

The GW Hatchet

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What's inside



JACK FONSECA | CONTRIBUTING PHOTO EDITOR
University President Thomas LeBlanc answers questions about the strategic planning process at a Faculty Senate meeting Friday.

Committees to begin work on University's strategic planning process

ZACH SCHONFELD
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

University President Thomas LeBlanc's framework for GW's next strategic plan will prioritize student perspectives and include feedback from the GW community, officials said. LeBlanc announced four pillars – distinguished and distinctive graduate education, high-quality undergraduate education, world-class faculty and high-impact research – as the “framework” for the University's next strategic

plan at a town hall meeting Thursday. LeBlanc said the four pillars form the “basis” for a “modern” university's organization, administration and rankings. “The breaking of our work up into those four areas, I think, made a lot of sense,” LeBlanc said in an interview. “It's consistent with the structure of the University.” He added that his five strategic initiatives – philanthropy and constituent engagement, student experience, research, medical enterprise and institutional

culture – which he identified shortly after arriving to GW two years ago, set a “foundation” that complements the four pillars by pinpointing specific areas for improvement. Four committees – one for each pillar – will gather input from the community, examine the current condition of their respective pillar and propose recommendations to the Board of Trustees by February. The committees are led by a faculty chair and vice chair and will be composed of undergraduate and graduate faculty,

staff and student members. “The five strategic initiatives, you could almost say, is the platform on which we can imagine doing planning,” LeBlanc said. “So I hope that much of the work of those committees can now be built onto the pillars.” LeBlanc said at a Faculty Senate meeting Friday that the committee heads were selected by “academic leadership,” including the president and the deans of GW's 10 schools. See **COMMITTEES** Page 4

Fiscal year 2020 budget funds several major capital projects

MEREDITH ROATEN & PARTH KOTAK
SENIOR STAFF WRITERS

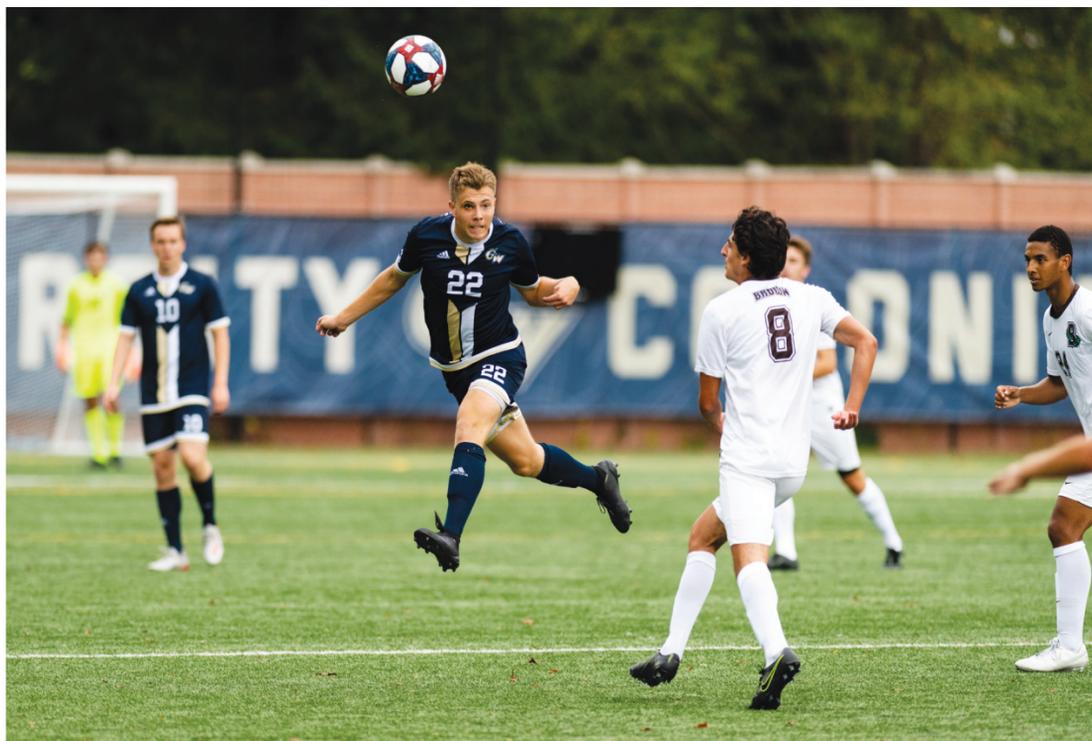
Officials will spend tens of millions of dollars on large capital projects in fiscal year 2020 while planning for reduced enrollment and increased STEM investment in the future. The University's revenues and expenses approached \$1.2 billion last fiscal year after a record-high freshman class enrolled two years ago, according to a presentation from the Faculty Senate committee on fiscal planning and budgeting Friday. Officials said the budget funds several major facilities and construction projects and includes new line items to account for a slight reduction in expenses. University President Thomas LeBlanc said at the meeting that budget considerations focus on the University's plans for reducing enrollment by about 20 percent and achieving excellence in the four pillars underlying GW's next strategic plan. The University's strategic enrollment initiatives call for an increase in the share of science, technology, engineering and math majors from 20 to 30 percent of the undergraduate student body, according to the report. LeBlanc – who arrived at GW two years ago with the goal of prioritizing STEM research – said boosting the proportion of STEM students will add value to the University because the demand for

STEM degrees is growing. “There is a national demographic trend for STEM, especially for first-generation students because there's a direct connection between a major and a job,” he said at the meeting. **Operating budget** The University generated about \$1.2 billion in revenue this fiscal year, nearly the same as the previous fiscal year, according to the presentation. Officials estimate the University will incur about \$5 million less in expenditures – along with \$6 million in expense reductions – leaving a 0.9 percent operating margin. Officials plan to earn more than \$800 million from net tuition and fees, nearly \$30 million more than last year. Funding from the University's endowment and income from housing are expected to bring in more than \$200 million combined, according to the report. Administrators plan to spend nearly \$40 million more on salaries and benefits in fiscal year 2020, a 3.7 percent increase from the previous year, according to the report. As of March 31, 2019, the University's external debt hit \$1.87 billion, about the same size as the school's endowment as of fiscal year 2018, according to the presentation. GW's outstanding debt, excluding endowment debt, reached \$1.6 billion last fiscal year, the presentation states. See **BUDGET** Page 2

GW nearly outnumbers A-10 in international student-athlete presence

BELLE LONG
CONTRIBUTING SPORTS EDITOR

Look to the court, in the pool and on the field to find one of the most globally diverse athletic programs in the Atlantic 10. International students represent nearly 16 percent of the total student-athlete population, accounting for 73 of the 461 student-athletes, according to data collected from GW rosters. GW tallies the second highest percentage of international student-athletes in the A-10, just behind VCU's roughly 19 percent global student population. Student-athletes said GW's location in the nation's capital and a relatively high percentage of international students across the University attracted them to the school and helped them acclimate to collegiate life and athletics. Coaches said international student-athletes bring experience of different playing styles from around the world, giving teams an edge over their A-10 peers. “GW has always been an internationally renowned university, so we're always going to attract international students whether we are going out and finding them or whether they're coming to us,” men's soccer head coach Craig Jones said. **International population across teams** Of the 461 student-athletes at GW, 15.8 percent call a foreign country home. Students hailing from 35



ERIC LEE | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
German graduate student midfielder and defender Sandro Weber heads the ball during Saturday's game against Brown.

different countries – including Egypt, Australia, Slovakia and Japan – comprise the international student-athlete community. Four GW programs – men's and women's tennis, men's squash and golf – are more than 50 percent international. Eleven programs – men's and women's cross country and track and field, women's rowing, baseball, softball, lacrosse and women's basketball – have an entirely American roster.

Men's and women's tennis hold the highest proportion of international players of all GW programs, with two-thirds of players coming from a combined eight different countries. Golf holds the second highest proportion of international-to-American players with five international golfers and three Americans. Golf head coach Chuck Scheinost said he aims to give his golfers exposure to international playing styles

because other athletes can gain a more diverse knowledge of the game. “It's cool to see them interact and learn about other cultures and how other people think, because in today's world we are global in the way we deal with everything,” Scheinost said. Scheinost added that golf is generally popular on the international stage and he chooses the strongest recruits he finds. “With golf, it just

depends on the year,” Scheinost said. “Some years international kids are stronger candidates and some years local kids are.” Men's and women's squash head coach Anderson Good said players from different regions, like Egypt and Malaysia, prioritize different aspects of the game, like attacking and fitness. He added that recruiting an array of students from international and domestic backgrounds gives players

exposure to different playing styles to bolster their play in competition. “That's the best part, because we're bringing all these different styles of play, all these different ways to approach the game and make it one smorgasbord,” Good said. “We learn from each other and grow collectively because of it.” **Global A-10 presence** Compared to other A-10 schools, GW maintains the second largest international student-athlete population, clocking in at 15.8 percent. VCU outpaces GW with a 19.2 percent student-athlete population. International students account for less than 10 percent of the student-athlete population at eight A-10 schools – Rhode Island, Saint Joseph's, Fordham, Massachusetts, Richmond, Duquesne, Dayton and Davidson. At Duquesne, only about 2.9 percent of the student-athlete population is international. Fordham and St. Bonaventure have two teams comprised of mostly international players, and Saint Louis, Massachusetts and Richmond all have one team with a global presence. Davidson, Dayton, La Salle, George Mason and Saint Joseph's do not have programs with a majority of international student-athletes. **GWHATCHET.COM** **H** for international student-athletes in the A-10 and at GW

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News

September 16, 2019 • Page 2

CRIME LOG

SIMPLE ASSAULT (DOMESTIC VIOLENCE), DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY

District House
9/3/2019 – 3:15 p.m.
Closed Case
A student reported to the GW Police Department that he overheard an assault between a male student and a female student. GWPD officers who arrived on scene learned that the two subjects threw personal belongings at each other, damaging a closet. Metropolitan Police Department officers responded to the scene and placed both subjects under arrest for simple assault. MPD officers transported the students to the Second District police station for processing. The subjects declined to comment.

Subject arrested

THEFT II/FROM BUILDING

Academic Center
9/4/2019 – 12:30 p.m.
Open Case
A female faculty member reported to GWPD that someone stole her backpack from her office.

Case open

HARASSMENT (VERBAL OR WRITTEN)

Public Property On Campus (600 Block of 23rd Street)
9/4/2019 – 12:30 p.m.
Closed Case
GWPD responded to a report that a man unaffiliated with the University was yelling obscenities and harassing pedestrians. GWPD officers issued the man a warning bar notice.

