

**The Faculty Senate Standing Committee on University Urban Affairs (UUA)
Annual Report 2019-2020**

**Submitted by: Shaista E. Khilji
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In Summer 2019, UUA was reconstituted with several new members under the leadership of a new Chair, Shaista E. Khilji.

Current UUA Members include:

- Shaista Khilji, Chair (GSEHD)*
- Jeff Gutman, Faculty Senate Executive Committee Liaison (LAW)*
- Oluwatomi Adetunji (SEAS)
- Linda Cassar (SON)
- Jillian Catalanotti (SMHS)
- Amy Cohen (ODECE, Nashman Center)
- Sarah Frasure (SMHS)
- Ina Gjikondi (CPS Staff)
- Matthew Hess (SON Staff)
- Karen Kesten (SON)
- Samantha Luna (CPS Staff)
- Angela McConnell (SMHS)
- Dave Milzman (SMHS)
- Stacia Moreno (SON)
- Damali Nakitende (SMHS)
- Anne-Marie O'Brien (SON)
- David Rain (CCAS)*
- Dan Schwartz (CCAS)*
- Rebecca Thessin (GSEHD)
- Margaret Venzke (SON)
- Jillian Wolons (GW Student Association)

*Faculty Senators

Committee Mission states:

The Committee on University and Urban Affairs helps foster continued good citizenship between The George Washington University and the greater Washington, DC metropolitan area. The University and Urban Affairs Committee serves as an ongoing catalyst for maximum efficiency in this area and prevents the duplication of effort between GW and the community itself. By affirmatively tracking GW's already allocated resources and initiatives, the University and Urban Affairs Committee "paints the big picture" of GW's community relationship and subsequently

provides the University with a valuable source of advice on continuous improvement and possible future endeavors.

The FSEC also identified the following goals for UUA:

1. Continue annual planning of programs to bring university faculty and administrators together with DC Government, citizen groups, and members of the Foggy Bottom community.
2. Explore ways for the university community to address the rising problem of income inequity and its effects on low income housing and homelessness in DC.

Committee Actions (Fall Semester 2019 & Spring Semester 2020):

The Committee met once a month for the 2019-2020 academic year. The April 2020 meeting (i.e. the last for the calendar year) was cancelled because of COVID-19 and its impact on our personal and professional lives.

Below is a snap shot of the activities that relate to aforementioned Committee Mission and goals:

1. *Tracking GW's resources and initiatives to paint the big picture (Committee Mission):* Committee members discussed the many challenges associated with tracking GW's resources and initiatives (for example, silos, ineffective communication, sometimes information overload, and absence of a central repository system), however, they also highlighted the importance of creating a centralized and coordinated database of GW's community engagement initiatives and events.
 - The Committee members developed a new question for possible inclusion in the Faculty Lyterati system- allowing GW faculty members to directly input their community engagement activities in the reporting system. We submitted the proposed question to the Provost Office in Jan 2020. In late Feb 2020, the office of Faculty Affairs informed us (without communicating a rationale) that our request was denied. It was suggested that UUA members work with the Office of Academic Planning and Assessment to develop an annual survey. UUA members raised several objections to this suggestion, in terms of survey fatigue, bureaucracy of the systems, and how can one question constitute a full survey etc. To clarify members proposed that the stated question could be embedded under service component of the Lyterati systems. The Provost Office hasn't responded to our subsequent efforts to discuss our initial request.
 - Throughout the Fall semester, the Committee made several efforts to contact GW Calendar- to discuss possibility of using the GW Calendar to identify GW community engagement activities, capture additional activities that may, otherwise, be going unreported. No one has responded to these emails.
 - In view of our failed efforts with the Lyterati system and GW calendar, Nashman Center for Civic Engagement and Public Service has agreed to serve as the data aggregator.

Overall comment: Members believe that if GW Calendar and the Faculty Lyterati Systems had been supportive of our efforts, we could have helped the GW administration with capturing the

'big picture' of GW resources through targeted reporting and better coordination of all activities at GW. We are grateful to the Nashman Center for Civic Engagement and Public Service for its willingness to support UUA mission.

In view of the challenges experienced, we suggest that UUA membership include an appropriate representation from the Provost Office. We believe this would strengthen UUA partnership with GW administration.

2. *Planning of program to bring GW faculty, administrators with DC government, citizen groups and members of the FB community (Goal 1). Explore Ways for the university community to address the rising problem of income inequity and its effects on low income housing and homelessness in DC (Goal 2):* Based on member discussions/ interests and a careful review of goals 1 and 2, UUA identified 3 projects for 2019-2020:
 - **Project 1- Inequality Awareness Project** (led by Shaista E. Khilji- GSEHD): In Jan 2020, as part of the King Week we organized a round table discussion focusing on the causes and impact of inequality. It was attended by more than 50 participants from GW and the wider DC community.
 - **Project 2- Housing Summit** at GW (led by Ina Gjukondi- CPS and Amy Cohen- Nashman Center): We planned to co-organize a housing summit in partnership with the DC Dept of Housing and Community Engagement. It was scheduled for April 27, 2020. Unfortunately it has been cancelled due to COVID-19.
 - **Project 3- University Seminar on “Advancing an Interdisciplinary View of Inequality”** (led by Anne-Marie O’Brien- SON): We are planning to submit a proposal for University Seminar funding. Due Date: June 2020.
3. In Jan 2020, Chair of the Executive Committee suggested that UUA (like other Faculty Senate standing committees) discuss interim strategic plans at their next meeting, and submit a report to the Faculty Senate. The UUA Chair presented committee feedback report at the March Faculty Senate meeting.

We believe that (in addition to focusing on aforementioned activities) the Committee was valuable in bringing together GW faculty and staff from across disciplines. It has been a pleasure serving on UUA.

Please direct all inquiries to UUA Chair- Prof. Shaista E. Khilji at sekhilji@gwu.edu

Reviewed by: UUA Members