chair (CCAS)

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

Thomas Choate (GWSB)

Katie Cloud (Registrar)\*\*

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

Douglas Crawford (CCAS)

Katie Fox (University Resilience)\*\*

Baxter Goodly (Facilities)\*\*

Stephen Gray (SMHS)

Captain Ian Greenlee (GWPD)\*\*+

Sarah-Kay Hurst (CCAS)

Barbara Kowalcyk (GWSPH)+

Kyle Levers (GWSPH)

James Mahshie (CCAS)\*

Eli McCarthy (CCAS)

Brendan Morley (CCAS)

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

Scott Pagel (LAW)

Yuan Rao (SMHS)

Heather Schell (SMHS)

Pablo Serrano (SMHS)

James Tate (GWPD)\*\*+

Sharon Testor (GWSC)\*\*

William Weglicki (SMHS)

Scott White (CPS)\*

Lang Yang (CCAS)

Robert Zeman (SMHS)\*

*\*Senate Member*

*\*\*Non-Voting Member*

*+ James Tate left the Committee in October 2024. Captain Ian Greenlee joined the Committee in November 2024. Barbara Kowalcyk joined the Committee in November 2024.*

### Committee Meeting Dates:

Friday, September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Friday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Friday, November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024

Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024

### Committee Charge:

- (1) Conduct a retrospective evaluation of the university's responses to the protest encampment as it relates to university facilities (including the decision to close Kogan Plaza and University Yard for extended periods of time); make recommendations to leadership about how to balance questions of safety and security with the openness and availability of campus spaces.
- (2) Proactively engage with the strategic planning process as the framework is developed this year.
- (3) Obtain updates on classroom and building-level upgrades and deferred maintenance (including the need for new structures.) Consult with administration on whether a full building audit should be conducted to identify areas of concern. Such updates should include off-campus leased facilities.
- (4) Critically monitor HVAC issues, particularly with weather changes through the year that can complicate issues of air quality, mold, and mildew.
- (5) Assess and report on the status of the campus master plan.
- (6) Develop and maintain robust channels of communication among the committee, FSEC, and the Senate so that information about physical facilities obtained from the administration is shared broadly among these three entities, making sure that committee expertise (and other relevant expertise) can be efficiently brought to bear on that information, particularly in emergent or unexpected circumstances.
- (7) Continue to assess whether the committee membership should be expanded to include areas of particular expertise.

### Fall Topics/Actions Taken:

**The September meeting** convened virtually on September 6, 2024. Chair and Vice-Chair Jim Tielsch and John Traub welcomed the committee and introduced the [committee's](#) charge and focus areas of Physical Facilities and Campus Safety. The scope of work includes building audits, HVAC issues, deferred maintenance, communication strategies, and potential new committee members, as well as collaboration and interfacing with the Campus Safety Advisory Committee (CSAC).

The committee received an update from GWPD summer activities from Chief James Tate. This update included:

- **Arming GWPD Officers.** Implementation plan completed in August 2024 with three-phase rollout and community engagement via CSAC.

- **CSAC Composition.** Includes representatives from students, staff, faculty, and the local community.
- **De-escalation Training.** Revised in collaboration with Eli McCarthy, with ongoing work on the Use of Force policy.
- **Safety Concerns.** Addressed questions on topics like enforcement of “Stay Away” orders, security force roles, mental health training, and handling of demonstrations and First Amendment activity.
- **Future Initiatives.** Community-wide Campus Safety Survey and continued policy revisions.

The committee then received an update from Adam Aaronson regarding summer work in facilities and campus safety. This update included:

- **Major Upgrades.** Renovations and enhancements across campuses, including residence halls, academic buildings, dining facilities, and athletic venues.
- **Safety and Maintenance.** Fire alarm upgrades, HVAC replacements, and anti-scald devices installed. Deferred maintenance receiving a \$25 million per year allocation across three years.
- **Future Planning.** Preparations for a new Campus Master Plan (targeted for 2027) and exploration of additional housing options near campus.

This discussion also included improvements to the Mount Vernon and Ashburn campuses, as well as the acquisition of apartment buildings near campus and the possible inclusion as swing space for dormitories in the future. This also included questions of monitoring food safety in conjunction with Dining Services, and how the committee can interface with these areas. Finally, a call was given for agenda recommendations for future meetings.

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

**The October meeting** convened virtually on October 4, 2024, with Baxter Goodly provided updates on Facilities and Campus Safety. He highlighted the upcoming AIM/FIXIT reboot launching on October 7, aiming to streamline module functionalities for users. A Space Utilization Study, using data and WiFi analytics, is also underway to inform the Campus Master Plan. Renovations for Mitchell Hall are set to begin in Summer 2025, focusing on accessibility and common spaces, while work continues within the I Street Corridor, University Yard, and other campus areas. The possibility of integrating GWorld cards into mobile wallets is being tested, and there is ongoing collaboration with GWPD and external teams for enhanced campus security considering the possibility of upcoming protests. Several questions arose regarding maintenance issues, space utilization, and plans for building upgrades, with assurances that these are being actively addressed.

Of particular concern was the recent Hatchet article regarding arming of the GWPD. It was noted that President Granberg would be speaking on this topic at the upcoming Faculty Senate meeting

and that all currently armed Officers meet the training requirements required with the District of Columbia, as well as the inclusion of the Office of Compliance in monitoring training metrics.

