



Faculty Senate

Faculty Senate Standing Committee on Physical Facilities & Campus Safety 2024-2025 Annual Report

Submitted By Co-Chairs:

James Tielsch (GWSPH) and John Traub (CCAS)

Committee Members:

James Tielsch, Chair (GWSPH)*

John Traub, Co-Chair (CCAS)

Jonathan Eakle, Faculty Senate Executive Committee Liaison (GSEHD)*

Thomas Choate (GWSB)

Katie Cloud (Registrar)**

Colette Coleman (Vice Provost, Dean of Students)**

Douglas Crawford (CCAS)

Katie Fox (University Resilience)**

Baxter Goodly (Facilities)**

Stephen Gray (SMHS)

Captain Ian Greenlee (GWPD)**+

Sarah-Kay Hurst (CCAS)

Barbara Kowalczyk (GWSPH)+

Kyle Levers (GWSPH)

James Mahshie (CCAS)*

Eli McCarthy (CCAS)

Brendan Morley (CCAS)

Terry Murphy (Sr. Vice Provost for Academic Affairs)**

Scott Pagel (LAW)

Yuan Rao (SMHS)

Heather Schell (SMHS)

Pablo Serrano (SMHS)

James Tate (GWPD)**+

Sharon Testor (GWSC)**

William Weglicki (SMHS)

Scott White (CPS)*

Lang Yang (CCAS)

Robert Zeman (SMHS)*

*Senate Member

**Non-Voting Member

+ *James Tate left the Committee in October 2024. Captain Ian Greenlee joined the Committee in November 2024. Barbara Kowalczyk joined the Committee in November 2024*

Committee Meeting Dates:

Friday, September 6th, 2024

Friday, October 4th, 2024

Friday, November 1st, 2024

Friday, December 6th, 2024

Friday, January 10th, 2025

Friday, February 14th, 2025

Friday, March 7th, 2025

Friday, April 4th, 2025

Friday, May 2nd, 2025 (*not included in Annual Report*)

Committee Charge:

- (1) Conduct a retrospective evaluation of the university's responses to the protest encampment as it relates to university facilities (including the decision to close Kogan Plaza and University Yard for extended periods of time); make recommendations to leadership about how to balance questions of safety and security with the openness and availability of campus spaces.
- (2) Proactively engage with the strategic planning process as the framework is developed this year.
- (3) Obtain updates on classroom and building-level upgrades and deferred maintenance (including the need for new structures.) Consult with administration on whether a full building audit should be conducted to identify areas of concern. Such updates should include off-campus leased facilities.
- (4) Critically monitor HVAC issues, particularly with weather changes through the year that can complicate issues of air quality, mold, and mildew.
- (5) Assess and report on the status of the campus master plan.
- (6) Develop and maintain robust channels of communication among the committee, FSEC, and the Senate so that information about physical facilities obtained from the administration is shared broadly among these three entities, making sure that committee expertise (and other relevant expertise) can be efficiently brought to bear on that information, particularly in emergent or unexpected circumstances.
- (7) Continue to assess whether the committee membership should be expanded to include areas of particular expertise.

Fall Topics/Actions Taken:

The September meeting convened virtually on September 6, 2024. Chair and Vice-Chair Jim Tielsch and John Traub welcomed the committee and introduced the [committee's](#) charge and focus areas of Physical Facilities and Campus Safety. The scope of work includes building audits, HVAC issues, deferred maintenance, communication strategies, and potential new committee members, as well as collaboration and interfacing with the Campus Safety Advisory Committee (CSAC).

The committee received an update from GWPB summer activities from Chief James Tate. This update included:

- **Arming GWPB Officers.** Implementation plan completed in August 2024 with three-phase rollout and community engagement via CSAC.
- **CSAC Composition.** Includes representatives from students, staff, faculty, and the local community.
- **De-escalation Training.** Revised in collaboration with Eli McCarthy, with ongoing work on the Use of Force policy.
- **Safety Concerns.** Addressed questions on topics like enforcement of “Stay Away” orders, security force roles, mental health training, and handling of demonstrations and First Amendment activity.
- **Future Initiatives.** Community-wide Campus Safety Survey and continued policy revisions.

