



**Faculty Senate Meeting  
Provost Bracey's Report  
Friday, January 10, 2025**

Good afternoon! A very happy 2025 to my colleagues in the Faculty Senate. For some of our programs, classes have already begun – and for these programs it was a snowy start to the semester. But we are looking forward to welcoming back the rest of our students for their first day of class on Monday.

I have a few start-of-semester updates to share.

*Jose Andres*

First, I would like to echo the president's congratulations of Jose Andres for receiving the Presidential Medal of Freedom. We were very excited to share that news last weekend via social media, and you should have seen the GW Today coverage in Wednesday's email. Of course, in true Jose fashion, he barely took a pause after receiving this honor – he and World Central Kitchen mobilized quickly this week to deploy a relief team to Southern California in response to the wildfires.

Jose has been an excellent partner to us for many years and continues to support the growth of our Global Food Institute, and I look forward to our continued partnership.

*School of Public Health Dean Search*

Just before the winter break, the Milken Institute School of Public Health faculty elected their dean search committee members. I will meet with these elected faculty to help facilitate the addition of additional community members to the committee, after which I will formally charge the full committee. Our selected search firm will conduct a listening tour within the School of Public Health before working with the search committee to finalize a position description.

*Intramural Funding Programs*

As a reminder, the Office of the Vice Provost for Research sponsors various intramural funding opportunities to support research and scholarship at GW. Faculty from all disciplines are encouraged to review available opportunities to see how the funding programs can support their scholarly projects. I encourage you and your colleagues to visit the [OVPR website](#) to review application requirements for several funds that are still accepting applications until next week.

*Middle States Reaccreditation*

As you likely know, GW must undergo reaccreditation by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education every eight years. This process includes a self-study to evaluate how well GW meets a wide range of standards.

This week, I distributed invitations to serve on the self-study Steering Committee to a range of leaders and experts across the university community. Committee members will help set the priorities of the self-study and guide the work of subcommittees. The self-study process begins this month and will end with a campus visit from a team of peers in spring 2027.

More to come on this critical initiative, but in the meantime, if you have questions, please reach out to Karen Froslid-Jones, our associate provost for academic planning and assessment.

### *Strategic Framework*

As I shared in December's meeting, in the fall, we held community conversations with faculty, staff and students in which we discussed the strategic framework process and idea briefs submitted by community members. Based on this information, the Innovation Committee has prepared and is discussing a draft report that will ultimately be shared with the Steering Committee. We look forward to sharing an update about the findings in the coming weeks.

### *InnovationFest*

Finally, I would like to echo President Granberg's enthusiasm for InnovationFest, which was previewed in communications to the research community earlier this week. It will be held on Thursday, May 1, and I look forward to hearing more from Interim Vice Provost for Research Bob Miller on its progress.

This concludes my report, and I am happy to answer any questions.