



**A RESOLUTION ON INVOLVEMENT OF FACULTY AND ITS ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES IN SHAPING STRATEGIC PLANNING (EDUCATION POLICY & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE) (20/7)**

**WHEREAS**, the Faculty Organization Plan stipulates in Article 2, section 4.2.... “The Assembly shall have the power to direct the Senate to include in the agenda of the Senate or any of its committees, or to study and report back to the Assembly, or to take such other action as may be appropriate with respect to any matter of concern to the Assembly”; and

**WHEREAS**, the Assembly met on October 22, 2019 and by voice vote approved a petition calling for Senate action, through four of its committees and through the Senate as a whole on six items related to the culture initiative and strategic planning process; and

**WHEREAS**, the fifth of the six items approved by the Assembly at its October 22, 2019 meeting reads “Given the faculty’s exclusive expertise in determining and delivering curriculum and in conducting research, the Assembly directs the Faculty Senate as well as the Senate committees on a) Educational Policy & Technology, b) Fiscal Planning & Budgeting, c) Professional Ethics & Academic Freedom, and d) Research, to include on each of their respective agendas the following item: “Should the four strategic planning committees appointed by the President (World Class Faculty, High Quality Undergraduate Education, Distinguished and Distinctive Graduate Education, High Impact Research) report their findings to the Faculty for approval and /or amendment before these reports are sent to the Strategic Planning Task Force or the GWU administration?” The Senate and each of the four committees mentioned above (a) Educational Policy & Technology, b) Fiscal Planning & Budgeting, c) Professional Ethics & Academic Freedom, and d) Research) shall report their findings at a Senate meeting by November 8, 2019”; and

**WHEREAS**, the third of six items approved by the Assembly at its October 22, 2019 meeting reads The Assembly directs the Faculty Senate as well as the Senate committees on a) Educational Policy & Technology, b) Fiscal Planning & Budgeting, c) Professional Ethics & Academic Freedom, and d) Research, to include on each of their respective agendas the following items: “*What data supported the decision to reduce undergraduate enrollment by 20% and increase STEM majors by 50%? Who specifically at GWU and who specifically from outside were involved in these decisions? What was the logic that supported these decisions? If outside consultants were involved in these decisions, how were they chosen, how much were they paid, what data was provided to the consultants, and what did the consultants report?*” The Senate and each of the four committees mentioned above ( a) Educational Policy & Technology, b) Fiscal Planning & Budgeting, c) Professional Ethics & Academic Freedom, and d) Research) shall report the entirety of their findings on the same

webpage where the Senate publishes the minutes of its meetings by December 20, 2019 (<https://facultysenate.gwu.edu/minutes> ) and notify each member of the Faculty Assembly of the electronic location of this report that shall remain on the website of the Senate until at least February 15, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, on July 9, 2019 GW Today reported that the strategic planning decisions had been based on information from “outside experts on topics ranging from redefining the urban research university to building distinguished graduate programs to promoting faculty scholarship and research impact.” <https://gwtoday.gwu.edu/message-president-leblanc-strategic-planning-process>; and

**WHEREAS**, AAUP guidelines direct universities to secure meaningful faculty input and approval and oversight before implementing changes to policies related to general education, curriculum, research, subject matter of instruction, institutional policies on student admissions;<sup>1</sup> **NOW, THEREFORE**

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FACULTY SENATE OF THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY**

1. That the strategic planning committees for World Class Faculty, High Quality Undergraduate Education, Distinguished and Distinctive Graduate Education, and High Impact Research should each report their findings to each of the following committees: (a) Educational Policy & Technology, (b) Fiscal Planning & Budgeting, (c) Professional Ethics & Academic Freedom, and (d) Research for comment, input, and/or endorsement before these reports, with comments and/or input from the Senate and its committees attached as a part of the reports, are sent to the Strategic Planning Task Force and/or the GWU administration;
2. That the Strategic Planning Task Force submit its report to the Faculty Senate and each of the following committees (a) Educational Policy & Technology, (b) Fiscal Planning & Budgeting, (c) Professional Ethics & Academic Freedom, and (d) Research for approval, or amendment, or disapproval before submitting its report, as potentially amended by the Senate and its committees, to the President and Board of Trustees;
3. On behalf of the Faculty, the Educational Policy and Technology Committee requests information from the President on the strategic planning process that was undertaken

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**<sup>1</sup> AAUP Statement on Government of Colleges and Universities**

“The faculty has primary responsibility for such fundamental areas as curriculum, subject matter and methods of instruction, research, faculty status, and those aspects of student life which relate to the educational process. On these matters the power of review or final decision lodged in the governing board or delegated by it to the president should be exercised adversely only in exceptional circumstances, and for reasons communicated to the faculty. It is desirable that the faculty should, following such communication, have opportunity for further consideration and further transmittal of its views to the president or board.”

“With regard to student admissions, the faculty should have a meaningful role in establishing institutional policies, including the setting of standards for admission, and should be afforded opportunity for oversight of the entire admissions process”

<https://www.aaup.org/report/statement-government-colleges-and-universities##4>

starting in 2018 and which has not already been released by the President and Administration including

- a. What data supported the decision to reduce undergraduate enrollment by 20% and increase STEM majors to 30%?
  - b. Who specifically at GWU, including faculty, was involved in these decisions?
  - c. Which outside experts (firms, names of partners, and names of individuals who worked on the project for GWU) were involved in these decisions?
  - d. What was the evidence used by GWU administration and by outside consultants to support recommendations to increase STEM and decrease undergraduate student enrollment?
  - e. How were the outside experts chosen? Was it a bid process? Which firms were not chosen? What analysis indicated that GWU experts including the Senate Committees could not conduct this analysis?
  - f. What were the specific sources of the data provided to the consultants and how were they utilized in the decision process?
  - g. What data did the consultants use to evaluate impacts on student body diversity, retention rates, and tuition discounts?
  - h. What were the consultants' specific outputs—i.e., how did they report their findings?
4. And that through the above-listed paragraphs of this resolution, the Faculty Senate affirms its position that the strategic planning initiative must not in any way adversely affect the following elements critical to GWU and its student body: diversity; financial aid; the quality of student experience; and the quality of its academics.

Educational Policy and Technology Committee  
of the Faculty Senate  
November 6, 2019

Adopted as amended by the Faculty Senate  
December 13, 2019