The committee then received an update from Adam Aaronson regarding summer work in facilities and campus safety. This update included:

- **Major Upgrades.** Renovations and enhancements across campuses, including residence halls, academic buildings, dining facilities, and athletic venues.
- **Safety and Maintenance.** Fire alarm upgrades, HVAC replacements, and anti-scald devices installed. Deferred maintenance receiving a \$25 million per year allocation across three years.
- **Future Planning.** Preparations for a new Campus Master Plan (targeted for 2027) and exploration of additional housing options near campus.

This discussion also included improvements to the Mount Vernon and Ashburn campuses, as well as the acquisition of apartment buildings near campus and the possible inclusion as swing space for dormitories in the future. This also included questions of monitoring food safety in conjunction with Dining Services, and how the committee can interface with these areas. Finally, a call was given for agenda recommendations for future meetings.

[September Meeting Minutes can be found here.](#)

The October meeting convened virtually on October 4, 2024, with Baxter Goodly provided updates on Facilities and Campus Safety. He highlighted the upcoming AIM/FIXIT reboot launching on October 7, aiming to streamline module functionalities for users. A Space Utilization Study, using data and WiFi analytics, is also underway to inform the Campus Master Plan. Renovations for Mitchell Hall are set to begin in Summer 2025, focusing on accessibility and common spaces, while work continues within the I Street Corridor, University Yard, and other campus areas. The possibility of integrating GWorld cards into mobile wallets is being tested, and there is ongoing collaboration with GWPB and external teams for enhanced campus security considering the possibility of upcoming protests. Several questions arose regarding maintenance

issues, space utilization, and plans for building upgrades, with assurances that these are being actively addressed.

Of particular concern was the recent Hatchet article regarding arming of the GWPD. It was noted that President Granberg would be speaking on this topic at the upcoming Faculty Senate meeting and that all currently armed Officers meet the training requirements required with the District of Columbia, as well as the inclusion of the Office of Compliance in monitoring training metrics.

Seth Weinshel then presented a [report on dining facilities and services](#), emphasizing the challenges and progress of rebuilding the institutional dining program post-pandemic. Mitchell Hall renovations will temporarily reduce housing availability, prompting efforts to add additional beds elsewhere. Fall of 2023 was the first semester for the full dining program, which included the transition to Chartwells as a dining partner. This transition out of the pandemic brought many challenges, including food insecurity, quality of food, cleanliness and health, as well as customer satisfaction. Staffing issues played a major component in these challenges as well. Dining transition has stabilized moving into AY 24-25 with better satisfaction metrics and meal plans as well as participation. Additionally, dining operations now include three all-you-can-eat facilities, 14 retail locations, and plans for more allergen-friendly options. Dining satisfaction has reached 82%, with goals to improve meal participation rates and introduce more diverse options, including halal and kosher certifications.

Food safety concerns were discussed, including high profile recent incidents. These have been addressed with new quality assurance measures, digital monitoring systems, and plans for greater reporting and transparency. The creation of the Food Safety Institute in SPH was noted as a possible partner for food safety surveillance as well as the possible inclusion of a member to this committee. The possibility of a Food Safety Annual Report was discussed as well.

In new business, discussion included clarifying the roles of the committee and the Campus Safety Advisory Committee, policies on campus disruptions, and safety considerations for contractors and community members during campus work.

[October Meeting Minutes can be found here.](#)

The November meeting convened virtually on November 1, 2024, with updates from Baxter Goodly regarding Facilities & Campus Safety. Notably, this included the introduction of Ian Greenlee, Interim Chief of Police for GWPD. Critical campus projects include the Gelman Library HVAC project which will necessitate a summer 2025 shutdown, with collaborative planning underway to minimize disruptions. Other key projects include chiller work in the Academic Center, ongoing HVAC upgrades in Guthridge Hall, and major elevator improvements in SEH.

