

## Colleagues,

GW's inaugural Staff Council has been in office for a little over a month, and we've begun the great work of moving forward to meet the <u>mission and goals</u> set forth in the Staff Council Bylaws. Among our goals will be to truly listen to GW staff, build an inclusive community of support across units, divisions, schools, and position titles, and to advocate for and to be agents of positive change.

As we move forward, we will do so with transparency, open communication, and in the spirit of collaboration. We have a lot of work to do, and over the coming weeks, we look forward to our first meetings with the five standing committees. This is where the transformative work will occur, and the committee members will be at the heart of the Council's success. The officers and elected representatives will need the staff community of all levels to join us to shepherd the change that we want to see.

We have heard questions from many staff about the Council's purpose and that many approach the idea with caution after years of advocacy for a staff representative group. To address those questions, the Staff Council is very real, and we will work diligently to meet the goals set out in the guiding documents. This year will be a year to build the structure of the Council based on a framework that the Staff Council Committee set forth in the Bylaws, and we will set the precedent for years to come.

However, we cannot do it alone. We need your voice and help! Please consider:

- 1. Signing up for our listserv. After this message, only official business, like elections, will be sent out to our full staff listserv. We will send meeting announcements, newsletters, events, etc, through our opt-in listserv.
- 2. <u>Sign up to join a committee</u>. When you sign up for the listserv, you will be asked if you would like to be involved in a committee and select any that interest you. A list and description of the committees can be <u>found</u> on <u>our website</u>.
- 3. Submit any <u>ideas or feedback</u> that you have for the Council. You can also reach out directly to your representative, the staff council <u>email address</u>, or any of the Executive Officers. Our <u>website lists</u> all elected and appointed members of the Staff Council with their email addresses. We are also here to support your department or division by attending staff meetings.
- 4. Attend our Council meetings virtually. The full Council meets on the third Friday of each month from 10 amnoon. A list of all the meeting dates, agendas, and minutes are on <u>our website</u>. Our <u>July Meeting Minutes</u> are available now and include notes from a visit from President Granberg, as well as a resolution thanking President Wrighton for his support and a welcome to President Granberg.
- 5. Follow us on Facebook or Instagram.

GW staff make up the Council which includes voting and non-voting members, and we are over 2,000 strong. This is OUR council, and we hope you will join us. Best wishes as we embark on a new school year, and we look forward to the good work to come.

Sincerely,

**Bridget Schwartz**, President **Kim Fulmer**, Vice President

Andrea Willis-Johnson, Historian Raymond Rozario, Treasurer Mindy Galván, Parliamentarian Nicole Mintz, Chair Staff Experience Committee Alexandra Washington, Justice, Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion Chair Amy-Leah Joaquim, Service Committee Chair Amanda Kohn, Interim Communications Chair









This message was sent to all staff members represented under the Staff Council Bylaws. This includes "full-time and regular part-time, nonexecutive benefited staff of the George Washington University (as defined by Human Resources), to include both exempt and non-exempt staff (individual contributors and managers), who have successfully completed their Introductory Employment Period and who are not represented by a union or subject to any collective bargaining agreement."

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