



**Faculty Senate  
Provost Bracey Remarks  
November 12, 2021**

Diversity Summit

The 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Diversity Summit began yesterday and ends this afternoon. Nearly 1,000 students, faculty and staff registered to engage in discussions addressing racism, antisemitism, ableism, and gender and sexual identity. We also provided various affinity networking spaces for member of the community. I myself gave a lecture today about the legal origins, applications, criticisms, and distortions of Critical Race Theory, which yielded a fruitful question and answer session with the community.

I was honored to be a part of this year's summit and I am very grateful to Caroline Laguerre-Brown, Jordan West, and other colleagues who worked hard to ensure we had a successful event.

Vaccine Requirement Compliance for Spring 2022 Registration

Recently, we shared with the community that all students who wish to register for at least one on-campus, in-person class in the Spring 2022 semester will be required to demonstrate compliance with GW's vaccination requirement prior to being permitted to register for these classes. Compliance can be demonstrated either through proof of full vaccination or being approved for a medical or religious exemption.

Most of our students are already compliant, since they were required to be this semester. However, there will be new students joining us in the spring, and we may have students who previously took classes fully online who are now planning to take a course in-person. They will be blocked from registering for in-person classes until their Banner records have been updated with compliance information. This new policy will save us a lot of the time we spent this semester tracking down noncompliant students on our campuses, since they will not be permitted to register for any in-person classes without submitting the appropriate documentation.

Academic Planning

I reported last month that we would be resuming our usual practice of hosting Fall Academic Planning meetings, in anticipation of more developed Academic Planning meetings in the spring. As a reminder, our goal in the fall meetings is to review school and unit FY22 academic activities, and to discuss any pain points that they are experiencing or budgetary course corrections they recommend with respect to their ability to deliver a high-quality academic experience and research environment for our students and faculty. We are also beginning discussions about 5-year academic plans, spanning FY23 to FY27.

We have now met with nearly all of the schools and colleges. The deans have very much appreciated this opportunity to think expansively about how best to drive their institutions forward, I have very much appreciated the opportunity to engage each school to better learn how best to integrate their local aspirations into a larger aspiration of comprehensive excellence while prioritizing areas of investment, and the budget office has very much appreciated understanding how best to support the academic vision of the university and engage in financial planning to support these endeavors in the out years.

Now that these fall reviews with schools are coming to an end, we are preparing for meetings with administrative units within the Office of the Provost. These will start before the Thanksgiving Break. I look forward to having productive conversations with them as I have with the schools and colleges as we begin to chart a course for the future.

### GW Academic Leadership Academy

A few months ago, I reported to the Faculty Senate that we would be relaunching the GW Academic Leadership Academy, which was placed on hold during the pandemic. For those who might not know, the Academic Leadership Academy was the brainchild of Forrest Maltzman and myself several years ago. It facilitates cross-institutional networking among academic leaders and was designed to build leadership capacity for the participating schools and units. Each cohort participates in a series of seminars throughout the year — each seminar addressing a different topic within team and management development — and leads a case study project to apply their learning. The topics range from conflict management — which we covered just this week in a seminar — to setting vision to developing faculty and staff. After each session, cohort members are given assignments to work on in advance of the next one.

This year's cohort has 19 members, representing nearly all of our schools and colleges, and I am thrilled to have them participate. Coming out of the pandemic year, and as we enter our third century as an institution, it is more important than ever that we strengthen connections across all our schools and colleges and provide professional development and mentorship opportunities for our faculty leaders.

### Chosen Name, Gender Identity, Pronouns Announcement

We announced to the community yesterday technology enhancements that will enable members of our community to designate their Chosen Name, Gender Identity, and Pronouns in GWeb. This is an important step forward in our diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts as members of our community are able to indicate how they identify and how they would like to be addressed. This is something that has been requested, particularly by students, and I am very grateful to our colleagues in the Office for Diversity, Equity and Community Engagement and GW Information Technology for making this change possible.

## Academic Vision and Priorities

As I reported in Faculty Assembly several weeks ago, I continue to share with units on campus my presentation about my academic vision and priorities for the academic year. This is a presentation I gave to the Board of Trustees in October, and I have since presented it to partner units on campus, including Communications & Marketing and the Division for Student Affairs. I gave a brief update yesterday to the Board of Trustees Executive Committee about our progress in academic planning, research, enrollment, and other provost office initiatives, such as enhancing academic excellence and community development. In particular, the comprehensive assessment of our Diversity, Equity and Inclusion policies and procedures officially kicks off next week with the first meeting of the Diversity Leadership Council.

I look forward to continuing to update the Faculty Senate as we make progress in these areas.