



# Faculty Senate

The Faculty Senate will meet on Friday, May 8, 2020, at 2:00pm  
via WebEx

## **AGENDA**

1. Call to order
2. Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on April 3, 2020
3. Welcome to newly elected Senators
4. **REPORT**: Remarks from the Board Chair (Grace Speights, Chair, GW Board of Trustees)
5. **UPDATE**: Financial and Operations Planning around COVID-19 (Thomas LeBlanc, President)
6. **RESOLUTION 21/1**: Proposing an Undergraduate Academic Forgiveness Policy (Jason Zara, Educational Policy & Technology Committee)
7. **RESOLUTION 21/2**: To Respond Proactively to COVID-19 (Guillermo Orti, Faculty Senate Executive Committee)
8. Introduction of Resolutions
9. GENERAL BUSINESS
  - a) Nominations for election of new members to Senate standing committees\*
  - b) Approval of nominations for election of faculty members to University committees\*
  - c) Reports of Standing Committees
  - d) Report of the Executive Committee: Professor Arthur Wilson, Chair
  - e) Provost's Remarks
  - f) Chair's Remarks
9. Brief Statements and Questions
10. Adjournment

**Elizabeth A. Amundson**  
**Secretary**

\*Rosters to be provided prior to the meeting



**A RESOLUTION PROPOSING AN UNDERGRADUATE ACADEMIC FORGIVENESS  
POLICY (21/1)**

**WHEREAS,** the Faculty Senate unanimously passed the First-Year Forgiveness Policy in February 2017 with an amendment stating that the policy must be reviewed within three years of its implementation; and

**WHEREAS,** nine of GW's peer institutions have a university-wide Undergraduate Academic Forgiveness Policy that allows students to repeat at least three courses for forgiveness that were originally attempted at any point during their undergraduate experience; and

**WHEREAS,** some GW students currently have the ability to take upper-level courses sooner than others due to disparate access to secondary educational resources such as Advanced Placement and IB assessments, resulting in an inequitable ability to use the First-Year Forgiveness Policy; and

**WHEREAS,** low-income students face a unique set of academic pressures that impact them throughout their undergraduate experience and must maintain good academic standing in order to qualify for the financial aid that allows them to continue attending the University;

**WHEREAS,** studies illustrate that mental illness such as anxiety and depression typically affect second- and third-year students at higher rates than other undergraduate class standings; and

**WHEREAS,** academic rigor is essential to achieving preeminent university curriculum and it is crucial for students to be provided with support systems that allow them to challenge themselves to take on robust course loads.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FACULTY SENATE OF THE  
GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY**

That the Faculty Senate hereby recommends that the following paragraphs replace the First-Year Forgiveness Policy in the University Bulletin, effective with the Fall 2020 semester:

## **Undergraduate Academic Forgiveness Policy**

Undergraduate students are eligible to repeat for credit and grade forgiveness three undergraduate-level courses taken at GW in which they received a grade of D+ (1.3) or below (except if the failing grade was due to a violation of GW's Code of Academic Integrity). With the approval of their academic advisor, a student may repeat a course under this policy at any time during their enrollment at GW; however, a course is not eligible for this policy if the student has taken a subsequent course for which the initial course is a prerequisite. The student's registration, including the repeated course, may not exceed 18 credits in the semester in which the course is repeated; students in the School of Engineering and Applied Science may not exceed 19 credits.

Under this policy, the original grade remains on the transcript until the student repeats the course. Once the course is repeated, a permanent notation of RP replaces the grade for the first attempt of the course in the semester in which it was taken. The grade earned in the repeated course appears on the transcript in the semester in which the course was repeated. Only the grade earned for the repeat enrollment is factored into the student's cumulative grade-point average. The grade for the repeat enrollment is the final grade for the course, regardless of whether it is above or below the original grade. In the case that a student wishes to repeat more than three courses for academic forgiveness, they must first receive approval from the chair of the department under which the course is housed.

Educational Policy & Technology Committee  
March 31, 2020

## Appendix (from the University Bulletin)

### First-Year Academic Forgiveness Policy

Undergraduate students are eligible to repeat for credit one course, taken at GW during their first academic year (first semester for transfer students), in which they received a grade of *D+* (1.3) or below. A student may repeat a course under this policy at any time during their enrollment at GW; however, a course is not eligible for this policy if the student has taken a subsequent course for which the initial course is a prerequisite. The student's registration, including the repeated course, may not exceed 18 credits in the semester in which the course is repeated; students in the School of Engineering and Applied Science may not exceed 19 credits.

Under this policy, the original grade remains on the transcript until the student repeats the course. Once the course is repeated, a permanent notation replaces the grade for the first attempt of the course in the semester in which it was taken. The grade earned in the repeated course appears on the transcript in the semester in which the course was repeated. Only the grade earned for the repeat enrollment is factored into the student's cumulative grade-point average. The grade for the repeat enrollment is the final grade for the course, regardless of whether it is above or below the original grade.

## **A RESOLUTION TO RESPOND PROACTIVELY TO COVID-19 (21/2)**

**WHEREAS**, it is the role of the faculty to oversee both education and research;

**WHEREAS**, University values include transparency, collaboration, and the principle of shared governance;

**WHEREAS**, responses to the COVID-19 emergency may call for changes in long-established University procedures for both education and research developed by the faculty and confirmed through shared governance;

**WHEREAS**, such responses may need to be made in the days and months after the May 8 Senate meeting but before the start of the Fall 2020 term;

**NOW, THEREFORE**

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FACULTY SENATE OF THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY**

1. That the Senate and Senate committees on Research; Educational Policy & Technology; Fiscal Planning & Budgeting; Libraries; Appointments, Salary, & Promotion Policies; and Professional Ethics & Academic Freedom shall schedule at least one regular monthly meeting for each month of June, July, and August 2020.
2. That University procedural decisions that result from the COVID-19 emergency should be done in coordination with the Senate and its committees. This includes the University working groups mentioned in the President's message of April 27<sup>1</sup> and other administrative offices that immediately shall begin consulting with and providing information to the Senate and the Senate's committees.
3. That because such decisions involve education, an area of faculty specialty, any decisions about a partial or complete return to on-campus instruction (or about remaining online) shall require prior consultation with the appropriate standing committee(s) of the Senate designated by the Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSEC), and that procedures and rules for in-person and online teaching shall be established with the advice of and consultation with the appropriate Faculty Senate committee(s), and with mutual effort to achieve consensus.

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<sup>1</sup> [Planning for GW's Future in a COVID-19 World](#) (GW Today, April 27, 2020)

4. That because such decisions involve research, also an area of faculty specialty, any decisions about University procedures, practices, and rules related to research and research personnel shall require prior consultation with the appropriate standing committee(s) of the Senate designated by the FSEC, and that procedures and rules for research shall be established with the advice of and consultation with the appropriate Faculty Senate committee(s), and with mutual effort to achieve consensus.

Faculty Senate Executive Committee  
April 30, 2020