



# Faculty Senate

## Faculty Senate Committee on Research 2024-2025 Annual Report

**Members:** Karen McDonnell (GWSPH; co-chair), Kausik Sarkar\* (SEAS; cochair); Tarel El-Ghazawi\* (FSEC Liaison); Voting Members: Jamie Cohen-Cole, Oleg Kargaltsev\*, Yishen Peng, Ellen Yeung(CCAS); John Warren (CPS); Matthew Shirrell (GSEHD); Yixin Lu\* (GWSB); Kate Applebaum, Nirbhay Kumar, Manya Magnus, Keith Crandall (GWSPH); Matt Kay\*, Peng Wei (SEAS); Luyao Lu, Alberto Bosque-Pardos, Michael Bukrinsky, Mardi Gomberg-Maitland, Laura Abate, (SMHS); Christine Pintz, Sherrie Wallington, Maritza Dowling, (SON). All ADR's and OVPR leadership serve as active non-voting members of the committee. \* Faculty Senators

We start this annual review with a note of thanks to our committee members and to our University partners. We recognize that when we started this academic year, we could not have imagined what tests would be presented to our research and academic enterprises. Our monthly meetings have been sources of great strength as we work collaboratively to confront the challenges to science and research but to plan ways we can forge ahead and become a stronger, resilient environment for innovative research and practice to those communities we serve.

### Meetings:

Meetings of the full committee are held monthly on the second Friday from 12:15-1:45pm ET, with every other month being held in person/hybrid. Agenda items are gathered from the committee and added to the standard agenda. New items are welcomed from the floor at each meeting.

### Charge:

The charge from the FSEC for AY 2024-2025 was reviewed and subcommittees were developed to coincide with each charge. Voting members were asked to respond to a confidential Qualtrics poll rank ordering each of the subcommittees for active participation. Each subcommittee is comprised of 5-8 voting committee members and additional volunteers from the non-voting members. The subcommittees were charged at the November meeting to meet and put forth an initial landscape analysis to inform the activities for the Spring semester. Two meeting sessions were reserved for subcommittee meetings. The four subcommittees include:

1. GW Research Infrastructure: Evaluate how GW's research infrastructure needs to be enhanced to support the university's reputational ambitions (including its AAU membership), paying particular attention to the range of disciplines and types of research requiring various types of infrastructure support.
2. Measuring Research Impact: Developing mechanisms to measure research impacts to help effectively communicate GW's research accomplishments in a variety of areas.
3. GW Strategic Framework: Proactively engage with the strategic planning process as the framework is developed this year.

4. **Graduate Student Funding:** With input from the Fiscal Planning & Budgeting committee around financial details, address the stagnation of graduate support lines at the university and propose new creative models to support more graduate students for research-active faculty.
1. **Research Infrastructure (Enterprise).** This subcommittee is comprised of six members from five schools at GW. The subcommittee was headed by Dr. Manya Magnus and she led the team in an intensive SWOT analysis activity of the GW Research Enterprise. The results of this undertaking will be made public after the committee review. We are hopeful that GW remains committed to the building of our research enterprise. In order to remain a competitive AAU institution, it will be imperative to not only maintain the research excellence established to date but - despite the challenging political environment - continue to invest in GW researchers and their research through improvements in research infrastructure. Meaningful investment into research infrastructure and researchers (including new faculty lines for top tier researchers to be recruited to GW) will ultimately ensure that GW will not only survive the current storm but emerge stronger and more competitive after it has passed.
  2. **Measuring Research Impact.** This subcommittee is comprised of seven members representing six schools at GW. A key aspect of the subcommittee discussions centered on efforts to diversify how impact of research is measured for GW researchers, including what is impact in respective fields of study. Those metrics of research (cite scores, number of publications, grant/contracts, impact factors of journals/ publications) that have been traditionally collected and analyzed have demonstrated a limited utility to actual research impact.
  3. **Engage with University Strategic Framing Process.** This subcommittee is comprised of five members from five schools at GW. The committee led by Dr. Christine Pintz actively engaged in the listening tour sessions with a particular engagement with the Innovations committee, as no other forms of research specific committees were afforded during the framing process. The subcommittee shared the two extensive research ecosystem reviews that were previously submitted to the university president and provost. Furthermore, they offered five key principles for improving research at GW: 1. Determine what is most feasible, 2. Continue to focus on AAU and its internal metrics as success measures, 3. Make the discovery of key frictions a central plank of the strategic framework, 4. Don't prescribe research foci, and 5. Provide strong development office support to encourage innovative and entrepreneurial thinking.
  4. **Graduate Student Funding.** Five members of the FSRC representing four GW schools strategized on the state of graduate student funding and avenues that the university could pursue to create models to support more graduate students for research-active faculty. Initial discussions pointed to having consistent funding models (including tuitions structures) across all schools and programs within GW. Continued committee deliberations have been placed on hold due to uncertainty of the proposed budget models as a result of the successful graduate student unionization efforts.

**Federal Research Updates/Executive Orders and GW Research.** Both OVPR and the Research Support Team Leaders have provided updates on their activities, and in the spring semester these reports have focused on the issues that arose in response to the issuance of executive orders and cancellations targeting federal research grants. A centralized guidance portal of all GW researchers was set up and can be found here: Federal research updates <https://sponsoredprojects.gwu.edu/federal-transition-updates-2025>. A real-time update will be provided at our April meeting date.

**GW Support for Research.** As we move into uncharted territory with regular attacks on science and research, it is important that the Research Enterprise have representation on the GW Board of Trustees. As we are concluding the 2024-2025 year of the Faculty Senate Research Committee, the time is more important than ever to demonstrate GW's commitment to science and research through a dedicated entity to the Board of Trustees.