Subject barred

THREATS TO DO BODILY HARM

Hensley Hall (MVC)
9/4/2019 – 9:44 p.m.
Closed Case
A female student reported to GWPD that she received text messages from an unknown subject who was threatening bodily harm. The unknown subject later said it was a joke.

Referred to Title IX

THEFT II/FROM BUILDING

1922 F St.
Unknown – Unknown
Open Case
A staff member reported to GWPD that someone stole their computer adapters.

Case open

THEFT II/FROM BUILDING

Lisner Hall
Unknown – Unknown
Open Case
A male faculty member reported to GWPD that a casebook was stolen from his desk in his office.

Case open

VOYEURISM

Duques Hall
9/9/2019 – 2:45 p.m.
Open Case
A male faculty member reported to GWPD that he was a victim of voyeurism while he was in the men's bathroom. GWPD searched the area and could not find the suspect.

Case open

THEFT II/OTHER

2109 F St.
Unknown – Unknown
Closed Case
GWPD officers discovered a traffic cone in two female students' residence hall room during a health inspection.

Case open

—Compiled by Kateryna Stepanenko

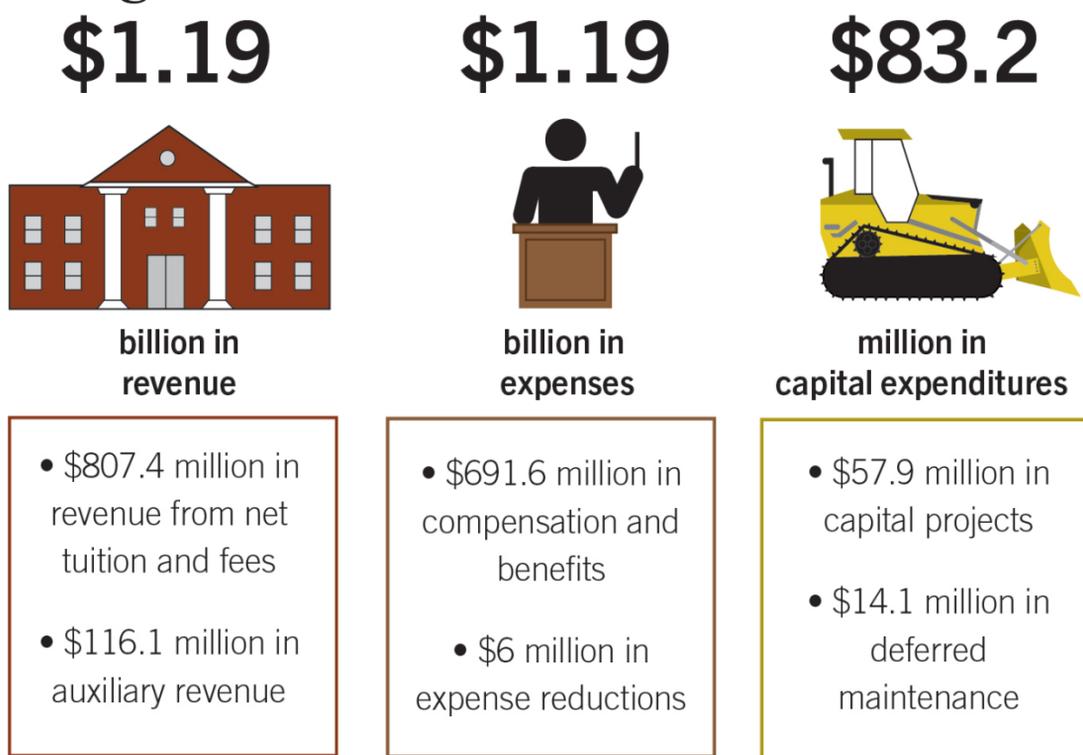
SNAPSHOT

ERIC LEE | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Swedish climate change activist Greta Thunberg joins young activists in front of the White House Thursday.

Budget includes funds for facilities, IT



Source: Faculty Senate Fiscal Planning and Budgeting Committee report

ALYSSA ILARIA | GRAPHICS EDITOR

From Page 1

Joseph Cordes, a professor of economics and the chair of the fiscal planning and budgeting committee, said the University's plan to reduce enrollment by 20 percent over the next five years will increase reliance on graduate tuition revenues, a more volatile revenue stream.

The University's finances took a hit in 2014 when graduate enrollment unexpectedly took a dip, resulting in a \$20 million deficit.

Cordes said that before cutting budgets, he expects officials to find other ways to close the gap in revenues caused by the enrollment decrease, like larger endowment payouts.

The presentation included Cordes' unofficial financial estimates to model how the reduction in enrollment will affect the University's revenues. The model states that GW will experience a \$9.2 million revenue gap in academic year 2020-21 after enrollment reduces and officials transition to a floating tuition model. The gap will grow to \$37.5 million by academic year 2023-24, according to the report.

Cordes said the University could also consider reducing the tuition discount rate – the average discount given to students off of the sticker price of tuition – for

non-STEM students from the current average of about 40 percent to 35 percent.

But Cordes said to meet the University's goal of increasing its STEM student ratio, officials may have to boost the tuition discount rate for STEM students higher than about 51 percent – where it currently lies – to compete with more attractive institutions. The average tuition discount rate for all majors landed at about 42.3 percent in fiscal year 2019.

Cordes added that STEM students generally need specialized facilities, which come with a hefty price tag. The Science and Engineering Hall, completed in 2014, cost GW \$275 million.

"Unlike an econ major – where you need a whiteboard and marker – you need more to educate undergrad STEM majors," he said.

Capital budget

Officials plan to spend \$41 million this fiscal year for projects that cost more than \$3.5 million, a 76 percent increase from the previous year, according to the presentation. Projects include an overhaul of renovations to Thurston and other residence halls and ongoing construction on the Corcoran School of the Arts and Design's Flagg Building.

The fiscal year 2020 budget calls for \$83.2 million across all capital projects,

including deferred maintenance for facilities and information technology projects, according to the presentation. The projects will be funded through a combination of about \$35.8 million in cash and \$47.4 million in debt.

The fiscal year 2020 capital budget is about 20 percent of GW's five-year, \$424.2 million capital plan.

Cordes highlighted a few additional sources of revenue for the University, like the partial sale of patent rights to a new drug developed by GW researchers for a lump sum of \$20 million and revenues from the 2100 Penn construction project, which he estimated would amount to about \$9 million annually.

Cordes said the University may earn revenue from the acquisition of a new building on H Street next to the School of Media and Public Affairs that was formerly owned by the Hospital for Sick Children Foundation for \$23 million.

LeBlanc said the new sources of money would be employed alongside some cost-saving measures to maintain financial stability.

Officials will shell out about \$14.1 million for deferred maintenance on facilities and IT projects, a new line item on the budget that is intended to demonstrate more openness in the bud-

get process.

Budget transparency

Cordes said the fiscal year 2020 budget includes an adjustment for depreciation, a common practice in corporate accounting, and \$2 million allocated for contingency funding, which he said would gradually ratchet up over time.

Officials announced last May that they would build up the University's reserve funds to protect against any financial hardships to come.

Cordes said officials are implementing measures to bring the University's budget closer in line with best practices for accounting by including line items for future expenses and strategizing for contingencies.

He said officials included a line item for the University's strategic initiatives this year that has not appeared in previous budgets. Although officials have not allocated any money under the item, Cordes said including a space on the budget for the initiatives will keep administrators accountable for achieving their goals.

Officials have pulled back on funding for strategic goals in the past. Administrators cut \$8.2 million from the strategic plan in 2014 because of revenue shortfalls.

"If you're going forward with the strategic plan, you ought to incorporate it into your budget," he said.

Milken professor 'passionate about helping' dies at 62

SHANNON MALLARD
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Milken Institute School of Public Health professor Phillip Lucas died at 62 late last month, according to an obituary on the Snowden Funeral Home website.

Lucas, a professional lecturer in the Department of Exercise and Nutrition Sciences who joined GW faculty

in fall 2013, taught a course on human sexuality. He held an annual event where students created presentations on topics pertinent to the subject.

"He was passionate about helping individuals, groups and families impacted by loss and trauma and about educating helpers on the long reaching impact of loss," the obituary states.

Lucas taught for 20 years

across many schools including GW, the School of Social Work at Howard University and the clinical counseling program at Trinity University, according to the obituary.

He was a licensed social worker in D.C. and Florida and worked as a consultant, trainer and psychotherapist for more than 30 years, the obituary states.

Lucas was the owner and

founder of Clinical and Administrative Services and Training, a business that offers education programs for behavioral health professionals that cover themes like mental health, loss and bereavement, substance abuse, human sexuality, disaster and trauma and child welfare.

Lucas served as a consultant at the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services

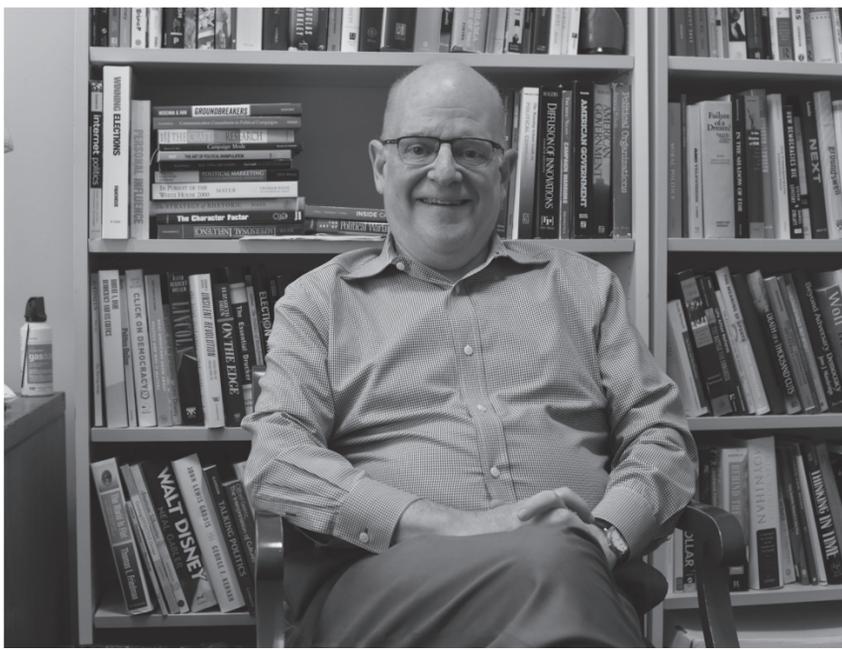
Administration's Disaster Technical Assistance Center, worked as a Red Cross disaster and mental health volunteer and held a national certification in transgender care.

