

## Faculty Senate Meeting

December 13, 2024

### President Granberg's Report—Read by Provost Bracey

Good afternoon, everyone. I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving break and your preparations for finals and the holiday season are going well.

I am sorry that I won't be able to join you today. I've been under the weather for much of the week, and I appreciate your understanding.

The last month has been filled with several opportunities to celebrate the accomplishments of our faculty, students, staff, and the broader GW community, and I would like to start my report today by sharing some of those highlights.

In early November, I joined the GW medical community to celebrate GW's School of Medicine and Health Sciences' Bicentennial anniversary and our remarkable MD alumni. From the Heart, Brain, and Skin events in spring to last month's Bicentennial Symposium and Reunion Weekend, the celebrations have truly showcased SMHS' excellence and growing reputation.

Later in the month, I joined our phenomenal staff members to recognize and celebrate those who have reached significant career milestones at GW, including 5, 10, 15, 20, and, in one case, over 50 years of service at our university. The incredible experience, expertise, and dedication these employees bring to GW continue to support all our work every day, and I am so grateful for their contributions.

I have also spent some less formal time meeting with and talking to our community.

I've enjoyed sharing several meals and conversations with students in the Thurston and Shenkman dining halls, connecting over food and hearing about how they spend their days on campus. I want to give a special thank you to the dedicated teams that take such great care of our students every day.

I also continued my classroom visits by joining Professor Rodney Lake's Applied Securities Analysis class. This undergraduate class manages over \$3.4 million in GW's endowment funds and showed the value of this real-world experience through the energy and expertise they brought to their buy/sell pitches Scott and I got to see.

Provost Bracey and I are also in the process of visiting all of our schools and colleges to speak with faculty and staff. In addition to this, I am joining many of our divisions and units for Q&A sessions, beginning with a great chat with Ellen Moran's Communications and Marketing team last month and Colette's Division of Student Affairs this week.

Finally, last week, I was in Austin for a salon dinner with alumni and prospective donors, which included a great conversation with Professor Zoe Szajnfarber from GW's School of Engineering and Applied Science and the Director of Strategic Initiatives at SEAS.

Zoe and I joined our guests in a fantastic conversation about artificial intelligence and the future of AI research at GW. This was a great example for our Texas community of the unique role our university plays in connecting science, technology, and innovation with law, policy, and ethics.

This dinner was the second in a series of similar engagements we're planning across the country, and I look forward to sharing more about these events as they take shape.

As always, I appreciate the opportunity to speak with and hear directly from our GW community, and I look forward to even more of these opportunities in the new year.

I'd now like to turn my attention to a few university updates.

First, I want to share that we have taken steps to rethink and reorganize the GW leadership structure.

We set out on this task to find a way to more effectively bridge the gap between the academic and administrative sides of the university's leadership teams to foster deeper collaboration, mutual understanding, and strategic alignment.

As a result, we now have a GW cabinet comprised of 14 university leaders, which meets once a week to advise on critical issues; an Executive Leadership Team, which meets monthly and includes all vice presidents, vice provosts, and academic deans; and a new GW Leaders Forum, which will meet three times a year and include approximately 300 academic and administrative leaders from across the university.

This new structure is already strengthening leadership collaboration across the university, and I look forward to having more opportunities to better align our work.

I also want to provide you all with an update on the ongoing GWPD investigation.

The investigation firm is nearing the end of document review and interviews. We expect a report to be delivered to my office in mid-January, at which point it will be shared with the GW Cabinet and then with the Board of Trustees. We are working towards having that done by their February meeting.

After the presentation to the Board, we will collect their feedback and publish a report summary for the campus community. We expect that to happen by the end of March.

Next, I am also pleased to share two important partnership opportunities that will put GW in more of the rooms we need to be in to move the university forward.

Earlier this fall, GW secured a position on the Northern Virginia Technology Council Board of Directors. Our university used to have a seat on this board, and I am glad we could regain it.

The NVTC is one of the nation's largest and oldest tech councils. It convenes regional tech companies, from start-ups to Fortune 100 companies, government contractors, service providers, academic institutions, and nonprofits, who are all committed to improving how we live, work, and learn in the national capital region.

GW has also accepted an invitation to join the Greater Washington Partnership. The Partnership, founded in part by former GW Board Chair Russ Ramsey, is an invitation-only association of influential cross-sector employers in Maryland, Virginia, and Washington, DC. This is a fantastic partnership opportunity for the university, and I look forward to contributing to the group's shared mission of economic growth and inclusive prosperity in the region.

Finally, I want to conclude by announcing an exciting "Only-at-GW" opportunity for our students at the beginning of the Spring Semester.

On January 14, 2025, we will welcome Dr. Arati Prabhakar, Assistant to President Biden for Science and Technology and Director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, to GW's campus for her talk titled "A Better Tomorrow: Science and Technology's Essential Purpose."

Dr. Prabhakar will explore how we can use today's tremendous advances in science and technology to build the future we all aspire to. She'll guide us through recent significant progress and vital priorities ahead—from addressing climate change and advancing healthcare to navigating the transformative AI revolution and beyond.

Formal announcements will be sent soon, but I hope you all will join me in spreading the word to our students about this fantastic opportunity.

Thank you, everyone. That concludes this report, and I look forward to joining you at Monday's holiday reception.