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

As we return to campus after last week's winter weather disruption, I want to thank our faculty and staff for all that they did to ensure the continuity of our operations.

Winter Weather Impacts Campus

As you know, last week, the university's physical campuses were closed as a result of a major winter storm. The defining feature of this storm was snow followed by sleet falling at uncommonly low temperatures, a combination that created conditions that were far more disruptive and longer lasting than a typical snowstorm.

With the resulting layers of snow and ice, area roads ranged from treacherous to impassable, slowing or stopping bus service and making travel to and from our campuses dangerous. Foxhall Road between Foggy Bottom and the Mount Vernon Campus did not get plowed until late in the week, so the VEX—the university shuttle that runs between Foggy Bottom and Mount Vernon—could not operate. Considering the number of students who travel between these two locations to take their classes, holding in-person classes was not an option. Even more than a week after the storm, there are still large piles of snow and ice that make walking between campus buildings difficult.

I want to thank GW faculty and staff for keeping GW functioning in the face of such challenges. Faculty members shifted classes online whenever possible, providing flexibility that helped our students manage weather-related disruptions. Communicating with students at times like this is critical to ensuring that they are aware of adjustments, cancellations, and make up sessions as well as other arrangements that help keep them on track.

I'd especially like to extend my gratitude to the essential staff members across campus, including the facilities team, campus safety personnel, and those ensuring the continuity of operations and student services, who reported to work as scheduled. Please join me in especially thanking them!

Renovated 1957 E Street (State Room and City View) "Open for Business"

Our meeting next week will be the first Faculty Senate meeting to be held in the newly renovated 1957 E Street State Room space, which has not been renovated since the building was constructed in 2003. This renovation is part of a long-term plan to expand the room's uses, creating a unique event venue that increases opportunities for revenue generation. The project was funded by resources set aside in the capital budget rather than the operating budget.

A few of the changes include:

- The addition of floor-to-ceiling windows in the City View Room to increase natural light and showcase expansive city views
- Reconfiguration of the State Room to create a more open, flexible, and functional layout suitable for a variety of meetings and events

- Expansion and enhancement of the lobby reception area to improve flow, capacity, and the overall visitor experience
- Installation of state-of-the-art technology throughout the floor to support modern presentations, hybrid meetings, and operational needs
- Addition of access points and improved connectivity to interior spaces to maximize use of the terrace
- and modernized and refreshed interior spaces

I would like to make special note of the artwork from GW's collection that is on display within the space. I am delighted that we are able to share these cultural treasures with the broader community in this way. We are looking for other opportunities to highlight GW's art collection in spaces around campus as well.

Special thanks to Baxter Goodly and his team for all the work they've done to elevate and enhance the space on the 7th floor.

UHS Negotiation Update

Negotiations with UHS continue. There has been meaningful progress over the past few weeks, and I am optimistic our talks will come to a conclusion soon. UHS continues to make co-funding payments, reducing GW's expenses for financing the MFA deficit by 50%.

University Mission Statement Review

As you are aware, last semester, we convened a Mission Statement Steering Committee of faculty, staff, and students from across all ten schools and colleges, along with administrative leaders and members of the GW Board of Trustees, to lead an inclusive process to refresh GW's mission so that it reflects the breadth, direction, and spirit of today's GW. Thank you to all of the faculty senators who participated in conversations related to this work over the last several months.

On Wednesday, February 4, Chief of Staff Scott Mory and Deputy Provost Terry Murphy announced that this effort has now entered its next phase: hearing directly from the GW community. We invite all community members to review and [share feedback on the draft mission statement here](#). Our mission reflects the values and actions we strive to embody every day, and your perspectives are essential to ensuring that this statement authentically reflects today's GW and guides our shared work into the future.

SMHS Dean Barbara Bass Retires Dr. Andrew Artenstein Selected to Serve as Interim Dean and VP for Health Affairs

Last month, the university officially announced that Vice President for Health Affairs and Dean of the School of Medicine and Health Sciences Barbara Bass will be retiring, effective February 28, 2026.