He chaired the Mayor's Advisory Committee on Child Abuse and Neglect. The D.C. Metro Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers recognized Lucas as Educator of the Year in 2011,

and the organization previously awarded him a Lifetime Achievement Award.

Patti Plaza, the director of the health education and physical activity programs in the exercise and nutrition sciences department, said Lucas had "exceptional" energy and style, and he loved teaching students.

"He will be deeply, deeply missed," Plaza said.



ALEXANDER WELLING | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR
Michael Cornfield, GSPM's PEORIA Project director, said the projects are ways to collect actionable political data.

GSPM researchers launch two new projects ahead of 2020 election

JARED GANS & ILENA PENG
CONTRIBUTING NEWS EDITORS

Graduate School of Political Management researchers are gearing up for the upcoming 2020 presidential election with two new projects.

Ahead of the 2020 election, GSPM faculty formed a "Weekly Tweeterboard" late last month to track Twitter mentions of 2020 presidential candidates and released a second report on conversations included in the Democratic debates Monday. Officials said the projects are an effort to find new ways to collect actionable political data that could provide insight into the upcoming election.

University spokesman Jason Shevrin said the school is still "finalizing its plans" for events related to the election, but he expects the election to be a "hot topic" in political management courses that will be included in the school's events this semester.

Michael Cornfield, the founder of the Public Echoes of Rhetoric in America Project and an associate professor of political management, said the school's Tweeterboard includes the top tweet by each current major candidate and the top tweet by each candidate's top respondent. The board shows the top 10 most mentioned candidates in descending order based on the number of Twitter mentions they received in that week.

The board also shows information about changes in the number of mentions compared to the previous week and the most retweeted and liked post about each candidate.

"As the field of candidates narrows, the Tweeterboard and our reports will feature more data and observations about specific issues," Cornfield said in an email.

The PEORIA Project is an ongoing GSPM research project that studies how members of the public discuss political candidates and how candidates' messages influence so-

cial media.

Cornfield said the data for the Tweeterboard is gathered through a collection of tweets from Boston-based consumer insights company Crimson Hexagon. Researchers search for the most retweeted tweet by the leading candidates and the top commenter for each candidate, focusing on "expressive attentives," or people who pay attention to and tweet regularly about politics.

He said studying the expressive attentives can reveal more useful information compared to only studying members of the general public who typically do not initiate political involvement.

"Our data is wilder," he said. "It's more spontaneous, it's more vulgar. But sometimes it's also extremely insightful. There are a lot of smart people out there."

Cornfield said the PEORIA Project released its second report, which detailed the issues discussed in the third Democratic presidential debate, on Monday. The project's previous report detailed immigration's dominance as a topic of conversation in the first debates.

He said project researchers will also test a predictive model, which uses social media statistics to predict outcomes, after more candidates drop out. Cornfield said researchers will build the model by looking "backward" at elections from the past decade to determine whether factors like a jump in Twitter followers before an election correlates with a win.

He said the researchers aim to learn about how media outlets and candidates differ in the topics they want to discuss and what activists on Twitter want to talk or hear about. He added that researchers also examined which words Twitter users associate with the candidates.

"We'll be able to say, 'Here's when the media talks about immigration on their Twitter feeds. Here's what they're emphasizing,'" he said. "So you'll see a contrast in how each of these important groups treats the same subject."

The first meeting about the model was held Wednesday with GSPM Political Management Program Director Todd Belt, GSPM Director Lara Brown – who is currently on sabbatical – and Meagan O'Neill, a recently-hired research scientist who will work full-time on the predictive model. He added that the group hopes to begin presenting results in 2020.

He said the reports will be made available on the project's website as they are released and are intended to show social science scholars how social media can be mined for "usable intelligence." He added that the project is making "every effort" to use "plain English" to explain the reports' findings to make them accessible for non-specialized audiences.

Katherine Brandt, a second-year graduate student pursuing a political management degree and a researcher for the PEORIA Project, said researchers began their analysis of this election cycle by analyzing the candidates' campaign announcements to see how candidates' speech tied into existing conversations and sparked new conversations on Twitter.

"It's a two-way street – we're looking at this, at how the candidates try to get their message out and get it picked up in mainstream Twitter, but also how mainstream Twitter is reverberating up back to the candidates and how that is," she said.

She added that the research focuses on what different groups perceive as key issues, citing the importance of health care policy in Democratic debates so far despite immigration being the "biggest issue" on Twitter. She said the differences offer insight into how people interact in our democracy.

"We're looking at the divergences and those conversations and why we think those things are happening, but the 'why' is later," Brandt said. "Right now, we're just collecting the fact that we see this difference."

Nearly 20 percent of hall council seats vacant after RHA elections

AVI BAJPAI
REPORTER

After nearly all Residence Hall Association positions were filled in 2017, about three-fourths of the RHA hall council seats were uncontested in last week's elections.

Of 135 hall council positions across the University's 27 residence halls, only 80 seats – or 60 percent of positions – were contested in last week's RHA elections. Students who ran for hall council said a decrease in candidates running for positions could be a result of lacking a sense of community within residence halls.

After elections Thursday, 28 seats across 11 residence halls and Greek life communities remained vacant. In 2017, 85 percent of halls boasted full hall councils after elections.

RHA President Trinity Diaz said six fewer candidates are running than last year, but students can still write in candidates for unfilled seats. Diaz said if seats remain vacant after the write-in process, the executive board will approach students in each hall and ask them to fill positions, and the e-board will vote for the candidates.

"Email is how we get to every student as well as social media," Diaz said. "And then we also have some different in-person touch points. I attended [resident adviser] training, as well as house manager training, to help get the word out here."

Students running for uncontested positions in their residence halls said residents may have chosen not to run because they were not aware of opportunities to get involved with the RHA, like council positions.

Stefano Annoscia, a sophomore and the president-elect of 1959 E St., said students may not run for hall council in his residence hall because residents typically do not express issues within their

hall that would prompt advocacy. But he said his position as president provides an opportunity to gain leadership experience and foster a sense of community in the hall.

Annoscia said he is worried about handling the leadership responsibilities that would come if he has an understaffed hall council. One week after elections, during which residents could write in candidates who had not initially campaigned, the other four 1959 E St. council positions are still empty.

"It really puts the pressure on me as an individual to triple-check every decision I make and to balance my time better since I'm going to have a lot more duties than I bargained for," he said.

1959 E St. houses students in the Focus on Fall Abroad Community, a group of students who spend their fall semesters studying abroad and return to campus in the spring to live with exchange students. Annoscia said FOAC and exchange students are less likely to participate in the RHA because they are not on campus for as long as most undergraduate students.

He added that students' lack of school spirit could indicate low participation in this year's elections, because students might not feel as invested in improving the sense of community in residence halls as students at other schools.

Candidates vying for Student Association positions this spring ran on platforms to improve campus community.

Officials are planning to add community lounges to Thurston Hall as part of their two-year renovation plan. Cissy Petty, the vice president for student affairs and the dean of students, pushed officials to add more common spaces in Shenkman Hall during her weeklong stay in the residence hall.

"There's not a lot of community involvement

in this school, there's not a lot of school pride and there's not a lot of willingness to build a good community at GW," Annoscia said.

Grace Douvos, the president-elect of Clark Hall, said several residents expressed interest in running for write-in ballots after the deadline to run for hall council. She said she expects students to participate in hall councils after elections, during which e-board members ask residents to fill vacant positions in their halls.

Douvos said she wants to coordinate campuswide social events with leaders from neighboring halls and continue past events the RHA has hosted, like self-care nights.

She added that she will hold monthly hall-wide meetings to give residents a chance to regularly communicate with her. Douvos said she plans to hold a meeting to gauge residents' interest in filling the seats that were left empty in her hall after the election.

Cody Ingraham – the president-elect of graduate residence hall The Aston, which will house upperclassmen during the Thurston Hall renovation process – said graduate students are less interested in the RHA than undergraduates are because graduate students have jobs and spend less time in their residence halls.

"You don't quite have the same investment in community from the get-go," he said. "People are living all over the place, you're seeing people usually once a week and everyone is busy with their jobs."

Ingraham said he plans to organize social outings and host gatherings for students to relieve stress during finals.

"Since we live so close to campus in GW housing, I think Aston residents have the greatest opportunity and convenience to get involved," Ingraham said. "I hope I can be a catalyst in helping encourage that."



ARIELLE BADER | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR
Residence Hall Association President Trinity Diaz said the organization may start approaching students to ask them to consider filling empty residence hall positions.

New director to bring novel approach to business school career center

ZACH SCHONFELD
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

The School of Business' new career center director will focus on career outcomes and prioritize students under his "new vision" for the center.

Since officials hired Mark Strassman to head the business school's F. David Fowler Career Center in April, he has restructured the center's staff to remove "barriers" for students and created a seven-step coaching "action plan." Administrators and students said the changes will improve students' job prospects after graduation, ultimately improving the business school's reputation.

"We're there to make sure that you are the best person you can be in front of the employer," Strassman said. "Of course, we're there also to open as many doors, so it is being in enough places where you're finally in the right place at the right time."

Bringing a fresh perspective

While he entered the position with no prior experience in higher education, Strassman said his background in

the private sector taught him to emphasize outcomes, like job placement and internships, because outcomes are among students' top priorities.

"I come from corporate executive search, where you need to fill jobs," Strassman said. "When you have a client who is saying, 'Find a new CFO,' or, 'Find me a VP of finance,' you can't say, 'Yeah, I'll do my best.' You have to have the answers, and you have to turn over every stone until you find the answers."

Administrators posted a job opening in February for an international student career consultant, but Strassman said officials are no longer searching for someone to fill the role because all career coaches in the center should have the expertise to assist those students. The staff's training includes a focus on both domestic and international companies, he said.

Strassman said he is prioritizing a staff of full-time career coaches, which has caused some part-time and remote staff to leave the center. At least four career center staff members departed from the career center within the past year, according to their

LinkedIn profiles.

Strassman added that career consultants are now no longer assigned to either undergraduate or graduate students because limiting consultants to a specific level placed an unnecessary barrier to student coaching.

"There's no reason why somebody who coaches undergraduates shouldn't be coaching graduates and someone who coaches graduates shouldn't be coaching undergraduates," Strassman said. "It's about areas of expertise – data analytics is data analytics. I don't care which program you're in, being a consultant is being a consultant."

Only one undergraduate career consultant was previously listed on the center's website before the change.

Avery Yoss, a sophomore concentrating in arts management in the business school, said having a career coach with expertise in her specific field is more helpful to her than working with a coach specific to undergraduate students.

