Faculty Senate
Provost Bracey Remarks
May 6, 2022

Good afternoon, everyone. Welcome to the end of a very busy but exciting semester. I know we are in the midst of finals, so I will keep my update short.

Welcome new senators

First, I would like to echo President Wrighton’s welcome to the new Faculty Senators for the 2022-2023 academic year. I look forward to working alongside you all to advance our academic enterprise.

Spring Grades

A quick note on spring grades. It is very important that faculty submit grades as soon as possible after the completion of final exams. University policy requires that grades be submitted within five business days of the final. If the exam is held on the last day of finals (May 10), the grades must be submitted by **Tuesday, May 17**. They can be submitted online 24/7. Grades not being submitted on time can negatively affect a student’s financial aid and academic standing and can delay the conferral of a student’s degree. Please help us honor our commitment to offering students the best possible experience by meeting this deadline.

Dean Search Process Update

School of Nursing. We engaged a search firm in March 2022, and last month, the faculty members of the search committee were approved by the SON Faculty. We anticipate conducting candidate interviews this summer, and hope to name the next dean in the Fall.

We engaged a search firm to conduct the College of Professional Studies in March as well. That committee was more quickly constituted, and the search is a bit further along. We expect candidate interviews to occur this May and June, with a new dean named by the end of June.

Search committees for Provost Office positions

I also wanted to provide you with an update on the search for Provost office positions. Hopefully, you are well aware of the new roles posted in the Provost Office organization for which we are recruiting internally among tenured and full-time faculty. These are the vice provost for faculty affairs, vice provost for graduate and postdoctoral affairs, and the associate provost for undergraduate affairs and special programs. I sent a message to faculty last month alerting them to the postings in order to boost internal applications.
I am pleased to share the composition of the search committees for our internal searches.

**Vice provost for faculty affairs**
- John Philbeck
  Professor, Cognitive Neuroscience, CCAS
- Charalampos (Harris) Mylonas
  Faculty Senate; Associate Professor, Political Science & International Affairs, ESIA
- Vanessa Perry
  Special Advisor to the Dean’s Office; Professor, Marketing and Strategic Management & Public Policy, GWSB
- Terry Murphy
  Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs
- Jennifer Abbruzzese
  Director of Administration for the Provost Office

**Vice provost for graduate and postdoctoral affairs**
- Rumana Riffat
  Professor and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs
  School of Engineering and Applied Science
- Sarah Wagner
  Faculty Senate; Professor of Anthropology, CCAS
- Jane Thorpe
  Senior Associate Dean for Academic, Student and Faculty Affairs; Director, Healthcare Corporate Compliance Program; Professor, Health Policy and Management, SPH
- Terry Murphy
  Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs
- Jennifer Abbruzzese
  Director of Administration

In addition, we are conducting an external search for the **Associate provost for undergraduate affairs and special programs**
- Bethany Cobb Kung
  Director, University Honors Program; Associate Professor, Honors and Physics
- Carly Jordan
  Associate Professor, Biology, CCAS
- Kimberly Gross
  Vice Dean for Programs and Operations; Associate Professor, Media and Public Affairs, CCAS
- Murli Gupta
  Faculty Senate; Professor of Mathematics, CCAS
- Terry Murphy
  Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs
- Jennifer Abbruzzese
  Director of Administration
Vice Provost for Budget and Finance

- Joe Cordes - Co-Director, GWU Regulatory Studies Center
  Professor of Economics, Public Policy & Public Administration, and International Affairs
  The Elliott School of International Affairs
- Susan Kulp - Director, MBA Programs
  Professor of Accountancy
  The George Washington School of Business
- Terry Murphy
- Jennifer Abbruzzese

The committees anticipate conducting interviews in May. These are important roles in the provost organization, and we are eager to identify the best candidates who will assist with the growth of our academic and research enterprises and improve the quality of our student experience.

Commencement

A quick word on Commencement. As President Wrighton said, we are very excited for Commencement Week and the ceremony at the National Mall on May 15. I look forward to celebrating the Class of 2022 alongside our faculty, staff and university administration. Like President Wrighton, I am hoping to attend a few additional diploma ceremonies as my schedule permits.

Academic planning

I also want to provide you with an update on our academic planning effort. Earlier this semester, President Wrighton and I met with the deans to discuss academic priorities and to begin identifying budget themes and opportunities for pan-university initiatives that will distinguish the George Washington University. We organized these themes and ideas into a digestible document, and I have met several times with the deans to begin discussing these opportunities. The deans will meet with their faculty and advisory boards to discuss potential options, and then we will reconvene to begin making decisions about which ones will be pursued.

Some of the emerging themes:

- General Aspirations
  - Building a world-class faculty
  - Attracting the most qualified and diverse students
  - Advancing cross disciplinary engagement

- Operational Areas of Investment
  - Expanding online instructional offerings
  - Developing the classroom of the future

- Specific Programs/Initiatives
  - Penn West/Innovation District
Research Showcase

We had a wonderful Research Showcase event in April. Approximately 400 undergrad, grad, and professional students participated in the virtual event to present their research, scholarship, and innovation. They received thoughtful feedback on their projects from faculty judges and honed their presentation skills. It was a demonstration of our commitment to advancing the research enterprise at all levels. We must continue to support these experiential opportunities so students may learn practical skills that will serve them well in their careers. I am deeply grateful to Vice Provost Pam Norris, the OVPR team, and all the faculty mentors and judges who made this event possible.

Diversity Program Review

The Diversity Program Review climate survey launched in April and has enjoyed a healthy response rate. Promotional materials were distributed to schools and colleges to assist with the promotion of the survey, which closes May 20. It takes 20 minutes to complete, so please take the time to complete the survey before it closes, and encourage all your colleagues and students to do the same. The survey is collecting critical information that will help inform our path moving forward. My thanks to Caroline Laguerre-Brown, Jordan West, and the whole Diversity Program Review Team for their continued efforts in this endeavor.

Moment of Reflection

As we close out the academic year, I hope that you all take a moment to reflect upon all that we have accomplished together this year. We returned to an in-person residential learning experience, and did so safely in the face of a lingering pandemic. We celebrated our bicentennial, and began our third century as a university. We supported one another, our students, and our staff who join our effort in ensuring that our students have an exceptional learning experience. We weathered a transition in leadership, worked collectively to improve shared governance, and are now restoring critical human resources and functionality that was lost during the pandemic. We have re-discovered our institutional north star – focused excellence in our academic programs of study and the knowledge production enterprise. We have done amazing things together this academic year. I encourage you to really take a moment to reflect on what we have achieved, and then let’s commit to generating even greater institutional momentum.