A consultant has been brought on to advance the Campus Master Plan, expected to take two years, with designs anticipated by spring 2025. Real estate developments include the acquisition of 2001 Penn, with the potential for partial availability for swing space. Questions were raised about Gelman Library's closure impact on university operations as well as the long-term solutions for SEH elevators.

Katie MacDonald and Eli McCarthy reported on recent CSAC meetings, emphasizing their focus on community needs, transparency, and cultural improvements. They highlighted the updated de-escalation training and Use of Force policy revisions implemented over the summer. The new policy with revisions would be provided upon completion.

Barbara Kowalczyk, Director of the GW Food Safety Institute, was introduced as a new member of the committee. Discussion centered on food safety questions in dining halls and with our vendors and partners, and how DC Health integrates into these discussions. The possibility of a Food Safety Report out to the committee was again discussed for future agendas.

Questions were raised regarding transitional goals and next steps for the GWPD. A national search for a permanent replacement is being conducted and the continuation of current policies, including armed supervisors, was confirmed. No immediate policy changes are planned.

The Committee reviewed and unanimously supported [Faculty Senate Resolution 25/3](#), advocating for an investigation into recent GWPD issues. Members emphasized accountability and the importance of engaging the Committee in the process. The results will be returned to the Faculty Senate Executive Committee.

In new business, the timing of a food safety update was discussed, as well as the inclusion of the Mount Vernon campus facilities to future agendas. An update on the fencing surrounding University Yard was also requested.

[November Meeting Minutes can be found here.](#)

The December meeting convened virtually on December 6, 2024 with updates on the Campus Master Plan. The RFP will be finalized in conjunction with President Granberg's office within the coming weeks, followed by selection of a design firm. As discussed, this selection committee would ideally include a member of the PFCSC as well as a student representative. This is a multi-year process with many modalities for community input. It was noted that the Community and Urban Affairs committee would ideally have representation as well.

Discussion then shifted to the search for a permanent hire for the GWPD Police Chief, which was ongoing. Additionally, the fencing around University Yard is almost fully complete, with discussion and options for semi-permanent posture.

The committee was updated from members of CSAC, who are making progress in several areas including training and research.

The committee then received a [presentation](#) on food safety and efforts to ensure accountability in campus dining services. This presentation included information on safety protocols, such as hiring a full-time QA Director, regular third-party audits, Department of Health reviews, and rigorous employee training, such as Serv Safe and Fare Allergen certifications. Incident response protocols were highlighted, noting a reduction in reported food safety issues compared to the previous academic year.

Chartwells, the dining services provider, is held accountable through performance monitoring, escalation procedures, and collaboration with students. Feedback mechanisms and transparency initiatives, such as student organization partnerships and regular updates, are in place to improve trust and engagement. Continuous improvement efforts include unannounced inspections, enhanced training, and third-party audits.

The discussion covered measures to educate students on food safety reporting and nutrition, such as digital food identifiers and seasonal health-focused offerings. Ongoing initiatives include collaborations with student panels and research studies, like the NOURISH study, to address food insecurity and meal plan effectiveness. Peer institution comparisons and data sharing remain informal, with room for further exploration. Committee expertise in this area remains a key metric for engagement with Dining Services and food safety monitoring. Committee members raised questions on food safety reporting clarity, peer benchmarking, and the evaluation of student dining needs. Committee members were encouraged to dine and provide direct feedback on dining halls in January.

[December Meeting Minutes can be found here.](#)

Spring Topics/Actions Taken:

The January meeting convened virtually on January 10th, 2025 with brief introductions and a note from Co-Chair Jim Tielsch, who announced he would be rotating off the Faculty Senate at the end of the academic year. Interested members were encouraged to step forward for committee leadership roles.