"I went to a coach in the career center, and she has a specialty in arts management – which is what I want to do

– and she was already telling me about internships you can get into," she said. "If I didn't get someone who was interested in arts management, that wouldn't be as helpful."

Creating a coaching action plan

Strassman said he and his staff developed a new "action plan" that maps out the seven major steps of the job or internship placement process: self-assessment and visioning, research, resume and cover letter construction, personal brand and reputation building, network development and networking, the interview process and managing the offer process.

Strassman said he has worked with career center staff to be "proactive" in reaching out to students through the center's newsletters and social media accounts. While the center has expanded and restructured its resources, Strassman said many students never seek out help or use the center's consultants.

"This action plan now works to be able to convert that visit or that one outreach to where we can end up seven steps down the road to

helping them negotiate their salary for employment," Strassman said.

He added that the school is "changing the model" of its Communities of Practice programs, like the Real Estate and Finance Alliance Mentorship Program and the Mentoring and Immersion Program for Consulting, from last year to accept any student that shows commitment on the application.

Sim Mittal, a student lead for the Mentoring and Immersion Program for Consulting and a former Hatchet reporter, said the new model will provide "a lot of benefits" to participants by offering programs with three different levels of complexity, giving students the opportunity to experiment and find out whether their chosen career field is for them.

Mittal added that since the program is no longer "exclusive," more students can take advantage of it and improve their employment prospects. The programs have a 100 percent job placement rate, according to a presentation made at a Faculty Senate meeting by business school Dean Anuj Mehrotra Friday.

Collaborating to achieve success

Strassman said he wants to be a part of Mehrotra's push to improve the business school community by prioritizing student success and a culture of transparency. Business school faculty said that Mehrotra has ushered in a welcoming culture in his first year by consistently encouraging feedback from faculty and staff.

He added that Mehrotra has been hands-off in a "good" way with the career center's work because the dean trusts and backs the career center staff's decisions.

"I had this vision of what a dean of a business school would feel like or sound like, and I couldn't have been more wrong, at least here," Strassman said. "He is such a positive, energetic influence whose main focus is what's best for the student."

Mehrotra said he supports Strassman's vision for the center and added that Strassman brings a lot of "talent" and "creative ideas" to the center.

"I have complete confidence in Mark to be able to take us to the next level," he said in an interview.

Six Blue, Yellow line stations reopen with new lights, slip-resistant tiles

LIA DEGROOT

ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

After a summerlong partial shutdown for upgrades to six stations south of Reagan National Airport, the Metro line that Foggy Bottom residents depend on is up and running on schedule.

Six stations on the Blue and Yellow lines were shut down during June, July and August while the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority added slip-resistant tile and LED lights to stations to create safer riding conditions. WMATA officials said working through the summer was less disruptive to riders because there are fewer people taking the lines during the summer months.

"We are incredibly thankful to our customers, residents and nearby businesses for their understanding this summer as we reconstructed six station platforms – at the same time – in the largest and most complex capital project since Metro's original construction," WMATA general manager Paul Wiedefeld said in a release last week.

Six stations south of Reagan National Airport – Brad-dock Road, King Street-Old Town, Eisenhower Avenue,



Six Metro stations on the Blue and Yellow lines reopened this fall after summer construction.

Huntington, Van Dorn Street and Franconia-Springfield – are now renovated with slip-resistant tile, LED lights and upgraded train status screens, the release states.

The stations now offer phone charging areas and an announcement system that is easier to hear, according to the release.

"When the project is complete this fall, customers will benefit not only from safer

infrastructure but a more modern and convenient station experience," Wiedefeld said in the release.

Hewitt, the contractor that headed the renovations, is working for free to replace station signs the company wrote in the incorrect font, DCist reported last week. The station signs were printed in Helvetica Black but should have been printed in Helvetica Bold, according to

DCist.

Ian Jannetta, a WMATA spokesman, said riders have not reported a noticeable change in ridership during the week the Blue Line ran again.

"While it's too early to analyze ridership data, we know the majority of our riders stayed with Metro by taking advantage of free shuttle buses and regular Metrobus routes over the summer, so

we do not anticipate a long-term negative impact on ridership," Jannetta said.

Riders who used the Metro line this summer said the partial shutdown added extra hours to their summer job or internship commutes, but they have not noticed major improvements since the line has reopened.

Mehrun Huda, a sophomore who commutes to campus from the King's Street station – seven stops away from Foggy Bottom – said traveling to her on-campus job was difficult because taking the bus instead of the train added about 40 minutes to her commute. She said the shuttle buses often arrived late, and her dad would drop her off at the Pentagon City station, where she would take the Metro to Foggy Bottom.

"It was a really frustrating experience, especially with the shuttle buses, because sometimes I didn't know if there was a schedule when they would come," Huda said.

She said her commute is easier now because she can skip the bus ride and take a shorter trip to campus. Huda said that while WMATA's adjustments to the line made the trains look "cleaner," they

have not affected her daily commute.

Stefanos Psaltis-Ivano, a Metro rider who commutes from Alexandria, Va. to Dupont Circle for work, said the shutdown added about 30 minutes to his usually 50-minute ride. He said he has noticed improvements to his station's platform, namely repainted concrete that was falling apart before renovations.

"I can definitely tell before, when I was taking the Metro, the stations were near crumbling," he said.

Taylor Young, a sophomore who stayed on campus this summer to work as a canvasser for an advocacy organization, said the Blue Line shutdown added about an hour to her regularly 30-minute trip to canvas in areas south of Reagan National Airport.

She said commuting to stations south of the airport again has helped her canvassing team get to and from their five-hour shifts within 30 minutes.

"Old Town Alexandria is a great place to canvas," she said. "Now we can get there within the hours that a lot of people are on the streets and that will increase the donations that we get."



Business school Dean Anuj Mehrotra said the school is focusing on building more flexible, specialized academic programs for graduate students.

Business school focuses on graduate programs as enrollment falls

JARED GANS & ZACH SCHONFELD

ASSISTANT NEWS EDITORS

Graduate enrollment in the School of Business dropped slightly this year amid annual increases in applications, officials said.

Business school Dean Anuj Mehrotra said at a Faculty Senate meeting Friday that 1,588 students enrolled in the school's graduate programs in 2019, compared to 1,627 students last year, according to institutional data. Officials said the rise in applications and the number of incoming students are the results of "intentional" decisions to offer new academic programs.

This year marked the seventh consecutive year the business school experienced a graduate enrollment decline, down from 2,107 students in 2012, the highest graduate enrollment in 10 years, according to institutional data. The school experienced a nearly 9 percent annual increase in the number of graduate applications and admitted about 11 percent more graduate students compared to last year, according to the presentation.

Mehrotra told the senate that the increase in graduate applications is unique to GW. Most of the consistently top-ranked business schools have faced declines in graduate applications, according to an analysis by Poets & Quants, a business school news site.

"This is healthy in terms of the percentage increase from our perspective, compared to some of the peer and aspirational institutions," Mehrotra said at the meeting.

Mehrotra attributed the rise in applications to a "reimagined" graduate education, which includes new certificate and degree program offerings customized to a student's interests and job commitments. The changes reflect adaptations to increasing demand from students for greater flexibility in their studies, he said.

The business school now

offers five Master of Business Administration formats and 12 specialized master's degrees, according to the dean's presentation. Administrators began offering an accelerated MBA program this fall, which packs classes into Wednesday evenings and Saturdays.

"We truly believe that if we listen to the market, and we keep the student interest in mind, this is one way the curriculum innovation is really going to help achieve those enrollments," Mehrotra said in an interview.

Business school administrators are working to expand the school's graduate certificate offerings – 12 credit-hour programs launched in 2017 to give working professionals the chance to learn new skills. Officials will offer 12 certificates online by next fall, and students can combine two certificates with the 12 core classes to earn a full MBA, Mehrotra said at the meeting.

Officials also promoted the school's combined degree programs, which allow undergraduate students to double-count nine credits from their bachelor's to their master's degrees, throughout last academic year.

Mehrotra said the certificates – which includes artificial intelligence and sport management – allow students to customize their education to fit their interests.

"With the technology and with the shifting demands of the marketplace, there is also more reason for people to have specialized knowledge early on," Mehrotra said.

Mehrotra said business school administrators are shifting their focus to Master of Science degrees rather than MBAs to match student interest amid a nationwide decline in MBA demand.

James Bailey, a professor of management, said he has heard more calls for specialized graduate programs in conversations with students.

"Generally, this is an extremely smart move," Bailey said. "MBA enrollments are

declining worldwide. And people want those degrees – human resource management – that's what they want to do. There's a whole set of skills and knowledge in an MBA that wouldn't be relevant."

Pradeep Rau, the interim chair of the marketing department, said it is harder for some students to make the commitment to leave a job to pursue a full-time MBA program because the economy is doing well, raising the opportunity cost of acquiring a master's degree.

"There is no question that people are looking for more focused, shorter-term exposure to material – sometimes not even with a degree," he said.

The business school's revenues and expenses are expected to hit \$64 million this fiscal year – an annual increase of \$3.8 million – according to the dean's presentation. Mehrotra said one area where the school could improve is philanthropy.

"Internally, I think our pipeline for fundraising is weak," he said at the meeting. "But I do feel all the ingredients are there in the school to be able to look for a transformative gift."

At a town hall meeting last week, University President Thomas LeBlanc declared "world-class faculty" one of the four pillars to guide the University's next strategic planning process. Mehrotra said improving the quality of the business school's faculty, measured by its academic impact and publications, could help reverse the school's decline in graduate student enrollment.

Officials hired 13 new business school professors this academic year, according to the presentation.

"Trying to attract the top talent is really a virtuous cycle," Mehrotra said in an interview. "If you attract the top talent, it'll attract the right student who will be trained well and will get placed well. So I'm driven by that desire to make sure that we are putting student interests first."

Committees to include student voices, officials and faculty say

From Page 1

He told The Hatchet that the committees are a "natural structure" for the planning process because they can examine each pillar with great detail. The board created an "umbrella" task force to oversee the committees and planning process, LeBlanc said.

Provost Forrest Maltzman, whose office recommended faculty for the committees, said the newly selected chairs and vice chairs are "excellent" and "experienced" leaders that bring expertise from around campus.

Scott Kieff, a law professor, will chair the "world-class faculty" committee; Gayle Wald, the American studies department chair, will lead the "high-quality undergraduate education" committee; Carol Sigelman, a psychology professor, will head the "distinguished and distinctive graduate education" committee; and Alan Greenberg, the epidemiology and biostatistics department chair, will supervise the "high-impact research" committee.

