



# Faculty Senate

Friday, March 6, 2026, at 2:00pm  
State Room (1957 E Street NW, 7<sup>th</sup> floor) and via Zoom

## AGENDA

1. Call to order
2. Approval of the [minutes](#) of the February 13, 2026, meeting
3. In Memoriam: Professor Joseph Cordes (1949-2026) (Professor Phil Wirtz)
4. President's Report & Interim Provost's Report (Ellen Granberg, President, and John Lach, Interim Provost)
  - [President's Report Pre-Read](#)
  - [Interim Provost's Report Pre-Read](#)
  - Brief Statements and Questions/President's & Provost's Reports
5. Faculty Senate Executive Committee Report (Professor Guillermo Orti, Chair)
  - [FSEC Report Pre-Read](#)
  - Brief Statements and Questions/Executive Committee Report
6. REPORT: Core Indicators of Academic Excellence (John Lach, Interim Provost)
  - [Core Indicators Pre-Read](#)
7. Introduction of New Resolutions to be Referred to Committee
8. General Business
  - a) Nominations for committee membership
    - EPT: Mindy Galvan (Enrollment & Student Services)/nonvoting
    - [FSEC Nominating Committee roster](#)
  - b) Standing committee reports received
9. Brief Statements and Questions/General
10. Adjournment

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**Faculty Senate Meeting**  
**February 13, 2026**  
**President Granberg's Report/Pre-Read**

Thank you for your consultation on the budget model in executive session at the February 13 Faculty Senate meeting. Holding the discussion in executive session created an open environment for sharing of questions, concerns, and suggestions, and it allowed Provost Lach, me, and others to respond more fully. Provost Lach has followed up with Professor Orti to identify ways to continue these conversations, and I look forward to hearing the feedback that they receive and finding ways that we can continue building momentum as we move forward.

### **Virginia Science & Technology Campus**

As you saw in today's announcement, GW closed on the sale of our Virginia Science and Technology Campus (VSTC) this morning. Due to confidentiality provisions in the sales agreement which helped us get the best possible outcome, we are not able to share information on the buyer or the sales price until it becomes publicly available. We made the decision to sell after careful deliberation by the Board of Trustees and university leadership.

VSTC has been an important part of GW's history since its launch in 1991, and we are deeply grateful to the faculty, staff, students, alumni, and partners—and of course, many of you—who have made it what it is today.

At the same time, as stewards of GW's mission, we must continually assess how best to align our resources with our long-term priorities. This includes our real estate portfolio, which is a significant institutional asset. With that in mind, we had to take seriously the opportunity to capitalize on the region's rapidly rising land prices. This is all part of our broader efforts to ensure long-term financial health and to invest more deeply in our academic mission.

Although we are selling VSTC, we remain fully committed to the faculty, staff, students, and research, academic and administrative programs located at VSTC. The agreement gives GW the option to continue operating programs at VSTC for up to five years. This gives us time to plan deliberately, thoughtfully, and responsibly. Our foremost priority during this transition will be to support the people most impacted. VSTC faculty, staff, and students will be included in the transition planning.

The Board of Trustees passed a resolution directing that a significant portion of the proceeds from the sale be used to establish a new endowment. That endowment will advance the priorities outlined in our strategic framework. It will support strategic investments in research and teaching and expand resources for student financial aid. In addition, the Board approved the administration's proposal to allocate a portion of the funds for a one-time bonus to eligible faculty and staff. HR will be distributing more information on this following the announcement.

While the sale of VSTC strengthens our financial position, it does not resolve the underlying causes of the structural deficit, which the recently announced [Foundational Excellence Initiative](#) is designed to address. Nevertheless, the sale of VSTC is a pivotal moment for GW as we continue taking concrete steps to strengthen our foundation, align our resources with our strategic priorities for long-term financial health, and build the GW of the future.

## **Provost Search Update**

Earlier this week, we welcomed the first of five finalists in the provost search. The pool of candidates was outstanding, and the search advisory committee did the difficult job of reviewing the semi-finalists and narrowing the field. I want to thank faculty senators for their contributions to that committee, including Katrin Schultheiss for co-chairing, and Susan Kulp for serving as a member. I am also pleased that members of FSEC will be involved in the finalist interviews. This provost role is critical to the future of the university and to our academic enterprise, so faculty input and insight are vital as we move forward in this process.

I anticipate that we will conclude the search in March and will be able to make an announcement in late March or early April.

## **Foundational Excellence Initiative**

On Tuesday, February 24, we announced the Foundational Excellence Initiative, which we previewed with the Faculty Senate during the meeting on February 13. This initiative grows out of input from the community who said that to advance GW's research and educational missions, we would need to improve how the university operates, so we added a third priority to the framework focused on operational excellence.