Baxter Goodly provided updates from Facilities and Campus Safety, including the completion of several maintenance and improvement projects. These included ADA ramp and driveway upgrades at International House, carpet replacement at Dakota, updates to dining areas in USC and Shenkman, painting in Gelman, deep cleaning in SPH, installation of dining turnstiles in Thurston, and continued HVAC work. Renovation projects such as Chic-Fil-A and catering additions in Mitchell Hall are aiming for April completion, while Panda Express in SEH is targeted for February. The Campus Master Plan is set to expire in 2027, and the university is currently in the RFP process for selecting a design firm. Security planning updates for Inaugural Week were discussed, with Katie MacDonald noting coordination with the U.S. Secret Service and potential road closures around the Flagg Building on January 20th.

Seth Weinshel then presented on housing operations, noting that GW has approximately 7,200 beds across 26 residence halls, with 70% of the inventory built from the 1990s onward. The university is returning to the pre-COVID practice of taking multiple residence halls offline in the summer for renovations—Mitchell, FSK, and Guthridge are slated for updates in summer 2025. Housing assignments will begin earlier than usual to ensure there's no waitlist for required populations. While there is currently no graduate housing, options within existing inventory and new partnerships are being explored. Efforts to expand capacity include converting kitchens in FSK to add beds and

assessing unused space in the recently acquired 2001 Penn building, which is currently 60% occupied.

In new business, members raised several items, including a question about future plans for the fencing around U-Yard, which leadership plans to revisit after the inauguration. Lastly, a question about any ongoing situations related to event discrimination, similar to the recent Johns Hopkins settlement, was referred to the Office of General Counsel, with more information forthcoming.

[January Meeting Minutes can be found here.](#)

The February meeting convened virtually on February 14th, 2025 with updates on ongoing facilities work. Baxter Goodly reported significant facilities projects across campus, including updates to residence halls, accessibility improvements, and ongoing renovations such as flooring and roof replacements. The SEH green wall and Lisner Auditorium received upgrades, and a new Amazon grab-and-go station opened in Ames Hall. A new search is underway for an AVP-level position in Campus Operations following the retirement of Harold Speed. The Foggy Bottom Campus Master Plan process is beginning as the current CMP is slated to sunset in 2027, and will begin with a selection of a Design Firm this semester. The current CMP process is expected to take two years. Additionally, plans are underway for a digital GWorld card pilot launching in March. Emergency Management highlighted their role in the response to the recent DCA plane crash, while GWPD provided updates on ongoing training initiatives, including monthly de-escalation training in partnership with the DOJ and required implicit bias and mental health training. A Zero Waste initiative and LOOP clothing exchange at Mount Vernon were also spotlighted.

In housing, Seth Weinshel confirmed that Mitchell Hall will be taken offline in Summer 2025 for extensive renovations, including ADA upgrades and HVAC replacement, with reopening planned for Fall 2026. Questions were raised about design continuity and the lack of swing space during renovations. Dining updates included the upcoming soft opening of Panda Express and progress on the new Chick-fil-A. Additional questions addressed fencing concerns on both the Foggy Bottom and Mount Vernon campuses, ICE response protocols, and faculty training related to federal enforcement presence.

Finally, members were encouraged to reconnect with the Lerner Health & Wellness Center, with guest passes available upon request. The committee also floated the idea of future in-person meetings at Shenkman dining hall, pending availability.

[February Meeting Minutes can be found here.](#)

The March meeting convened virtually on March 7th, 2025 with a renewed call for future Committee leadership as Co-Chair Jim Tielsch will be rotating out of the Faculty Senate at the end of the academic year. Baxter Goodly provided facilities updates, highlighting spring break as an excellent time for annual residence hall inspections. He noted that an architectural firm has been engaged to plan renovations for the unoccupied 40% of the 2001 Penn building, possibly converting it into academic space. Discussions are ongoing regarding completing HVAC renovations in Gelman

Library during summer 2025, which will require the temporary relocation of 30–35 staff, as well as academic accommodations for enrolled summer students. Mitchell Hall’s full renovation is set to begin this summer, lasting 12–14 months. Updates were also given on the Campus Master Plan RFP process, community engagement in safety training through CSAC, and several specific facilities concerns, including planned infrastructure work in Ross Hall’s animal facility and uncertainty around the future use of the Flagg Building gallery space. Questions were raised about fencing and safety protocols on the Mount Vernon campus and access control in leased spaces like the Arlington location.