"I think the president has coaxed some great faculty to go ahead and step up to the plate," Maltzman said.

He said LeBlanc and other top officials shortened the length of the next strategic plan from 10 to five years to force officials to "refresh" their plans as circumstances change. The University's current 10-year strategic plan expires in 2021.

"One of his concerns in general with this is that a strategic plan has to be a

living process, and it has to evolve," Maltzman said. "So your option is to do a super long one and then over time, it might be more and more out-of-date."

LeBlanc said students will sit on each of the committees, and Student Association President SJ Matthews will serve on the trustee-led task force. Matthews and Cissy Petty, the vice president of student affairs and dean of students, will work with officials to select the students for each committee, he said.

Matthews said she will accept applications to sit on the committees from the entire student body beginning Monday. Students who are not on the committees can also provide feedback by coming to her office hours, she said.

"I'm very excited to read these applications and to work with our student body to create a GW that works for them," Matthews said in an email. "I want to ensure that all students at GW feel a part of this important process."

LeBlanc encouraged the GW community at the meeting to provide feedback and suggestions about the plan through an online form found on the strategic plan's new website.

Faculty involved in the planning process shared their eagerness to be involved and encouraged the community to provide feedback.

Jason Zara, the vice chair of the "high-quality undergraduate education" committee and an associate professor of engineering and applied science, said his committee has not yet

met and its membership is still being finalized.

"I would like to share my enthusiasm for this venture as I feel very strongly that high-quality undergraduate engineering education is one of the core missions of GW," he said in an email. "I am very optimistic that we will be able to use this strategic planning process to strengthen what I believe to be an already very strong undergraduate education experience."

Scott Kieff, the "world-class faculty" committee chair, said he anticipates his committee will garner feedback through conversations with University staff, faculty and students. He invited any community member with feedback about the committee's work to email him with suggestions.

"I invite anyone who's part of our community to contact me at my law school email address with written input," Kieff said. "I can assure anyone who provides constructive input that I will do my best to get it integrated into the committee's thinking and transmitted through the committee's work."

Sigelman, the "distinguished and distinctive graduate education" committee chair, said she is glad to help lead the planning process.

"I am very pleased to have been asked to take on this important task and that our committee will do its best to analyze the current status of graduate education at GW and make recommendations to advance it in the next five years," she said in an email.

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Sustainability-driven office network looks to expand this fall

SHANNON MALLARD
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

The Office of Sustainability is working to add 12 office spaces to an existing network of academic departments and administrative and research centers this semester.

The Green Office Network – a coalition of administrative offices and academic departments that work to meet office-set sustainability requirements, like cutting back on water and electricity usage – is aiming to grow the number of offices involved in the group. Sustainability experts said university sustainability offices need to encourage as many faculty, staff and students to adopt greener habits by expanding their presence.

“Workplace sustainable practices have a positive impact on both the planet and people,” sustainability office director Meghan Chapple said in an email.

The Green Office Network was instituted in 2014 to incentivize University offices to become more sustainable. As of last September, the sustainability office has certified more than 50 offices across campus for adopting more sustainable purchasing, energy and electricity, transportation, printing and paper, waste reduction and kitchen and indoor environment practices.

So far, Chapple said the Sigur Center for Asian Studies and the fourth floor of 1922 F St. – which includes the Office of the Vice President for Research – are the most recent additions to the network. Chapple added that two other offices are currently completing the certification process but did not specify which offices.

The leader must fill out a checklist detailing the



HATCHET FILE PHOTO

Sustainability office director Meghan Chapple said officials are looking to add 12 GW offices to a network of departments that commit to sustainable practices.

office’s progress in reaching sustainability goals, like decreasing water consumption levels, the sustainability office’s website states. Offices receive a rating from their green leader between one leaf – the lowest level of certification – and four leaves – the highest level – depending on how many objectives from the checklist they fulfill, according to the website.

Offices looking to join the program must nominate one of their members to be a “green leader” who will oversee the office’s sustainability efforts, according to the sustainability office website.

After scheduling a preliminary meeting with sustainability office members,

green leaders can download and fill out the checklist for their office. Once the

at any point during the academic year, and certified offices annually apply

offices and building spaces and use the Office of Sustainability as a resource to create sustainable change,” she said.

Chapple said the sustainability office promotes the network on the office’s blog, newsletter and through word of mouth. She added that members of the sustainability office encourage students to check if the University offices they frequent have the certification.

“The Green Office Network was created to engage staff and faculty in the University’s sustainability efforts such as reducing energy usage and diverting landfill waste,” Chapple said.

Allison Mihalich, the senior program director of

sustainability at the University of Notre Dame, said university offices and departments that set an example with demonstrated commitment to sustainability boost student involvement in sustainability efforts.

In August, incoming students received water bottles from the company Cupanion, complete with a scannable barcode tag that tracks how many single-use water bottles students and GW collectively save.

“You’re leading from where you are by embracing these goals and having faculty and staff joining green office networks I think is really powerful, because it sends a message to students that sustainability matters,” Mihalich said.

She added that universities should encourage students to inquire about whether the offices and departments they frequent have joined the school’s sustainable office network. Mihalich said students can embolden the offices to become more sustainable through their own input.

“If the student encourages the faculty or staff member, office or department to join, it goes a long way because the office realizes, ‘Hey, this matters to the student enough that they noted it and brought it up,’” Mihalich said.

Emily Quinton, the sustainability education and outreach coordinator at Portland State University, said university offices need to engage as many faculty, staff and students as possible in sustainability efforts to maximize universities’ impact on increasing sustainability.

“Individual behaviors do add up and create a collective impact,” she said.

“Workplace sustainable practices have a positive impact on both the planet and people.”

Meghan Chapple
Director, Office of Sustainability

green leader fills out the checklist, they must schedule time with a representative from the sustainability office to walk through the office before officially receiving the certification, the website states.

Chapple said an office can begin the certification process to join the network

for recertification. She said green leaders in University offices can take initiative to encourage sustainable practices, like switching to electronic forms and Google Drive to reduce paper usage.

“Individuals can directly impact the behaviors and actions of their respective

Writing center launches semester-long peer support group

JARED GANS
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Students seeking to improve their writing can now take advantage of a peer-based resource in the writing center.

The GW Writing Center is holding a “writer’s support group” once a week this semester for a group of up to 10 students to share tips to overcome issues they face with writing. Officials said the program gives students an opportunity to learn from and offer advice to peers with similar types of writing assignments.

Carol Hayes, the director of the writing center and an assistant professor of writing, said students who use the writing center’s services typically set up an appointment with a single mentor who reads through the student’s work and answers individual questions about writing. She said the group model will differ by allowing students to collaborate and brainstorm with their peers about shared problems involving writing.

“The idea was to create a group that would be facilitated by the writing center but that is student-directed,” Hayes said. “So the students who go into the group share their writing experiences and their goals and definitely work together.”

She said students in the support group will also meet individually with a center consultant for shorter periods of time than a typical writing center appointment, which lasts 25 or 50 minutes, according to the writing center’s website.

Hayes said the group formed after an undergraduate student requested a “sustained, supportive” writing group to continuously help the same students through regularly scheduled meetings. After piloting the group late last semester, she said leaders of the center decided to continue the meetings weekly for a full semester this year.

Hayes said the first meeting of the semester was held last week for students who applied through the writing center’s sign-up link.

She said the center currently has enough students for one class, which is capped at eight to 10 students, but more groups will be created throughout the semester depending on the level of student interest. She said students can create personal objectives for themselves other than improving a specific piece of writing, which would be their main focus in an individual center appointment.



SYDNEY WALSH | PHOTOGRAPHER

GW Writing Center director Carol Hayes said the writing groups will allow students to share their experiences with similar assignments and grow as writers.

“In the writing center support group, it’s more about each writer setting their own goals and talking about challenges they may be facing with the group,” Hayes said.

Kate Kramer, the writing center consultant who runs the sessions, said the sessions have a “flexible structure to fit the needs of every individual student.” She said students will share their frustrations with current writing assignments, discuss their thoughts on writing prompts and ask questions about their anxieties with writing during the first hour.

“The goal during this hour is to encourage individuals to feel comfortable voicing their writing anxieties while also providing a diverse and constructive work environment to discuss various ideas and concerns with their peers,” Kramer said in an email.

She said students will work on their writing assignments during the second hour and ask her any questions they have.

Kramer added that for students, meeting with the same consultant for two hours every week is beneficial because the consultant has the opportunity to develop a consistent knowledge of the student’s writing abilities. She said she hopes students will gradually develop an understanding of their specific writing needs.

“Throughout the course of a semester, I am able to watch

them grow and adapt to various assignments and challenges due to the consistency that the support group provides,” Kramer said.

Writing and language arts experts said the service, along with the writing center’s tra-

ditional resources, will give students the advanced writing skills they need and more choices to determine which writing support works best for them.

Jay Simmons, a former professor of language arts and literature at the University of

Massachusetts at Lowell, said he “consistently” found that students’ grades on their writing improved more significantly when they received feedback from peers, based on research he has conducted throughout his career.

Simmons said one reason why collaborating with peers is more valuable than with a single mentor is because the participants are working with students who are actively striving to improve through continuously writing throughout the semester, which he said is a “key” aspect of strengthening skills.

“You’ve got to be building better writers, which is more of a process of shaping attitudes and habits, as opposed to simply fixing particular issues and paper in front of them,” Simmons said.

Linda Adler-Kassner, a professor of writing studies at the University of California at Santa Barbara, said granting students the option to choose between an individual and a group meeting will let them make a choice about which option is best for them based on their own academic needs.

“Providing opportunities for individual and group consultation on writing are both important, since writers’ needs and goals can vary,” she said in an email.

IN BRIEF

National Labor Relations Board rules GW Hospital violated labor laws

The GW Hospital broke labor laws after improperly withdrawing recognition of the labor union representing hospital workers, according to a National Labor Relations Board decision released on Sept. 4.

1199SEIU, the labor union for GW Hospital workers, filed a complaint with the NLRB after the hospital failed to properly increase workers’ pay, the decision states. The GW Hospital attempted to persuade labor union members to disassociate with the union, changed previously stated bargaining terms and halted any future bargaining, according to the decision.

“The complaint further alleges that the Hospital improperly withdrew recognition from the Union after nearly two years of bad faith and regressive bargaining, subsequently rejected the Union’s request to continue bargaining and immediately proceeded to implement unilateral changes to employees’ terms and conditions of employment,” the decision states.

The union has been negotiating a new agreement with the GW Hospital since its last five-year contract expired in 2016, according to the decision. Workers protested outside the hospital last June to demand that the GW Hospital meet with the union to draw up a new contract and increase workers’ wages.