Having trained as a resident at GW and following an illustrious career as a scientist-surgeon, Dean Bass returned to GW six years ago at the dawn of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Even as she brought visionary leadership to navigating that health crisis, she also continued to advance the university's academic medical enterprise, recruiting outstanding faculty, strengthening research, and developing and implementing a strategic plan to chart SMHS's future as it entered its third century.

Given the current state of the medical enterprise, it is not the right time to launch a search for a new dean of medicine. Instead, we announced last week that Dr. Andrew Artenstein will serve as interim dean for a period of 18-24 months.

Dr. Artenstein currently serves as

- Chief Physician Executive and Chief Academic Officer of Baystate Health;
- President, Baystate Medical Practices;
- and Regional Executive Dean, University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School, Baystate.

I am confident that Dr. Artenstein's experience positions him well to lead during this period of transition and prepare SMHS to search for a permanent dean in the not-too-distant future.

At the Faculty Senate meeting we will have an opportunity to recognize Dr. Bass's contributions to GW. In the meantime, please join me in thanking her for her service.

AI@GW Update

Thank you for your continued contributions to the AI@GW mapping exercise. I hope you saw the message Professor Szajnfarter sent late last month providing the ways that the GW community can contribute to this effort.

I wanted to provide a brief update on where we stand. In December, we launched Phase One, the top-down data collection, which asked schools and administrative divisions to inventory their current use and needs related to AI in research, education, and operations.

Last week, we opened Phase Two, the community-driven data collection. This phase takes a deeper dive into perceptions of opportunities, risks, and use cases, collected through surveys, office hours, and focus groups. Once all the data has been collected, we will move to Phase Three in March with working groups synthesizing the information and analyzing strengths and weaknesses.

I want to emphasize how important it is that we collect high-quality data to inform strategic decision-making on this important topic. I know the team has already been coordinating with relevant subcommittees to both leverage faculty expertise on how to collect high-quality data and also to ensure that we get strong engagement on Phase Two. I appreciate your continued partnership on this.

The response has been impressive, and I look forward to seeing what the working groups have to share.

GW Passes Independent Review of "Stop Campus Hazing Act" Compliance

As national data underscore widespread gaps in transparency around campus hazing incidents across higher education, the George Washington University continues to emphasize prevention, accountability, and student safety as core institutional priorities. As part of a recent independent review to gauge compliance with the Stop Campus Hazing Act, passed in 2024, GW demonstrated robust compliance plans, including a prevention policy, a record of incidents, and a reporting form.

In an environment where many campuses are still adjusting to the law's requirements, I am pleased that our team in the Office of Ethics, Compliance, and Risk has worked hard to understand the changing requirements and has

ensured that we have the systems in place to create a culture that encourages reporting, supports those who come forward, and confronts harmful behavior directly.

**Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Activities:
34th Annual International Salute to the Life and Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**

Last month I represented the university at the 34th Annual International Salute to the Life and Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. convened by the Institute for the Advancement of Multicultural and Minority Medicine. I joined several other university presidents in providing greetings. The program included a presentation of awards to individuals who follow in Dr. King's footsteps in their activism, social impact, and positive societal change. I was especially pleased that Representative Jamie Raskin, who represents Maryland's 8th District, was honored.

GW Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Day of Service and Leadership

GW also held its annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Day of Service and Leadership on Monday, January 19. This year marks the 40th celebration of the federal holiday in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr, and was the 31st anniversary of the holiday as a national day of service. GW has participated in the day of service since its inception in 1995. The event is led by the Honey W. Nashman Center for Civic Engagement and Public Service.

More than 700 GW students and members of local community organizations, led by 50 GW student leaders, gathered in Lisner Auditorium for an opening program that included a conversation led by University Chaplain Kristen Glass Perez with GW's multifaith Council of Chaplains.

Following the panel, participants moved to their service sites or workshops. These included five public schools in the District and ten community organizations and on-campus workshops focused on reflections on the meaning of MLK Day and navigating community challenges.

Days of service like this one are an important way that GW deepens our partnership with the community as we help our students understand what it means to serve and work together to achieve a common goal.