

**Faculty Senate Meeting
January 10, 2025
President Granberg's Report**

Happy New Year, everyone! I hope that you all had a restful holiday season and that your preparations for the new semester are going well.

As we enter 2025, GW has already started the year off with a bang. Just four days into the new year, GW's men's basketball team delivered an incredible and commanding performance, defeating Dayton University by 20 points in a game we were expected to lose by 9. Earlier this week, we tallied our second straight win against a Top-100 team with a win at Rhode Island. Our next A-10 match-up is against Duquesne on Wednesday, January 15, and I encourage everyone to come out and cheer on our GW Revs.

Our campuses were also recently blanketed by snow, leading us to close our physical facilities for two days and move classes and work to a virtual format. I want to credit the incredible work of our facilities teams in clearing the snow so that we could safely return on Wednesday and thank them for their continued efforts. I also want to thank our SMHS, Nursing, and Law faculty and staff for their flexibility in quickly pivoting to virtual classes to ensure their semesters got off to a successful start. Now that the snow is cleared, the rest of our students and faculty are returning, and you can feel the energy and enthusiasm for the spring semester ahead growing.

This weekend, I look forward to joining Provost Bracey at Spring Orientation and welcoming our new students, parents, and family members, including first-year, transfer, and Fall Abroad students, to GW. Following orientation, we have a busy schedule, with the first day of classes on Monday.

And, as always, the start of the spring semester also coincides with our yearly recognition and celebration of the life and contributions of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. This year's MLK Day of Service and Leadership will be held on Saturday, January 18. The day will kick off with remarks from Provost Bracey and myself. Following the opening event, I look forward to joining some of our GW students and members of local community organizations who will volunteer at different organizations and schools across the District.

The following week, we will convene the first-ever GW Leaders Forum. This group of approximately 300 academic and administrative leaders from across the university will come together three times a year to foster deeper collaboration, mutual understanding, and strategic alignment. This month's meeting will include university updates as well as a panel discussion on the many aspects of AI at GW and beyond. I look forward to seeing many of you there.

As we close out 2024 business and enter a new year and spring semester, I want to provide a few updates on university business.

As you are likely aware, GW and the GW School of Medicine & Health Science Residents and Fellows Union reached a labor agreement on December 16, avoiding a strike before the holidays. The agreement, which has since been approved by the residents, includes a range of new benefits, including increased pay and mental health support. I want to thank everyone at OGC and SMHS who helped negotiate this agreement. I also want to recognize and thank our GW clinical staff for continuing to provide our patients with the highest quality of care.

Next, I want to share some good news regarding enrollment. The early Fall 2025 application and admissions reports show that overall first-year applications for fall 2025 are on track with our headcount targets. Total applications are slightly ahead of last year, with small increases among international and early decision secondary domestic markets.

I am also pleased to announce that the student application for the new Humanitarian Internship Pilot Program will go live on Monday and be open to students through February 4. At that point, our selection committee will begin the evaluation process, with the goal of making final offers to students by early April. More information can be found at president.gwu.edu, and I encourage all of you to spread the word to students you think may be interested.

I want to offer heartfelt congratulations to José Andrés on receiving the Presidential Medal of Freedom. This extraordinary recognition celebrates his remarkable achievements in culinary innovation and tireless humanitarian work. José has been an integral part of the GW community for over a decade, from teaching in our classrooms to founding the Global Food Institute at GW. We are extremely proud to partner with José to prepare a new generation of leaders who will use food as a force for positive change.

I know that many of us have family and friends who are affected by the fires in Southern California. I want to share with you that our Division of Student Affairs and other groups have been in touch with students and families that are in Southern California. In some cases, they are needing some assistance, and we're providing that. We are also in touch with a lot of our alumni. It's still a dangerous situation, but we're hopeful that things will get under control soon.

Finally, I also want to remind you of two exciting “Only-at-GW” opportunities for our students, faculty, and staff.

First, on Tuesday evening, 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 a talk titled “A Better Tomorrow: Science and Technology's Essential Purpose.” Please spread the word about this fantastic opportunity. Details are on the university events calendar.

Next is the upcoming InnovationFest, a new, university-wide celebration of GW research and creativity. This will be a fantastic opportunity to highlight GW's contributions to advancing new knowledge while fostering new, potential collaborations. I look forward to Bob sharing a bit more about it in his annual update

Thank you, everyone. That concludes my report today.