The NLRB heard 1199SEIU’s complaint from June 18 to 20. Hospital officials encouraged members of the union to de-unionize by offering workers pay raises and a travel stipend, Washington City Paper reported.

“That’s union-busting at its best,” Yahnae Barner, the vice president of 1199SEIU told Washington City Paper. “Union-busting is bad for workers and patients. It gives management the power to make all employment decisions without workers like health care benefits, hours and patient-care ratios.”

The GW Hospital plans to appeal the decision, stating that the hospital’s practices are congruent with guidelines set by the National Labor Relations Act, Washington City Paper reported.

“George Washington University Hospital disagrees with the ruling of the Administrative Law Judge on this matter,” Christine Searight, a GW Hospital spokeswoman told Washington City Paper. “We dispute and deny all the allegations made by the union and believe the evidence presented at the trial demonstrated our good faith efforts and compliance with the NLRA.”

Seawright did not immediately return The Hatchet’s request for comment.

—Lia DeGroot

Officials must be transparent about slow Colonials name change

Officials do not hesitate to tout themselves on pushes to improve the student experience and institutional culture. Over the past few months, administrators overhauled the GW Police Department, restructured advising and cut fixed tuition.

Natalie Prieb
Columnist

Although the University is eager to make sweeping changes known to students and staff, officials have quietly removed the Colonials moniker from some merchandise and office names – but have not stated why.

The Student Services Hub is the most recent department that no longer has the Colonials name attached. Even though student leaders said the move did not involve a push to change the Colonials nickname, the student-run Colonial Army changed its name to George's Army. Last fall, officials changed the season-opening rally for the basketball team from Colonial Madness to GDub Madness. Officials most notably altered the newly revamped freshman orientation from Colonial Inauguration to New Student Orientation. Students are anxiously awaiting an answer from administrators on the name change. Officials should put students at ease and explain their reasons for leaving the Colonials moniker off of several campus departments and events.

The push to change the

Colonials nickname has been hotly contested since students launched a petition in May 2018. The debate culminated in a referendum last spring in which a slim margin of voting students backed the name change. Opponents have said ditching the nickname would be expensive and divide the campus community, while supporters have argued that the moniker is offensive, and officials have remained silent. But that has not stopped them from removing the Colonials name from several areas around campus.

Given that administrators haven't publicly stated whether they will change the name, their rebranding sends a mixed message to the GW community. Officials should be transparent with students about their intentions, rather than slowly and quietly transitioning away from the Colonials moniker.

There is nothing wrong with officials taking the name change one step at a time if they have decided to phase out the Colonials nickname. One professor who was asked what the University should do about the nickname said administrators should "gradually" work to rename institutions on campus that include the name, like the Colonial Health Center. Although the changes would make the rebranding more discreet, gradually removing the name from services without articulating a position makes officials look like they are trying to tiptoe out of the debate.

Officials might try to phase out the name and make a grand



Cartoon by Jekko Syquia

announcement on their stance once students are acclimated to a campus with fewer Colonials appearances. But administrators can only remove the

moniker from so many spaces before students and faculty begin to question the move. It makes sense why administrators may want to avoid taking

either side in the debate over the Colonials name, as either position would alienate a sector of the student body and upset alumni who find a sense of belonging to the University through the nickname. But refraining from the debate while making discreet moves could upset either side of the controversy because officials are the only ones who have refused to take a side.

If officials choose to strip the Colonials name from individual buildings or services on campus, they should articulate their position on the name. The debate over changing the Colonials moniker is not just about an insensitive word but taps into a division among students – half of whom support the name change and half of whom do not. Students have a right to know how officials view a contested label that is supposed to bring the community together.

If officials want to gradually rid the school of the Colonials label, they should explain themselves before renaming other services on campus. If the Colonials controversy had nothing to do with renaming Colonial Central, officials should say that and tell us why we should be proud to see the Colonials name on our campus. Whether students want the moniker to stay or not, the Colonials name is still what identifies us as part of the GW community – and we deserve to know whether administrators still believe it should be the term that unites us.

—Natalie Prieb, a senior majoring in English and creative writing, is a columnist.

Sororities must see ban as more than a timeout

STAFF EDITORIAL

Sororities are grounded this semester after the second racist Snapchat post emerged in less than two years.

Chapters cannot participate in informal fall recruitment or host social events this semester after administrators learned about a racist image from the Snapchat account of former Phi Sigma Sigma President Alison Janega. The ban will include mandatory training on values and diversity for all Panhellenic Association chapters, but the details of the trainings have not been spelled out yet.

The recent event is at least the second incident in which a sorority member has posted racist content online. In 2018, members of Alpha Phi posted a Snapchat with a racist caption, prompting a strong response from administrators. But GW's response is not guaranteed to work, and it is unclear that sororities have learned their lesson after the first incident. Officials' pause on Panhel social life is a chance for sororities to do better, but the ban will only be effective if the University outlines tangible tasks sororities should do to make the time off worthwhile.

Sororities should not think of the ban as a consequence. They should consider it an opportunity to repair systemic problems within Panhel that are apparent in chapters across the nation. Sororities can use the semester to reflect on the damage caused by the most recent racist post and develop ways to create a more inclusive environment in Panhel.

Although sorority members might be disappointed by the ban, the University made the right decision. The two incidents represent visible acts of racism within Panhel sororities, and it is likely that bigotry transcends across chapters. The first incident sparked a conversation about inclusivity in sororities, but GW's actions did not do enough to solve the broader cultural issue that led to these racist incidents. Student forums and discussions highlighted the problem, but it did not go away.

If sororities take the ban as a punishment, they will miss the purpose. The ban and success of the required diversity education and programming hinges on sorority members' willingness to participate. Although

members might think their dues and social lives are going to waste, they should know that this semester is their chance to implement institutional changes that should outlive their time at GW.

But the ban is a two-way street between officials and sororities. The University made a vague statement last week saying Panhel chapters should engage in meaningful workshops, then entrusted sororities to figure out the semester on their own. The University should clearly outline a plan for the semester to help sororities make the most out of the time-out. Panhel chapters could have individualized diversity and inclusion trainings from organizations outside of GW, and officials could help point them to useful resources. Panhel chapters should not be left to their own devices but look to the University as a resource for where to go this fall.

On the sororities' end, the diversity and inclusivity chair in each chapter should be trained to handle sensitive issues like conflicts between members, sexual assault and incidents of racism. The chair could get a pulse of the sentiments of their peers with one-on-one meetings in which members can share their experiences and concerns about the culture of the sorority. Each chair can take the feedback to the University or their national organization and map out an action plan that fits their chapter's needs.

If sorority members back out of diversity trainings or meetings with their chapters' diversity chairs, national chapters should not be afraid to reprimand. National organizations could levy fines, and the University could cancel social programming when members do not attend. The trainings and meetings should also go beyond the semester – every chapter should engrain these private conversations and trainings into the culture of the sorority.

Sororities should not look at the ban as a slap on the wrist or as a time-out. Chapters must use this time wisely to improve their chapters and assess what in their chapters creates a noninclusive space. The University should be ready to jump in, especially because officials instituted the ban in the first place.

Officials should not ask Petty to juggle more responsibilities

One of GW's most accessible administrators is taking on a larger role this year.

Cissy Petty, who became the University's inaugural dean of student affairs last year, will take on new responsibilities this year. In addition to her previous roles overseeing student affairs, she will take over the CARE network, New Student Orientation, the Lerner Health and Wellness Center, Marvin Center student activities and Mount Vernon Campus operations. While all of these new tasks relate to the student experience, Petty should know not to bite off more than she can chew.

Kiran Hoeffner-Shah
Opinions Editor

Petty's first year was marked by her impressive accessibility to students and willingness to hear students out. She took an active approach to her job by living in residence halls and being present at student events, like Student Association meetings. Although expanding her job might seem like students have a larger say in higher-level decisions, the additional tasks raise concerns about whether Petty is stretched too thin. Petty cannot continue to be accessible and available to students while juggling a slew of tasks at once.

When Petty arrived at GW, the Colonial Health Center was in crisis. It had been led by three individuals in the course of one year and went without a permanent head since Glenn Egelman abruptly resigned in September 2017. Petty's first major responsibility was taking temporary control of the CHC while officials

searched for a permanent leader. But the University has yet to find a permanent leader more than two years since Petty stepped in – and GW keeps putting more on her plate.

Petty's expanded responsibilities mean projects might slip through the cracks. The University should not hand Petty more jobs when it could cause her other jobs to be potentially neglected. Although the University has implemented some changes to the CHC since Petty took the helm, it has not addressed some of the serious issues like long wait times. Handing Petty more responsibility while she is still in charge of a fragile department could lead the CHC and some existing tasks to fall by the wayside.

Officials need to stop expanding Petty's responsibilities. The CHC is too important to student health and safety to be led by someone who does not have the time to give it adequate attention. Petty is also taking on massive projects, like the newly implemented New Student Orientation and Vern operations. While Petty's promotion could be seen as a step forward for students seeking representation among top leadership, Petty should clarify her priorities so students know she is still vouching for them.

Petty's new jobs are large-scale tasks, which were previously led by multiple individuals. The transition from Colonial Inauguration to New Student Orientation is still in the early stages, and it was initially led by former Dean of Admissions Costas Solomou and former Senior Vice Provost of Enrollment and the Student Experience Laurie Koehler. Putting Petty in

charge means consolidating the leadership of one of GW's biggest and newest projects and placing more weight on Petty's shoulders than one person can handle.

Leading operations on the Vern should be done by someone who can solve campus issues – like the lack of food options and nearby health services and stagnant social life – with a full-time commitment. It is impossible to properly address major issues on campus while juggling too many responsibilities. Although Petty runs operations on the Vern, she is also leading the charge to create a more cohesive campus community – one of University President Thomas LeBlanc's biggest goals. Petty is not just overseeing too many projects – she is responsible for large projects that should have multiple leaders.

Officials should address concerns that Petty might be overworked and unable to be accessible to students. Students could lose their voice in the administration if Petty does not have the time to continue engaging with students while attempting to handle multiple jobs. But more concerning is that Petty might not be able to handle the amount of work necessary to complete big projects.

It is essential that the University addresses concerns that Petty's time might be spread too thin. While students should feel comfortable with Petty handling important student issues, it is also concerning that Petty is handling jobs that should be handled by multiple administrators.

—Kiran Hoeffner-Shah, a junior majoring in political science and psychology, is the opinions editor.

Culture

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THE SCENE

MARINA
The Anthem
Sept. 18 • \$45
Rebranded singer
MARINA debuts
album "Love + Fear"
Wednesday.