Seth Weinschel then presented a [report on dining facilities and services](#), emphasizing the challenges and progress of rebuilding the institutional dining program post-pandemic. Mitchell Hall renovations will temporarily reduce housing availability, prompting efforts to add additional beds elsewhere. Fall of 2023 was the first semester for the full dining program, which included the transition to Chartwells as a dining partner. This transition out of the pandemic brought many challenges, including food insecurity, quality of food, cleanliness and health, as well as customer satisfaction. Staffing issues played a major component in these challenges as well. Dining transition has stabilized moving into AY 24-25 with better satisfaction metrics and meal plans as well as participation. Additionally, dining operations now include three all-you-can-eat facilities, 14 retail locations, and plans for more allergen-friendly options. Dining satisfaction has reached 82%, with goals to improve meal participation rates and introduce more diverse options, including halal and kosher certifications.

Food safety concerns were discussed, including high profile recent incidents. These have been addressed with new quality assurance measures, digital monitoring systems, and plans for greater reporting and transparency. The creation of the Food Safety Institute in SPH was noted as a possible partner for food safety surveillance as well as the possible inclusion of a member to this committee. The possibility of a Food Safety Annual Report was discussed as well.

In new business, discussion included clarifying the roles of the committee and the Campus Safety Advisory Committee, policies on campus disruptions, and safety considerations for contractors and community members during campus work.

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

**The November meeting** convened virtually on November 1, 2024, with updates from Baxter Goodly regarding Facilities & Campus Safety. Notably, this included the introduction of Ian Greenlee, Interim Chief of Police for GWPD. Critical campus projects include the Gelman Library HVAC project which will necessitate a summer 2025 shutdown, with collaborative planning underway to minimize disruptions. Other key projects include chiller work in the Academic Center, ongoing HVAC upgrades in Guthridge Hall, and major elevator improvements in SEH.

A consultant has been brought on to advance the Campus Master Plan, expected to take two years, with designs anticipated by spring 2025. Real estate developments include the acquisition of 2001 Penn, with the potential for partial availability for swing space. Questions were raised about Gelman Library's closure impact on university operations as well as the long-term solutions for SEH elevators.

Katie MacDonald and Eli McCarthy reported on recent CSAC meetings, emphasizing their focus on community needs, transparency, and cultural improvements. They highlighted the updated de-escalation training and Use of Force policy revisions implemented over the summer. The new policy with revisions would be provided upon completion.

Barbara Kowalczyk, Director of the GW Food Safety Institute, was introduced as a new member of the committee. Discussion centered on food safety questions in dining halls and with our vendors and partners, and how DC Health integrates into these discussions. The possibility of a Food Safety Report out to the committee was again discussed for future agendas.

Questions were raised regarding transitional goals and next steps for the GWPD. A national search for a permanent replacement is being conducted and the continuation of current policies, including armed supervisors, was confirmed. No immediate policy changes are planned.

The Committee reviewed and unanimously supported [Faculty Senate Resolution 25/3](#), advocating for an investigation into recent GWPD issues. Members emphasized accountability and the importance of engaging the Committee in the process. The results will be returned to the Faculty Senate Executive Committee.

In new business, the timing of a food safety update was discussed, as well as the inclusion of the Mount Vernon campus facilities to future agendas. An update on the fencing surrounding University Yard was also requested.

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

**The December meeting** convened virtually on December 6, 2024 with updates on the Campus Master Plan. The RFP will be finalized in conjunction with President Granberg's office within the coming weeks, followed by selection of a design firm. As discussed, this selection committee would ideally include a member of the PFCSC as well as a student representative. This is a multi-year process with many modalities for community input. It was noted that the Community and Urban Affairs committee would ideally have representation as well.

Discussion then shifted to the search for a permanent hire for the GWPD Police Chief, which was ongoing. Additionally, the fencing around University Yard is almost fully complete, with discussion and options for semi-permanent posture.

The committee was updated from members of CSAC, who are making progress in several areas including training and research.

The committee then received a [presentation](#) on food safety and efforts to ensure accountability in campus dining services. This presentation included information on safety protocols, such as hiring a full-time QA Director, regular third-party audits, Department of Health reviews, and rigorous employee training, such as Serv Safe and Fare Allergen certifications. Incident response protocols were highlighted, noting a reduction in reported food safety issues compared to the previous academic year.

Chartwells, the dining services provider, is held accountable through performance monitoring, escalation procedures, and collaboration with students. Feedback mechanisms and transparency initiatives, such as student organization partnerships and regular updates, are in place to improve trust and engagement. Continuous improvement efforts include unannounced inspections, enhanced training, and third-party audits.

The discussion covered measures to educate students on food safety reporting and nutrition, such as digital food identifiers and seasonal health-focused offerings. Ongoing initiatives include collaborations with student panels and research studies, like the NOURISH study, to address food insecurity and meal plan effectiveness. Peer institution comparisons and data sharing remain informal, with room for further exploration. Committee expertise in this area remains a key metric for engagement with Dining Services and food safety monitoring. Committee members raised questions on food safety reporting clarity, peer benchmarking, and the evaluation of student dining needs. Committee members were encouraged to dine and provide direct feedback on dining halls in January.

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