



Faculty Senate

Standing Committee on Libraries 2025-2026 Interim Report

Presented by Rhonda Schwindt and Holly Dugan

Members of the committee:

<i>Schwindt, Rhonda*, Chair</i>	SON	Voting	
<i>Dugan, Holly, Co-Chair</i>	CCAS	Voting	
Abate, Laura	SMHS	Nonvoting	leabate@gwu.edu
Belenky, Masha*	CCAS	Voting	belenky@gwu.edu
Chen, Liana	CCAS/ESIA	Voting	liachen@gwu.edu
Chung, Sunghun	GWSB	Voting	sunghun@gwu.edu
Das, Bagmi	GSEHD	Voting	bagmidas@gwu.edu
Dolgova, Natalia	CCAS	Voting	natalia@gwu.edu
Feldman, Ilana*	ESIA	Voting	ifeldman@gwu.edu
Frenchette, John	GWSB (PT)	Voting	john.frechette@gwu.edu
Gayton, Cynthia	SEAS (PT)	Voting	cgayton@gwu.edu
Ghaedi, Mohammad	CCAS (PT)	Voting	mohammad.ghaedi@gwu.edu
Henry, Geneva	LAI	Nonvoting	genevahenry@gwu.edu
Lewis, Grayson	SGA	Nonvoting	graysonlewis@gwmail.gwu.edu
Murray, Donal	SMHS	Voting	donal.murray@gwu.edu
Pagel, Scott	Law Library	Nonvoting	spagel@law.gwu.edu
Patel, Ashesh	SMHS	Voting	patelad@gwu.edu
Posey, Laurie	SON	Voting	posey@gwu.edu
Puskarz, Katherine	GWSC/GWSPH	Nonvoting	katherine.puskarz@gwu.edu
Scalzitti, David	SMHS	Voting	scalzitt@gwu.edu
Spear, Jo	ESIA	Voting	jspear@gwu.edu
Thoma, Kathleen	SMHS	Voting	kamthoma@gwu.edu
White, Scott*	CPS	Voting	cybersec@gwu.edu

The committee met twice during the fall semester (September 16 & November 18, 2025).

Open Access (Charge 1 & 2) and Budget Updates (Charge 3)

The open access policy is currently in a public comment phase and is expected to be finalized in early 2026. LAI leadership reported on budget impacts to collections, noting that although no personnel cuts were made, LAI reduced its collections budget by 6% for FY2025–26, compared to Himmelfarb's 10% reduction. Collection decisions were guided by faculty input and usage data, with

an emphasis on preserving access to essential journals even when subscriptions must be discontinued.

Genevra Henry emphasized the extremely high cost of scientific journal subscriptions—likening them to luxury goods—and underscored the need for faculty advocacy to address publishers' profit-driven business models. The committee also discussed copyright-related costs, constraints on library resources, explaining that GW has already cut some journal subscriptions and now relies heavily on interlibrary loans, while retaining select direct publisher agreements. Geneva Henry shared that a centralized system for faculty to report missing resources. The committee discussed how to communicate upcoming budget cuts to faculty, with suggestions to reach out to department chairs and hold faculty-wide meetings.

GW Campus Plan Overview (Charge 3)

Tyler Patrick, a campus planner at Sasaki, presented an overview of the GW campus plan, explaining that it is a regulatory vehicle for the Foggy Bottom campus and a roadmap for future investments. He highlighted the need to re-evaluate potential development sites and address sustainability goals. The team is currently in the scenario development phase, with plans to workshop ideas with the campus community in January. He emphasized the importance of the library as a central node of campus life and potential future expansions.

Next steps for 2025-2026

- FSLC will schedule an additional meeting in early January to discuss budget cuts and communication strategies.
- FSLC will develop a communication plan for faculty on the open-access policy and the planned subscription reductions (6% at Gelman/LAI and 10% at Himmelfarb).
- FSLC will consider presenting at school-wide faculty meetings to explain the budget cuts.
- FSLC will create an FAQ page outlining the budget cuts and their implications.