TYLER, THE CREATOR
Merriweather Post
Pavillion
Sept. 21 • \$29.50
The rapper and singer will
perform Saturday.

KASKADE
Echostage
Sept. 21 • \$30
The DJ known for his
house jams will perform
Saturday.

RELEASED
THIS WEEK:

'DON'T CALL ME ANGEL,' A SINGLE BY ARIANA GRANDE,
MILEY CYRUS & LANA DEL RAY

Fourteen-year-old becomes one of the youngest full-time students in GW history

ANNA BOONE
STAFF WRITER

A 14-year-old freshman is making history this year as one of the youngest full-time students to attend GW.

Curtis Lawrence started the school year with the rest of the Class of 2023 after spending his freshman and sophomore years at the School Without Walls, a magnet high school on campus. During his second year there, Lawrence was accepted into the GW Early College Program, an excellent program that allows students during what would be their junior and senior years at School Without Walls to enroll as full-time GW students and earn tuition-free college credits.

The GW Early College Program includes two program offerings for School Without Walls students. The Exposure Program allows students from the high school with a GPA of at least a 3.0 to enroll in available GW courses for transferable college credit.

But Lawrence was accepted into the Associate of Arts Cohort, which enrolls 15 sophomores from School Without Walls into a full-time course load at GW to earn an associate of arts degree from the Columbian College of Arts and Sci-



SKYLAR EPSTEIN | PHOTOGRAPHER

Fourteen-year-old Curtis Lawrence is one of the youngest first-year students to attend GW.

ences while completing high school.

Despite his age, Lawrence said his previous schooling has prepared him for college-level classes. By the age of 2, Lawrence said his mother had taught him how to read and given him early math and science lessons. From first to third grade, he attended a predominantly black school for gifted students in Harlem, N.Y., he said.

"My mom just always pushed education, pushed advanced academics and

especially being at the elementary school in Harlem, I was surrounded by other people who were advanced, so it just felt like the norm for me," Lawrence said.

Lawrence said his family moved to San Antonio, Texas, where he skipped fourth grade and entered fifth grade at Idea Carver Academy. He said he passed sixth and seventh grades at different schools and was homeschooled during eighth grade, during which he also took his first college course at the University of

Texas at San Antonio.

After middle school, his family moved to D.C., where he started high school at School Without Walls, the most popular magnet school in the District.

"I feel like I was prepared for the academics because Walls is a very rigorous high school, it's the top high school in D.C., so a lot of the work that we did reflected the work that I'll be doing here in college," Lawrence said.

The 14-year-old jumped at the chance to involve him-

self in both academics and student organizations. He currently studies geology, calculus, astronomy and University Writing while participating in the Black Student Union, the African Student Association, the Caribbean Students Association and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Lawrence said.

Lawrence said he noticed that most peers are curious about his age when he walks into class. He added that most professors know about the program and give him the same workload and responsibility as any other full-time student.

"On the first day, it was very weird because I am the youngest student," he said. "I went into the class, it was my first class of the day, which was math, and everyone started staring at me as I sat down."

Lawrence said that one of the toughest parts about adjusting to college is time management. His parents and professors are not around to help him navigate campus throughout the day, so Lawrence said he has needed to learn to be more independent at an early age.

"Here, I have two or three classes a day, I have two-hour breaks, which is extremely different than

being in a traditional high school," Lawrence said. "I'm still trying to get used to that part of managing my time."

While Lawrence is a college student, he said he can still live out his typical teenage experiences like hanging out with friends from School Without Walls and grabbing a meal with high school classmates because the school is located on campus. Lawrence said he completes most of his work during breaks between classes, so he goes home to relax and enjoy hobbies like playing the piano and drawing.

"Most of the high school experience is replicated at GW for me in some kind of way," Lawrence said.

Lawrence said he is thankful to himself and his parents for giving him a "love for learning" and the opportunity to advance himself academically. Lawrence hopes to obtain a doctorate degree in philosophy and pursue a career in paleontology once he wraps up his time at the University, he said.

"I'm definitely going to be thankful to myself for staying focused in class and staying interested in learning and never giving up on the learning process, because that is what has gotten me to this place," Lawrence said.

Textile Museum hires new contemporary art curator

RACHEL ARMANY
REPORTER

After more than a nine month search, The Textile Museum has a new curator of contemporary art.

Caroline Kipp was hired in August after working as a curatorial associate at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston. Kipp said the museum has used textile to explain events in history, but she plans to incorporate newer pieces of textile to tell present-day narratives. "The museum has all this very historic material from all over the world, it's really quite an amazing collection," Kipp said. "But they're realizing now that textiles have continued as an art form and have evolved, so it's a good idea to keep telling that story."

Kipp's curator role includes collecting works from all over the world for the permanent collection, hosting exhibitions, engaging students with textile collections and bringing in artists to talk at the museum, she said.

Kipp's position at the museum was first established in 2016, but the position was not filled for more than nine months because the museum was conducting a search for someone to fill the role.

She said she initially attended art school at the Massachusetts College of Art and Design. But she said figuring out how to financially sustain a career in art was a challenge after she graduated college, leading her to pursue a master's in museum studies at Harvard University.

"I realized that being around art was the thing that made me the happiest, even more so than making art," she said.

The Somerville, Mass. native grew up in a family of artists — her father being a photographer and her grandmother a painter — which she said likely influenced her passion and experience with art. Kipp added that as someone with dyslexia, she often thinks abstractly and in 3D, a common effect of the disorder that leads some people to gravitate toward art.

To engage students with contemporary art, Kipp said she will work to collaborate with professors from the Corcoran College of the Arts and Design and tie the social "issues of today" in with modern-day textiles and other mediums like painting and sculpture. She said students could be interested in learning about political issues through art because of GW's location in the

nation's capital.

"What are the things that are going on in the world?" she said. "And how do we contribute to them in a positive way? I think especially for the students that are at GW, that's a particular interest, and it's probably part of why they ended up in D.C."

Kipp said she is currently working with other curators at The Textile Museum to bring a prayer rug exhibition to the museum. She said she wants to "be of service" not only to students and the GW community but to artists and makers in the District by bringing in local artists to share their work at the museum.

Since many museums, including The Textile Museum, operate on a five-year exhibition schedule, Kipp said many of her larger projects, like organizing exhibitions and acquiring art pieces, will be announced and come to fruition later on in 2021.

Kipp said that she wants art and non-art students to feel open to introduce themselves and share their ideas for potential projects with her.

"I don't have all the answers," she said. "So it's going to be a lot of having conversations. I'm super curious to learn what GW wants, what students want."



MAANSI SRIVASTAVA | PHOTOGRAPHER

Musician Cariel Coates sings in front of the Foggy Bottom Metro station.

Musician sings at Foggy Bottom Metro to finance college

KATHERINE ABUGHAZALEH
STAFF WRITER

Whether you are waking up in Munson Hall, taking the Metro or dropping by Whole Foods, you know the voice of Cariel Coates.

Rather than working a typical nine-to-five job, Coates spends more than seven hours in a day singing at the Foggy Bottom Metro station. Coates said she uses her voice to finance her college education in music therapy at Washington Adventist University in Takoma Park, Md.

"The Metro is one of the places where there is always a lot of people," Coates said. "You can connect with people from all over, and since it is really close to the universities and really close to the hospitals, Foggy Bottom is one of the best places."

Before 10 a.m., Coates said she drives to Foggy Bottom and sets up her tent, speakers and microphone by herself. She sings from the morning to the evening, sometimes waving to a commuter as they leave for work and return home on the same day, she said.

"Once I start performing, I get all this energy, I want to entertain, I'm a go-getter," Coates said. "People leaving work around 6 p.m. will still see me out there from when they took their lunch break at 12 o'clock and they're like, 'This girl is still singing.'"

Coates moved to the United States from the Caribbean island Antigua in 2016 on a student visa and has used her Metro performances to help

pay her college bills and increase her exposure as a singer. She chose to sing in Foggy Bottom because of its proximity to people from all walks of life, from college students to medical professionals heading to the GW Hospital, Coates said.

She said she was born into a "musical family" and learned the ins and outs of music from her mother and pastor father who often sang at home. She said she taught herself how to sing and play the piano, guitar, drums and violin as a way to express her feelings and her Christian religion.

"I was always playing in church, singing in church so I was accustomed to connecting with people all of the time," Coates said. "I have not had any formal training, so it's just God-given talents."

Coates said she typically performs covers of popular songs and original music, which often includes gospel songs. Coates said she sees her music as a way to communicate with people she does not know, often sparking conversations with people who stop and listen to her.

Coates puts the money earned — which can round up to \$1,000 on some days — from performances toward her budget as a college student, she said. In addition to the Foggy Bottom Metro, Coates said she performs in downtown Silver Springs. "They may be thinking that, 'I'm just giving because she is talented,' or 'I'll just give her something because her voice is great,'" she said. "But they just don't understand

how much they are actually helping with my career, how much they are helping with the daily needs that I have to provide for myself," she said.

As a clinical psychology student, Coates said she hopes to use her education to pursue a career in music therapy — a style of therapy that uses music to treat patients suffering from illnesses like depression or post-traumatic stress disorder. Coates said singing helps to express herself as both a "talker" and a "listener" — skills needed to be a sound therapist.

She uses original songs to express her feelings about her life experiences and tries to write about problems like depression and peer pressure in her music and poetry that are relatable to a wide audience, she said.

"You can see how, with one song, a crowd will gather and stop," she said. "Music on its own has such a great and positive impact."

Although Coates auditioned for shows like "The Voice," Coates said her ultimate goal is not worldwide stardom. She said she wants her music to be a positive influence on people's days and lives.

"You can post something online and somebody can say, 'Amazing video,'" Coates said. "But having that human connection, to be there in person and literally see how you can put a smile on somebody's face, those are the types of experiences that you won't get behind the camera."

—Arielle Ostry contributed reporting.



ERIC LEE | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Caroline Kipp was hired in August to oversee contemporary arts at The Textile Museum.



MEN'S SOCCER
vs. UMBC
Tuesday | 3 p.m.
The Colonials look to extend their two-game win streak and record their fourth clean sheet of the year.



MEN'S SOCCER
vs. Rhode Island
Saturday | 3 p.m.
The squad closes out its three-game homestand with its first matchup in Atlantic 10 play.

NUMBER CRUNCH

2:1

The rate at which women's soccer outshot its opponents through its first six games

Plagued by injury, men's soccer looks to new additions for success

ROMAN BOBEK
STAFF WRITER

After opening the season with an injured starting lineup, men's soccer is leaning on its new crop of players to find success on the field.