The Foundational Excellence Initiative will help us address that third priority by creating a multi-year plan focused on making GW more resilient and improving its long-term financial health. The initiative website—[foundationalexcellence.gwu.edu](http://foundationalexcellence.gwu.edu)—includes details about the initiative, an FAQ as well as a form that will help us gather input from the community. Through the website, listening sessions, and periodic updates, we will be including community voices along the way, incorporating their feedback, and ensuring that this initiative is as inclusive and transparent as possible.

Teaching Professor Zoë Beckerman in the Milken Institute School of Public Health and Chief of Staff Scott Mory are co-chairing this initiative's steering committee, which includes Faculty Senators Tarek El-Ghazawi and Susan Kulp. The goal is to share a finalized plan with the GW community in Fall 2026.

## **SMHS Leadership Transition: Welcoming Dr. Andrew Artenstein**

March 1 marks Dr. Andrew Artenstein's first day as interim dean of the School of Medicine and Health Sciences and vice president for health affairs at GW. Dr. Artenstein is uniquely qualified to lead SMHS and university health affairs more broadly during this period of leadership transition. As an experienced administrator as well as a physician-scientist, Dr. Artenstein brings a keen awareness of what it takes to oversee a mission-driven academic medical enterprise, even one as complicated as GW's. I would like to extend a warm welcome to him as he takes on these responsibilities and invite the SMHS community to provide him support as he familiarizes himself with the opportunities that this role entails.

## **Good News: Elana Meyers Taylor's Olympic Gold**

In closing, I'd like to share two more pieces of good news.

Competing in her fifth Olympic Games, GW graduate Elana Meyers Taylor won the gold medal in women's monobob, adding another accolade to her extraordinary Olympic legacy. She has medaled in every Olympic Games in which she has competed, previously earning three silvers and two bronzes. At 41 and a mother of two, Elana is

the most decorated Black athlete in Winter Olympic history as well as the oldest person to win individual gold in the Winter Games.

A triple GW degree-holder, Elana earned her bachelor's in exercise science (2006), master's in sports management (2011), and received an honorary doctorate in public service (2018). She was GW's first-ever softball recruit and was the only player in program history to have her jersey retired. In 2022, we were honored to welcome her back to GW as our Commencement speaker.

After the race, the commentator said that the US women in the house of speed were rocking it, and I couldn't agree more. I'm especially proud that GW was part of that golden moment.

### **Good News: SJT Day**

Next week, I will join a team criss-crossing the District to surprise the latest cohort of our Stephen Joel Trachtenberg Scholars. This is a four-year, full ride scholarship for the best of the best among high school students who live in the District of Columbia.

These students are exceptional. They have to live in the District of Columbia and can't apply directly but must be nominated by their high school counselors. Semifinalists spend a day on campus being interviewed. And we surprise the 10 finalists each spring with a full ride scholarship to GW. Launched in 1989 by then-GW President Stephen Joel Trachtenberg under the name 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholars, the program has enrolled more than 200 high school students from the District.

I want to thank Jay and his team in Admissions for all the work they do to evaluate the candidates and coordinate the complicated logistics that create such unforgettable moments for these impressive students. This is truly one of the best days of the year, and I look forward to being part of it.



**Faculty Senate**  
**March 6, 2026**  
**Interim Provost Lach's Report/Pre-Read**

Leadership Search Updates

*Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs*

I would like to thank all members of the GW faculty who submitted an application for the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs role. The search committee has reviewed applications, and first round interviews began this week.

*Vice President for Research*

We are currently interviewing search firms to manage the search for a permanent vice president for research. I look forward to sharing more information about next steps in this search.

2026 AAAS Annual Meeting

GW Today has posted an [article](#) recapping the recent 2026 AAAS Annual Meeting in Phoenix. GW was a conference sponsor, and therefore, we had the opportunity to feature several of our top academics on the Sci-Mic stage for a discussion about “Reclaiming Science in the Neurodiversity Debate”: Holden Thorp, Richard Grinker, and Gabriela Rosenblau. Faculty and graduate students from the Department of Biomedical Engineering also showed off Arty the robot dog, which is programmed to respond to human emotions, and other faculty and graduate students from the Art Therapy Program guided conference attendees through a creative activity designed to help navigate stress.

InnovationFest

Registration for April 30's [InnovationFest](#) is now open. This year's event will highlight how artificial intelligence (AI) is transforming research and learning.

Other than attending, there are several ways that members of the GW community can participate in InnovationFest:

- [Submit an abstract](#) by Friday, March 20 to be considered for a poster presentation.
- [Share the registration link](#) to invite your collaborators and personal networks to InnovationFest.
- [Volunteer](#) to help make the event a success.

Three Minute Thesis Competition

The Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Affairs recently hosted the eighth annual [Three Minute Thesis Competition](#), which challenges doctoral students to present their years of research in just three minutes, using one slide and plain language anyone can understand. This year's topics spanned spending habits during COVID to India's ban on Chinese apps. The panel of judges comprised GW faculty from multiple schools.

