

Faculty Senate
Provost Bracey Report
May 9, 2025

Good afternoon! It's hard to believe we are already at the end of the academic year.

As provost, my calendar at the end of the academic year is very busy, to put it mildly. But that is because, like President Granberg, I have the distinct privilege of being invited to many events that showcase the incredible accomplishments of our scholarly community. A few recent examples:

- The Academic Honors ceremony for undergraduate students, where we recognized 225 Outstanding Academic Achievement Awardees as well as Distinguished Scholars across eight schools.
- The 15th Annual Faculty Honors Ceremony, which was a milestone year. Our continued commitment to this event is our statement about the depth of our faculty and graduate student talent and our pride in the significant contributions of those individuals who bolster our reputation and drive our institution forward.
- Our highly impressive inaugural InnovationFest just last week, which showcased the breadth and depth of GW Research. You also may have noticed that members of our community were also able to register for their free AAAS membership at InnovationFest, thanks to GW's new AAAS Institutional Membership, which we recently announced.
- And of course, graduation events like Athletics Commencement for our athletes who will be competing during Commencement on the National Mall, and the Phi Beta Kappa Honors Society induction ceremony, which has particular meaning for me as I am a Phi Beta Kappa member!

Though we are all pulled in many different directions at once at this point in the semester, I am energized by seeing our academic community come together to celebrate all we have accomplished this year in our classrooms, labs or other research spaces, internships, and more, culminating in Commencement on the National Mall on Sunday, May 18. I look forward to seeing you all there and celebrating the Class of 2025.

Now, onto a few items of business.

Spring Grades

A quick housekeeping note on spring grades that you all likely know well. It is very important that faculty submit grades as soon as possible after the completion of final exams. University policy requires that grades be submitted within five business days of the exam, or after the final class meeting if no exam is given. They can be submitted online 24/7. Grades not being submitted on time can negatively affect a student's financial aid and academic standing and can delay the conferral of a student's degree. Please help us honor our commitment to offering students the best possible experience by meeting this deadline.

Budget Model Redesign

As you know, the budget model redesign process continues, and we are in the midst of engaging faculty and staff in a series of virtual community conversations about the redesign, the guiding principles, and the road ahead. We hosted conversations yesterday and today, and there is one remaining on Monday at 4pm. Please go to the budget model website if you are interested in registering to attend.

Policy Review Process

In March, we shared with the community four policies prompted for review by the voluntary resolution agreement entered into with the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights. These policies were:

- Equal Opportunity, Nondiscrimination, Anti-Harassment, and Non-Retaliation Policy
- Demonstrations Policy (including the related policy on Barring People from Campus)
- Poster Policy

The policies were posted on the Office of Ethics, Compliance, and Risk site, and community members had through April 18 to review proposed changes and provide feedback.

We received many pieces of feedback on the policies, for which we are deeply appreciative. Now, we are actively working to organize the feedback and distill it into a thematic summary as well as finalize the policies themselves and prepare them for dissemination to the community. We expect to share the thematic summary and final versions of the policies in a communication in the coming weeks.

At the same time, the university announced that, based on what we would learn from this policy review, it would begin developing a permanent process for engaging the GW community about the development of new policies or revisions to current policies. This procedure was developed over several months in close coordination with the Faculty Senate, Student Government Association, and Staff Council, and I am pleased to share that this policy development process has been finalized. Next week, the community will receive an infomail with this information. I understand that the Professional Ethics & Academic Freedom committee has a lingering concern about the process, but I believe we have addressed all other issues related to the process.

Middle States

In mid-April, we distributed an infomail sharing a link to the new Middle States accreditation self-study webpage on the Provost website. It shares initial information with the community about the self-study process, including Steering Committee and working group membership, the self-study timeline, and initial FAQs. There will be additional opportunities for engagement with this process in the months to come, so stay tuned.

GWALA Cohort 6 Nominations

The nomination process for Cohort 6 of the GW Academic Leadership Academy is now open. You will find that information on the GWALA website. Please feel free to nominate someone for the program or nominate yourself! Nominations are due by the end of May, so don't wait.

Dean Michael Feuer

Now, this is the final Faculty Senate meeting for several of our colleagues who are stepping back from their decanal roles this summer, and I would like to take a moment to briefly acknowledge them here.

Michael Feuer will conclude his tenure as dean of the Graduate School of Education and Human Development on July 1, a role he has held for 15 years. Under his leadership, GSEHD made significant strides, including the development and expansion of academic offerings, the refinement of a premier faculty body, and many new partnerships and collaborations, from the local to the global. After he steps down, Dean Feuer will remain a tenured full professor of education, so don't worry – he isn't going anywhere. He intends to continue advancing a number of the initiatives and activities he began as dean. He has been a deeply valued member of my senior leadership team, and I am very grateful for his continued service at our university.

Thank you, Michael.

Dean Lynn Goldman

Lynn Goldman's 15-year term as Michael and Lori Milken Dean of Public Health will end on June 30. The Milken Institute School of Public Health transformed under Dean Goldman's leadership, including rising in the national rankings from 19th place in 2010 to 11th place in 2024, growing its endowment by nearly \$130 million, and creating seven new academic doctoral programs. Dean Goldman was also a key leader in GW and the District's public health response. We are very fortunate that she will remain a tenured member of our faculty and continue her excellent work, and I am deeply appreciative for her valued perspective on my senior leadership team and her many years of transformative service to GW.

Thank you, Lynn.

Interim Dean Perry

Last but certainly not least, Interim Dean Vanessa Perry will conclude her tenure this summer when our new dean of the School of Business, Sevin Yeltekin, begins her role August 1. As you know, Interim Dean Perry has served tirelessly in this role since the departure of Dean Anuj Mehrotra. I am grateful to Interim Dean Perry for her strong and steady leadership, which has enabled the school to continue on its exciting trajectory during this transitional period. She has been a valuable addition to my senior leadership team, and I look forward to our continued work together as she supports the School of Business in her multiple other administrative and faculty capacities.

Thank you, Vanessa.

School of Public Health Dean Search

Finally, a quick word on the status of two of these school leadership roles.

As you know, the Milken Institute School of Public Health search committee began its work in January, and the search firm conducted a site visit and stakeholder listening tour. In February, public health faculty approved the position description, and active recruitment for the position began. Interviews are ongoing, and we aim to name a new dean this summer.

GSEHD Leadership

Regarding leadership of the Graduate School of Education and Human Development, I have been in conversation with Dean Feuer and several faculty members on this topic. I will share information about interim GSEHD leadership as it is available.

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