



Faculty Senate

The Faculty Senate Standing Committee on University Urban Affairs (UUA) Interim Report 2021-2022

Submitted by: Sarah Baird, Professor of Global Health and Economics, Department of Global Health, Milken Institute School of Public Health

In Summer 2021, UUA was reconstituted with several new members under a new chair, Sarah Baird. In addition, Amy Cohen was appointed as co-chair in November.

Current UUA Members include:

- Sarah Baird, Chair (GWSPH)*
- Amy Cohen, co-Chair (CCAS)
- Hugh Agnew (ESIA), Faculty Senate Executive Committee Liaison*
- Tomi Adetunji (SEAS)
- Sonal Batra (SMHS)
- Athena Cross (CPS Staff)
- Bagmi Das (GSEHD)
- Karen Dawn (SON)
- Wendy Ellis (GWSPH)
- Karen Kesten (SON)
- Samantha Luna (CPA staff)
- Renee McPhatter (Gov and Community Rel.)
- Gene Migliaccio (GWSPH)
- Nathan Nyugen (GWSA)
- Chavon Onumah (SMHS)
- Prasad Srinivas (GWSB)*
- David Sullivan (SMHS)
- Leslie Trimmer (GSHEd)
- Margaret Venzke (SON)
- Maranda Ward (SMHS)
- Christy Zink (CCAS)

*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. Joint with the Research committees, investigate how GW is working to collaborate with Amazon HQ2 and to navigate competition from other local universities.
2. Proactively look at ways to improve neighborhood relations, including building an inventory of current efforts across the university in this area.

Committee Actions (Fall Semester 2021):

Due to the ongoing pandemic, all meetings of the UUA committee have been done virtually via Zoom. Members met on October 8, November 12, December 10 (upcoming).

Below is a snapshot of the ongoing activities that relate to aforementioned UUA goals:

- *Investigate how GW can work to collaborate with Amazon HQ2:* This was discussed in both the October and November meeting, and the general consensus is it is that it is unclear what the role of this committee is or should be in addressing this issue. The UUA chair initiated discussions with the University Research Committee on this issue, the results being that the Senate has not yet decided on clear points of action. The UUA chair reported on this status in October and November committee meetings, and in response the UUA identified two actionable, focused priorities for 2021-2022.
- *Building an inventory of current efforts across the university:* Committee members are prioritizing this effort as a key activity for the committee during the 2021-2022 academic year. Thus far discussions have involved trying to understand what currently exists, what platforms might be available to collect this information, and how to make it a priority for faculty and the GW more broadly in the future. A likely candidate to build this effort through is the 'givepulse' site designed and maintained by the Nashman center.
- *Proactively look at ways to improve neighborhood relations:* The Committee identified the new GW hospital project in Ward 8 as a key project for strengthening community relations.

Based on member discussions and interests, UUA has identified two projects for 2021-2022:

- **Project 1 – Create an inventory** of community engagement events at GW that is sustainable and acts as a catalyst for further partnership related to community engagement by GW faculty, students and staff.
- **Project 2 – Community Engagement plan with the new hospital.** Committee members will develop and implement (with identified key partners) a proposed plan of community engagement related to the new hospital. A select sub-group of members will meet more regularly to help move this forward.

Please direct all inquires to UUA Chair, Professor Sarah Baird at sbaird@gwu.edu.

Reviewed by UUA committee members.