



Faculty Senate
February 13, 2026
Interim Provost Lach's Report/Pre-Read

OneGW Summit: Community, Culture & Inclusion

The university has announced the 10th Diversity Summit, which has been reimagined as the *OneGW Summit: Community, Culture & Inclusion*. It will be held March 26 and 27. This year's efforts are intentionally aligned with our Strategic Framework and are part of a continued effort to foster community at GW following challenges that have impacted individuals and groups over the last five years. We aim to come together across differences, to actively listen, challenge each other, learn from different experiences, and create room for respectful disagreement. I am very excited about this event and am grateful to Dr. Jordan Shelby West and other leaders around campus on the re-envisioning of the Summit and working to make it a success for our entire community.

Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs Search Update

All faculty should have received an infomail regarding the launch of the search for the permanent vice provost for faculty affairs. I recently charged the search committee with its work, and the committee approved the position description that was shared via the infomail. We ask that all applications be submitted by **February 13 at 5pm ET**. As a reminder, this role is open to internal applicants only, and all tenured faculty at the rank of full professor are encouraged to apply.

I would like to thank the Faculty Senate again for forwarding names for consideration for the search committee and your engagement in this process.

U.S. News & World Report 2026 Online Programs Rankings

In late January, U.S. News & World Report's 2026 Best Online Programs list ranked 17 GW programs highly, including our online bachelor's degree placing 20th best for veterans and 29th best overall. The School of Nursing, School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, and School of Business all had multiple placements in the top rankings. The list is available in [GW Today](#).

OVPR Updates

GW Research Year in Review 2025

Just a few weeks ago, GW launched its annual [Research Year in Review](#): a look back at the past year's wins, big stories, and groundbreaking discoveries by leading scholars throughout the university.

Institute for Data, Democracy, and Politics (IDDP) Call for Funding Proposals

GW's Institute for Data, Democracy, and Politics (IDDP) invites proposals for research projects that support IDDP's mission of helping society understand critical challenges that arise at the intersection of digital technology, media and democracy. IDDP anticipates funding 4-6 research proposals from GW full-

time faculty members, with awards ranging from \$10,000 to \$25,000. For more information, view the [Call for Submissions](#) on the IDDP website. **The proposal deadline is Friday, March 6.**

Humanities and Social Sciences: Getting Funded, Getting Published

This workshop introduces attendees to the grants process from the sponsor's point of view for fellowship opportunities (such as AAUW, ACLS, and NEH) and offers guidance on writing effective appeals to reviewers. Participants will also learn how to leverage grant proposals into book proposals and vice versa. This interactive session will be held via Zoom on **Friday, February 20 from 12:30pm–2:30pm**. [Learn more and register](#) to receive the Zoom link. The session is offered jointly by OVPR and CCAS and is open to all members of the GW research community.

CCAS Doctoral Programs

As was reported in the Hatchet, admissions were paused in five PhD programs in CCAS, and the size of incoming classes was reduced in others. There were numerous reasons for this, including reducing the total number of funded packages in anticipation of raising compensation rates, the smaller number of graduating students vacating packages, larger matriculating classes in previous years, and fewer grants from which students can be supported. CCAS has convened an advisory group of faculty that is charged with undertaking a comprehensive review of PhD education in CCAS. This advisory group will study all CCAS PhD programs with a focus on ensuring excellence and positive student outcomes, discussing the path forward and ways to achieve excellence with an understanding of the available resources, external headwinds in higher education, and the evolving market for academic and non-academic jobs. Ideas will be shared and discussed with Dean Wahlbeck and presented, as appropriate, to existing CCAS faculty committees. The group hopes to complete the process by the end of spring semester.

Commencement Student Speaker Competition

The 2026 Commencement Student Speaker Competition has launched, and all members of the graduating Class of 2026 are invited to enter for the chance to address their classmates and guests at university-wide Commencement on the National Mall on Sunday, May 17. The application for the first round of the competition is due **Sunday, February 22 at 11:59pm ET**.