Seth Weinshel gave an update on housing, noting the current assignment cycle is underway with 6,900 students in campus housing and a standard 200–300 person waitlist for upperclass students. Notably, for the first time rising second-year students will not be placed on a waitlist. Mitchell, FSK, and Guthridge Halls will all be offline this summer for renovations and HVAC work. Dining updates included a successful health inspection and upcoming soft launch for Panda Express, a projected late-May opening for the new Chic-Fil-A, and the purchase of a GW-branded food truck, which will primarily serve the Mount Vernon campus.

The committee then discussed the recent report from the President’s Office on GW Police. Members expressed concern about the lack of transparency and the exclusion of critical data provided by the School of Public Health. The conversation emphasized the need for a more inclusive decision-making process moving forward and the possibility of restorative initiatives, including town halls or a pause in implementation. Baxter noted similar concerns raised in CSAC and the committee’s aim to establish a framework for continued dialogue.

[March Meeting Minutes can be found here.](#)

The April meeting convened virtually on April 4th, 2025 with updates from Facilities and Campus Safety. The Campus Master Plan selection process concluded with Sasaki chosen as the design firm, based on their strong engagement strategy and partnership with a public relations firm. Sasaki will also lead the university’s space utilization study. Additionally, while the FY25 capital budget is not yet finalized, Mitchell Hall remains the top renovation priority and will go offline for approximately 14 months, and consultation was ongoing regarding space utilization at 2001 Pennsylvania Avenue. There was discussion around the upcoming HVAC renovation at Gelman Library; while plans are progressing as previously indicated, it is unclear whether a broader announcement has been made to the campus community. Katie MacDonald noted that Emergency Management is closely monitoring recent public activities, including a “hands off” rally near the Washington Monument. The search for a new Chief of Police is underway, with committee members encouraged to reach out for engagement with the search firm in advance of candidate selection. The final Campus Safety Advisory Committee (CSAC) meeting will be held on May 2. Regarding de-escalation training, Baxter confirmed that the Department of Justice does not share full curriculum materials; rather, training is delivered directly to law enforcement personnel, emphasizing behavioral assessment and rapid intervention strategies.

Seth Weinshel then provided updates from Housing and Dining Services. Housing assignments were sent out the previous week, with no rising second-year students placed on the waitlist. Amsterdam Hall was the most requested building for second-year students, while South Hall was the most popular among upper-class students. Summer housing applications opened earlier in the week, with an expected population of 2,600 to 3,000 students; over 2,200 spaces have already been reserved. The Mitchell renovation remains on track, and the university will present the project to the Historic Preservation Review Board in mid-April. While hoteling is not anticipated this summer, it may be needed in Fall 2025 if space issues arise. On the dining front, Panda Express is currently open and well-received, while delays in Chick-fil-A's procurement sequencing may push back its opening. Food trucks have returned to Potomac Square on Mondays and Wednesdays with improved weather. The final day for campus dining services will be May 11, with Pelham Hall remaining open throughout the summer. Dining has made significant strides, with good student support during Ramadan and Passover and more community-focused offerings.

Additionally, questions were raised regarding the removal of increased security in Kogan Plaza; it was confirmed that there is no longer a standing GWPD presence there. Panels remain in place around U-Yard and may stay depending on activity levels, although they remain removable on demand. There was also a noticeable increase in police presence on campus during a recent expressive activity outside U-Yard, a decision made independently by MPD. The event did not involve a direct threat but prompted heightened visibility due to its public nature.

[April Meeting Minutes can be found here.](#)