



A RESOLUTION FOR POSITIONING THE STRATEGIC CAMPUS FACILITIES MASTER PLAN FOR SUCCESS IN FULFILLING THE UNIVERSITY’S OVERALL TEACHING AND RESEARCH MISSION (22/5)

- WHEREAS**, In October of 2019, the university administration appointed a “steering committee” comprised of students, faculty, staff, and administrators with goals of articulating a vision and guiding principles for GW’s physical development planning, and to establish standards for a unified campus identity; and
- WHEREAS**, Faculty representation on this steering committee included representatives from only one of the university’s schools (the School of Medicine and Health Sciences); and
- WHEREAS**, In October 2021, the university administration presented to the Faculty Senate a “Strategic Campus Facilities Master Plan” (“SCFMP”) which had been previously presented to and endorsed by the Board of Trustees; and
- WHEREAS**, The proposed projects identified in the SCFMP are likely to have far-reaching consequences for the University and its students; and
- WHEREAS**, The SCFMP is to be distinguished from the regulatory plan (“RP”) with the District of Columbia that is due to expire in 2027 and which has granted the university the rights to add 3.5 million square feet of development across more than 20 campus development sites; and
- WHEREAS**, The RP stipulates that 70% of the aforementioned additional 3.5 million square feet of development must be either built or approved to be built by the 2027 expiration date of the RP; and
- WHEREAS**, The Senate received from the Administration components of a proposed SCFMP, to wit:
- 1) The Ambulatory Care Center
 - 2) New Student Center
 - 3) CCAS Consolidation at the present University Student Center
 - 4) Research and Innovation Building
 - 5) H Street Open Space Project; and
- WHEREAS**, The Ambulatory Care Center initiative would require the removal of Tompkins Hall, which is heavily used by several schools for classroom and research purposes; and
- WHEREAS**, The Faculty Senate is uncertain about whether Madison Hall will continue to be used as a residence hall and has not received information on this important subject; and,
- WHEREAS**, At the September 2021 Faculty Senate meeting, members of the Faculty Senate noted (with the concurrence of President LeBlanc) that University-wide discussions had not occurred – and needed to occur – regarding whether the priorities highlighted in the SCFMP should preempt previously-identified university priorities (such as increased student financial aid and previously agreed upon building priorities); and

WHEREAS, During the month of October, the Senate Physical Facilities Committee (PFC) solicited reactions from nine schools to the SCFMP, in terms of the research and teaching implications of the plan, and with the intention of conveying this information to the full Faculty Senate; and

WHEREAS, PFC found that there is not a clear understanding of the SCFMP's vision for its spaces, such as the purpose and function of an Integrated Arts and Sciences building or how Research and Innovation Hall will concretely be used; and

WHEREAS, PFC also found that few expressed enthusiastic support for the SCFMP as a whole, highlighted a large number of urgent classroom and research needs that may be worsened by the SCFMP, and affected schools emphasized that they had not been consulted in the designation of new space intended for their use; and

WHEREAS, Several schools want to understand how the Gateway Health part of the plan will benefit the university community as a whole; and

WHEREAS, The SCFMP, as currently constituted, does not appear to have included or been informed by a university-wide discussion of the future size of the student body, the focus of which has been of particular interest to the faculty in recent years; and

WHEREAS, There is a strong desire by all faculty to participate in decision making on the SCFMP, including faculty in allied health fields, who would like to participate in discussions about how the SCFMP might more broadly advance the health sciences in all of the schools in which they are located; and

WHEREAS, The allocation of university resources has a direct effect on the University's academic priorities; and

WHEREAS, Any implementation of the SCFMP would require the commitment of substantial, scarce university financial resources; and

WHEREAS, The faculty is committed to ensuring a sustainable path for all the components of the SCFMP, while also factoring in the university's academic needs;

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

- (1) That the consultative process that began in 2019, with faculty, students, and administrators, now be expanded to include faculty in *all* schools of the university, in consultation with and concurrence of the relevant committees of the Faculty Senate;
- (2) That, prior to embarking on *any* commitment to, funding for, or further study of the feasibility or design of the SCFMP or any one building project identified therein,
 - (a) The SCFMP be fully vetted and, where appropriate, modified in coordination/consultation with the Faculty Senate to address the educational and research priorities of the university;
 - (b) The SCFMP be expanded to include key university priorities, including (but not limited to) size of the student body, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) priorities, and financial aid priorities;

- (c) The university administration include in its planning practical assumptions about the need for classroom and other instructional space and explain how those needs will be met before taking Tompkins Hall offline;
 - (d) The university administration provides to the Senate (via the Senate Fiscal Planning and Budget Committee) a detailed 5-year financial plan which demonstrates the financial and academic implications of each individual project proposed as part of the SCFMP and explain the extent to which the specific project is supported by tuition dollars;
 - (e) The university administration clarify whether Madison Hall will continue to be a residence hall and, if not, how the repurposing of student residence halls into non-academic space will affect enrollment and the student experience;
- (3) That the formulation of the financial framework be developed in consultation with the schools of the university and the relevant standing committees of the Faculty Senate; and
- (4) Recommends that the Provost engage in discussions with the Board of Trustees and, if possible, the DC government to determine whether an extension of the Regulatory Plan may be possible.

Committees on Physical Facilities and Fiscal Planning and Budgeting
November 2, 2021

Adopted as amended by the Faculty Senate
November 12, 2021