

A RESOLUTION ON THE READINESS OF GW'S BUILDINGS (22/3)

WHEREAS, The Faculty Senate recognizes that GW is adopting a multilayered approach in which vaccines, masks, and testing provide the primary means to protect the GW community; and

WHEREAS, The Vice President for Safety and Facilities describes the optimization of buildings as a secondary mitigation measure¹; and

WHEREAS, In the Fall of 2020, the GW administration completed a “comprehensive assessment”² of more than 120 buildings along five metrics derived from the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) guidance for the Reopening of Schools and Universities³; and

WHEREAS, In June of 2021, the Vice President for Safety and Facilities, Public Health School Dean, and University COVID-19 Coordinator announced⁴ that GW’s buildings’ systems already aligned with ASHRAE guidance for university reopening; and

WHEREAS, The June communication was written to “emphasize and reinforce with this message that our residence halls, classrooms, libraries, offices and other spaces are safe and ready for our community members to occupy.”

WHEREAS, On August 19, 2021, the Faculty Senate Physical Facilities Committee was advised and the Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSEC) received documents which noted that (in contrast to the prior announcement) many of GW’s buildings were not well aligned with ASHRAE guidance for university reopening; and

WHEREAS, On August 28, 2021, the Vice President for Safety and Facilities announced that the work described as completed in June would not be finished until two weeks into the fall semester; and

WHEREAS, On August 28, 2021 an online spreadsheet was posted that listed 39 buildings without filters installed and many systems in which their filtration systems were “TBD”⁵; and

¹ <https://onward.gwu.edu/update-facilities>

² <https://gwtoday.gwu.edu/gw-conducts-comprehensive-hvac-assessment>

³ <https://www.ashrae.org/technical-resources/reopening-of-schools-and-universities>

⁴ <https://coronavirus.gwu.edu/update-campus-facilities-health-and-safety>

⁵ <https://facilities.gwu.edu/air-filtration>

WHEREAS, Buildings on this list included residence halls where students already lived and office space where faculty and staff were already working on this date; and

WHEREAS, Information about GW's buildings is important for many individuals to feel confident in fully engaging on campus; and

WHEREAS, The GW community, including students, faculty, and staff, may use information about GW buildings in their individual assessments about how to safely participate in campus life; and

WHEREAS, Consistent, transparent, and honest leadership is important in moments of crisis;

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

1. Strongly recommends the administration convey to the Faculty Senate the process which led to the misinformation provided to the community on June 7, 2021;
2. Strongly recommends the central GW administration immediately release for Faculty Senate review all reports, recommendations, and technical analyses (including those produced by external consultants) pertaining to the level of alignment with ASHRAE and CDC guidelines for GW buildings; and
3. Strongly recommends the administration immediately provide for the GW community a list of all GW buildings and its assessment as to how each measures on the five metrics described in the comprehensive assessment or in an alternative format agreed to by the FSEC that serves the purpose of providing individuals with accurate information regarding how building limitations may affect their health; and
4. Strongly recommends that these reports not be marked confidential or privileged so that they can be shared with members of the GW community as appropriate; and
5. Strongly recommends the administration immediately and comprehensively describe to the Faculty Senate all actions that have been taken since its comprehensive assessment (or are currently being taken) to bring all GW buildings into alignment with the spirit of ASHRAE guidance for the Reopening of Schools and Universities.

September 1, 2021

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Adopted by the Faculty Senate
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