The Colonials (2-2-1) struggled to generate goals when the season started, remaining scoreless after three games. But the squad recently captured two victories against Liberty last week and Brown Saturday, racking up five goals and recording two clean sheets.

"We've created a lot," head coach Craig Jones said. "It hasn't shown until the other night, but we've probably created more chances than we certainly created last year."

The team has suffered from a lack of starters in the lineup, mostly due to injuries. Junior forward Oscar Haynes Brown – the leading goalscorer from last year's squad – has not seen action in a game this season. Graduate student midfielder and forward Haukur Hilmarsson also missed the first three games of the season with an injury.

The team has been forced to make adjustments on the field as a result of the injuries. On offense, Jones started freshman midfielder



Members of the men's soccer team form a wall in front of freshman goalkeeper Justin Grady. ERIC LEE | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

and forward Tom Cooklin, forward Liam Emson and midfielder Carlyle Smart. While they created chances by sending 18 shots on goal, they have struggled to put the ball in the net.

"We're asking a lot of guys who've just come here, but like I said I can't fault what they've done," Jones said. "Just that little bit of sharpness, it's an adjustment that maybe was a little too quick too soon for them."

The squad's defense has not escaped injury either. Senior goalkeeper Noah Lubin has been ruled out with a concussion. As a result, freshman goalkeeper Justin Grady has stepped in this season and accumulated 19 saves.

Jones said Grady has adjusted well to collegiate soccer but will need more minutes under his belt to eliminate simple mistakes, like misjudging plays.

"There are times when

he's a little anxious and looks to make a play when he doesn't have to, but that's a learning process, that's experience," Jones said.

Jones said he revamped the midfield from a 4-3-3 featuring three midfields and three forwards to a 4-5-2 featuring five midfielders and two forwards to give the team more room to play creatively on the field.

"We've tried to tweak it a little bit and give guys a little more freedom in terms

of their movement," Jones said. "With the players that we have, they've excelled having that freedom."

Senior midfielder Max Holdsworth leads the team with two goals and three assists. Graduate student midfielder and defender Sandro Weber has two goals to his name after the team's victory over Brown Saturday.

Despite the two losses, the defense has three clean sheets to its name. Weber said defense is at the core of the team, and each member of the squad, whether they play on the backline or carry a more offensive role, steps up defensively.

"That's the thing we build off of, the defense is the most important factor," Weber said. "We can't win games without a good defense. Both the defensive four, but also the midfielders and forwards work really well against the ball, and that's the big factor of our game."

The Colonials have scored five goals in the past two matches. Weber said a lack of determination was the primary reason the Colonials experienced difficulty with scoring early on in the season.

"We probably missed a little bit of the will to score the goals in the first three matches," Weber said.

"Now we got this sturdy determination and it's just getting good."

Holdsworth, the senior midfielder, said the field adjustment is partially responsible for the team's recent success because it allows for more movement on the field and enables defensemen to join the attack.

"We've got all of our team playing good football and passing it around and we get some of the defensive attacking players up the field with the ball," Holdsworth said.

Holdsworth said the Colonials hope to ride the momentum of the last few games through the rest of the season. He added that the team has finally settled down and adjusted to the new formations and lineups.

"We had some tough away games and we've come back and found our style of play," Holdsworth said. "We've been really working it. We started a new formation this year and we've worked really hard at it. Now it's finally given us some success."

The Colonials return to action Tuesday at 3 p.m. in the second match of their three-game homestand against UMBC.

—Emily Maise contributed reporting.



FILE PHOTO BY ARIELLE BADER | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR
Senior sailor Sarah Noyes crews a boat at sailing practice last May.

Sailing breaks into season with first-place finish

EMILY MAISE
SPORTS EDITOR

Sailing opened the season with a first-place finish and two qualifying spots at the Mid-Atlantic Intercollegiate Sailing Association Men's Singlehanded Championship last week.

The Colonials nabbed first at the Riley Cup and sixth at the Navy Women's Regatta, and two sailors captured qualifying spots in the MAISA Men's Singlehanded Championship. Sailors said the first competitions of the season allowed them to shake off the rust from the offseason and gave new sailors some starter experience heading into the rest of the season.

"It's very long, mental days," senior Sarah Noyes said. "You're out there all day, so it was getting back in the swing of that."

GW beat out 17 teams – four of which ended the 2018-19 season ranked in the top 20 coed programs in the Intercollegiate Sailing Association – to earn the top spot at the Riley Cup. The squad nabbed six top-three finishes and never finished outside of the top eight throughout the competition.

Senior Marshall McCraw and sophomore Taylor Milefchik manned the A Division of the competition while sophomores Ryan Janov and John Umina headed the B Division. McCraw said the team struggled to remain at the start line throughout the competition, flagging the weakness as an area for improvement throughout the rest of the season.

The women's team competed at the Navy Women's Regatta and garnered a

sixth-place finish. Senior duo Aitana Mendiguren and Noyes manned the boat in the A Division while sophomore Chiara Perotti Correa and a trio of freshmen saw action in the B Division.

Mendiguren and Noyes earned a fifth-place finish in the A Division and secured five top-five finishes. The B Division team also took fifth place with 130 points.

Freshmen Sylvia Fresco and Ruby Gordon and sophomore Allison Forsyth joined the squad for the 2019-20 season. The team returned 15 sailors, including eight sophomores, three juniors and four seniors. The Colonials lost 13 sailors to graduation last spring.

Noyes, a senior, said losing members of the Class of 2019 led to a "big cultural shift" this season. She said that while the team feels pressure and expectations to meet their success from last season, the freshman class and returning members of the team are adequately filling the gaps.

The women's team closed the 2018-19 season with a fourth-place finish – its highest finish in program history – at the Intercollegiate Sailing Association Sperry Women's National Championship.

"We have a lot of new energy coming on the team and they're all amazing and super eager to learn, so it's just kind of keeping that momentum going," Noyes said.

In the third and final competition over the weekend, junior Soenke Jordan and sophomore Cameron Feves punched their tickets to the MAISA Men's Singlehanded Championship. Jordan, who has qualified for the championship for three consecutive years, finished No. 4. Feves, who qualified last year, nabbed sixth place at the event.

Sophomore Michael Ehnnot failed to qualify with an 11th-place finish at the championship but earned a spot at the MAISA Laser Eliminator Sunday. Freshman Owen Timms also qualified with a third-place finish. The Colonials will send four sailors to the championship.

Jordan said his preparation for the event started in the summer, and he relied on his knowledge of the boat type and the venue at the Naval Academy to nab his third qualifying spot.

"It's a very difficult sailing boat because that's the one they also sail in the Olympics, and I knew the venue pretty well because we have a pretty good knowledge set about the Naval Academy," Jordan said.

Jordan added that while he raced methodically and consistently, he should have been more aggressive throughout the competition and not held a conservative mindset because he could have upped his place.

"What can go into it still is being aggressive in the times where the situation calls for it and taking calculated risks more," Jordan said. "I could have gotten third at that event, but I opted to stay a little too conservative."

Sailing is back in action at the MAISA Top Nine Fleet Race and the MAISA Men's Singlehanded Championship Saturday and Sunday.

—Belle Long contributed reporting.

Athletic programs see largest number of graduate students in five years

ALEC RICH
STAFF WRITER

More graduate students were rostered this year than over the last five years combined.

The 2019-20 school year features 13 graduate students across both men's and women's sports, up from two graduate student-athletes the previous season. Graduate student-athletes said their playing experience prior to coming to GW has helped them tackle competitors, but they still have room to learn and mesh with a largely undergraduate team.

Men's soccer leads the way with four graduate students on this year's roster, followed by two on women's basketball and volleyball and one across five other teams. From the 2014 academic year through 2017, no student-athletes were graduate students.

Men's soccer head coach Craig Jones said graduate students like midfielder Matt Sipowicz and midfielder and defender Sandro Weber have provided leadership and a "little bit of calmness" for the team's younger members who are adjusting to college.

"When we're on the field, practice-wise they lead by example, so it's been very good for us," Jones said.

While Jones said graduate students are recruited in a similar way to undergraduates, adding graduate students with eligibility for more than one year is difficult because of the nature of their academic programs. He said he seeks out graduate students who are slated to stay for more than one year so they can familiarize themselves with the team.

"We've just picked up a couple of guys, it's tough to have them for one year," Jones said. "[Sipowicz] was a little bit different, but I think with Sandro, having him for two years, that helps. One year is one and done, I'm not really a huge fan of that."

Weber, the midfielder and defender, said compared with the German league he played with back home, the speed and quality of play in collegiate soccer at GW are relatively higher. Although he brings undergraduate experience with him, Weber said he looks to his teammates to help him adjust to the more physical nature of the game in America.

"I look to the other players, how they play in their position and technically, physically," Weber said. "It's a physical game here. You need to be very physical here in the United States, so I need to improve that."

Midfielder Haukur Hilmarsson said he played with "full-grown men" back home because his home in Iceland did not have a collegiate team. Hilmarsson, who is entering his second campaign with the team after scoring 16 goals last season, said he adjusted and grew from facing relatively older competition and brings that experience to his younger teammates.

After a rocky 2018 season in which the squad finished with a record of 5-9-3, men's soccer added eight new players this offseason, including Sipowicz and Weber.

On the volleyball court, two graduate students – opposite hitter Paty Valle and middle blocker Caroline Sklaver – have given the team stability moving into

the new season. The team fell short of the A-10 Tournament last year and finished the season with an 11-15 record.

Valle, who ranks No. 2 on the team with 69 kills this season, said that while her and Sklaver "didn't ask for the leadership position," they've embraced their role and try to lead by example. Valle said her time playing volleyball as an undergraduate at Texas Christian University allowed her to "gain discipline" that she can pass onto some of the newest team members.

"Because of the experience that we have, they look up to us, but I see everyone as a leader in a different way," Valle said. "So we just try to do our best and be an example to follow."

Sklaver, the middle blocker, said her three years of experience playing at Princeton have better prepared her to help the team succeed because she has had time on the court to carry out skills in games.

"Just having three, four years on the court, the better you are, the more game scenarios that you have at this level," Sklaver said. "It just adds to your repertoire of experience, and I think it definitely helps our team."

Volleyball head coach Sarah Bernson said graduate students can learn quickly because they have spent time in a college environment and have three or four years of collegiate play under their belt.

"It's really pushing our three first-years, because they see them adapt and process things quicker," Bernson said.

—Emily Maise and Belle Long contributed reporting.



ALEXANDER WELLING | ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR
Graduate student middle blocker Caroline Sklaver keeps her eye on the ball during a serve.