This year's first place winner, as well as the People's Choice award winner, was Ashley Bastin, a Ph.D. candidate in biological sciences from the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences, for her presentation on her thesis "Trained to Destroy: Uncovering the Causes of HIV-Associated Dementias." She received a \$1,000 prize and will have the chance to compete in the Northeastern Association of Graduate Schools regional tournament in the spring.

### Recognizing Outstanding Graduate Student Research

As recently featured in [GW Today](#), GW has launched two new awards to celebrate exceptional graduate research.

- The **Outstanding Dissertation Awards** will recognize exceptional doctoral dissertation research in three categories: biological & health sciences, humanities & social sciences, and physical & mathematical sciences and engineering. This award will be presented at InnovationFest on April 30. Students must be nominated by their dissertation advisor and the full nomination package is due March 6. Information is available on the [Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Affairs website](#).
- The **Student Inventor of the Year Award** is open to students in good standing who are inventors on at least one patent application filed by the Technology Commercialization Office. Nominations are closed for the year, but information is available on the [Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Affairs website](#).



# Faculty Senate

Report of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSEC)  
Guillermo Orti, Chair  
March 6, 2026, Senate Meeting

## **FSEC Activities**

FSEC held its regular meeting on February 27 with seven voting members present. The group approved the March Senate agenda by unanimous consent.

Following updates from the President and Interim Provost, the group discussed several topics, including:

- Remembrances of Joe Cordes;
- The sale of the Virginia Science & Technology Campus (VSTC);
- Types of feedback requested by the Foundational Excellence Initiative;
- How best to continue and deepen Senate involvement in work on the new budget model, including suggestions for what would be helpful in demonstrating the benefits of the new model;

## **Senate Matters**

The annual call for committee service volunteers is now open. Anyone interested in committee service is encouraged to [review the committee descriptions](#) and [complete the interest form](#). As a reminder, committee memberships do not carry over from one year to the next; any current committee members who are interested in continuing their service should complete the interest form. Interest form submissions will be accepted through Friday, March 20, 2026.

## **Other Activities**

Members of FSEC attended a privileged session of the EPT Subcommittee on Enrollment, led by Professor Eric Grynaviski. FSEC members appreciated the opportunity to engage with the subcommittee chair on these important issues and recognized the need for strong ongoing collaboration and innovation to meet the challenges in this area, especially regarding student retention.

FSEC has begun meeting with Provost candidates; meetings with the remaining candidates are expected to take place over the next few weeks.

The Senate was asked for self-nominations to the new [GW Foundational Excellence Initiative](#), which was announced on February 24. FSEC coordinated these nominations and forwarded a slate of four names to the administration; Professors Susan Kulp and Tarek El-Ghazawi were selected for service on the steering committee.

## **Personnel Actions**

There is one new grievance at the university, in the School of Business; the parties have agreed to mediation.

## **Calendar**

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee is March 27, 2026. Draft resolutions and any other possible Senate agenda items should be forwarded to [Liz Carlson](#) in the Senate office as soon as possible, ideally by March 20. The next regularly scheduled Faculty Senate meeting is April 17, 2026, at 2pm.

**2025-2026 Senate Standing Committee Leadership**

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Chair(s)</b>	<b>FSEC Liaison</b>
Appointments, Salary, & Promotion Policies (ASPP)	Patricia Hernandez	Jennifer Brinkerhoff
Athletics & Recreation	Harris Mylonas (Peng Wei, Co-Chair)	Scott Kieff
Educational Policy & Technology (EPT)	Jamie Cohen-Cole (Thomas Choate, Co-Chair)	John Warren
Fiscal Planning & Budgeting (FPB)	Susan Kulp (Joe Cordes, Co-chair)	David Mendelowitz
Honors & Academic Convocations	Katrin Schultheiss	Scott Kieff
Libraries	Rhonda Schwindt (Holly Dugan, Co-Chair)	Rhonda Schwindt
Physical Facilities & Campus Safety (PFCS)	Anne Markus (John Traub, Co-Chair)	Jonathan Eakle
Professional Ethics & Academic Freedom (PEAF)	Shawneequa Callier (Dwayne Wright, Co-Chair)	Arthur Wilson
Research	Matt Kay (Karen McDonnell, Co-Chair)	Tarek El-Ghazawi
University & Urban Affairs (UUA)	David Rain (Maranda Ward, Co-Chair)	Amita Vyas



Faculty Senate

**FSEC Nominating Committee Slate**

**The Nominating Committee will convene to nominate the  
2026-2027 Faculty Senate Executive Committee slate.**

CCAS: Harald Griesshammer

ESIA: Jennifer Brinkerhoff

GSEHD: Laura Engel

GWSB: Arthur Wilson

GWSPH: Amita Vyas (Chair)

LAW: Scott Kieff

SEAS: Matt Kay

SMHS: John Bethea

SON: Rhonda Schwindt

CPS: Natalie Houghtby-Haddon