




**Graduate Representative Organization**  
**GC Meeting Minutes**  
**Date/Time: 18:00 PM ET February 26th, 2024**  
**Hybrid: Bloomberg 272 and [Zoom](#)**

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**Meeting Slides:**  [GRO GC Meeting 02\\_26\\_2024.pptx](#)

**Meeting Agenda:**

- I. Call to Order and Agenda Review
- II. Approval of  [GC Minutes 2.12.24](#)
- III. Milton S. Eisenhower Library Team ( Dean Elizabeth Long and staff): (30-45 mins)
  - A. Library-led presentation:
    1. MSEL Project timeline: All services will be continued until the end of this semester.
      - a) Dean Long discussed the history and scope of the renovation project, emphasizing that the library will not be closing down, but rather the Eisenhower building. The timeline for the project was outlined, with a focus on maintaining services until the end of the semester before the library closes on July 10th.
      - b) Goal to reopen the renovated library on August 23rd, 2026, just before the start of the school year
      - c) Core collection will stay throughout semester, even though you may notice some changes, e.g. furniture removal, etc.
    2. Why renovate?
      - a) Reasons for renovating the Eisenhower building (opened in 1964) include: the aging mechanical systems, lack of natural light, and outdated configuration
      - b) Project has been in the making for 10 years: aims to address these issues and provide a modern, accessible space for students and faculty. Plans for the new building include dedicated graduate student spaces, special collections, and flexible event spaces

- (1) Serious aging mechanical systems, critical need for life safety upgrades, lack of natural light, not accessible, low ceilings and harsh lighting; life safety upgrades can't be delayed
  - c) During the renovation period, while the building is closed but the library remains open, alternative study spaces and services are arranged
    - (1) Spaces like Hansen Hall and the Hutzler Reading Room will be repurposed to accommodate study needs, with a focus on providing quiet and collaborative spaces
    - (2) Seat usage studies conducted to determine the number of seats needed during regular periods and exam periods, with plans to announce concentrated study spaces soon
  - d) Plans for the interim period include the differentiation of quiet and collaborative spaces, ensuring safety, and concentrating study spaces to avoid confusion.
    - (1) Updates on the renovation project can be found on the library website, with plans to share more detailed plans and renderings in the coming months
    - (2) Future sessions with students and a furniture fair for feedback on furniture choices also mentioned as part of the ongoing communication and engagement process
  - e) Emphasized importance of creating dedicated quiet seating spaces during the interim period and beyond
    - (1) Seat study was conducted to understand the types of seating preferences and behaviors of students, such as studying alone or in groups. The goal is to provide a balance of seating options and ensure that the space does not feel overcrowded or uncomfortable
      - (a) Also mentioned the need for flexibility in seating capacity, as not every seat needs to be filled to accommodate different preferences and comfort levels
  - f) Regarding capacity during the interim and after the renovation, there will be a similar number of seats available, with adjustments being made based on feedback and ongoing evaluations
    - (1) importance of utilizing underutilized spaces on campus and potentially repurposing furniture to create additional study spaces
3. Vision for the future
- a) Highlighting special collections, increasing study spaces (to 1300 seats), support for faculty and graduate students, universally accessible, life-safety upgrades to meet current building codes, upgrades to building utilities (e.g. HVAC, electrical), wellness-related upgrades to meet JHU's sustainability plan, and better planning of spaces for wayfinding

- b) Key design priorities
        - (1) Natural and natural-looking light
        - (2) Decompression: open sightlines and double-height spaces,
        - (3) Flexibility: reconfigurable spaces and the ability to evolve
        - (4) Universal design: enhance usability and accessibility
        - (5) Sustainability: reducing negative environmental impact
    - 4. Specific points:
      - a) Hodson
        - (1) New dedicated space specifically for graduate students
        - (2) At least 200 seats
  - B. Further discussion points:
    - 1. Will there be seats available in the Huxler reading room?
      - a) Yes, we've developed an "alone together" plan to account for students studying together or by themselves.
    - 2. Do we have numbers of capacity right now, and when we re-open Eisenhower? Do we need to work to find extra seating?
      - a) Right now, we have ~1300/1400, and will be around that number at the end
    - 3. Does everything we have in the interroom go back to how it was before? E.g. we lose that space?
      - a) No, we're discovering that there is a lot of unused space!
  - C. Availability of extra spaces as MSEL is closed
- IV. Follow up from meeting with Ron Daniels, Provost Jayawardhana, VP Hernandez and Stanley
  - A. Detailed minutes plus brief summary for minutes forthcoming
  - B. Generally, discussion covered:
    - 1. Plans for cross-campus standing committee for inter-campus events and potential budget allocation
    - 2. Proposal for inter-campus happy hour and follow-up meeting on budget needs
    - 3. Declined comment on graduate student stipend increase; promise of regular meetings with President and Provost
- V. Prep for Upcoming Meeting with Vice Provost Rachelle Hernandez, Sabine Stanley, and Kevin Shollenberger (10-15 mins)
  - A. Follow-ups regarding funding increases for conference grants
- VI. Focus Group Updates (5-10 mins)
  - A. Focus Group Leads?
    - 1. Advisor-advisee focus groups
      - a) Met with Sabine: Shift in tone, general idea is to create survey to measure advisor-advisee relationship issues
        - (1) Discrimination, etc.
        - (2) Sabine doesn't think faculty will approve of that. Dean is most powerful person in the room in this sense.
        - (3) If we are denied, we can run the survey ourselves. Might burn some bridges, but an idea, from the student-side.
        - (4) Nuclear option might be less bad, we could anonymize it

2. JHPD focus group

- a) Trying to schedule a meeting with the president of JHU Safety (Dr. Bard)

B. Reminder for [Sign up link](#)

VII. Executive Board Updates (15 min):

A. Follow-up from Dean meetings:

1. WSE Dean Ed: (  Dean Ed Meeting 02.14.24 )

- a) Main topic: Creation of advisory committees to address faculty conduct issues and complaints

(1) Focus on peer-led committees to address repetitive complaints against faculty members

- (a) The goal is to establish a clear process for addressing faculty behavior and ensuring accountability within the academic community  
(b) Emphasized the importance of student involvement in these committees and the potential impact on faculty behavior  
(c) Ongoing efforts to improve lab safety and gather feedback from departments

- b) Committee of professional conduct: aims to draw a fine line between shaming the faculty and highlighting the seriousness of their actions

(1) Committee is in line with what Gabriel and Sabine have been discussing

- (a) Deans having the most power: but Dean Ed mentioned that he might not have much influence on the decisions made by these committees.  
(b) Concerns raised about the Homewood graduate board being replaced by these committees include the lack of active discussion and voting power in the former

(2) Updates on space issues and the implementation of the WSE peer navigator system briefly discussed

- (a) Frequent town halls are planned for the potential move to the Mount Washington campus to address space issues

2. KSAS Dean Favret and Dean Celenza: CANCELED

- a) Cancellation of the KSAS meetings attributed to a lack of available or interested representatives to meet with Dean Celenza

(1) The decision to postpone the meeting was made to ensure a meaningful conversation with a larger group of interested individuals

(2) Efforts being made to reschedule the meeting with Dean Celenza in March

(a) Following up, we will demand at least one other meeting with Dean Favret in March

(b) Possibility of informing the list serv about the deans' lack of time for meetings is considered a nuclear option, if they fail to commit to 2 more meetings

b) Spreadsheet listing various issues discussed with the deans

c) Progress being made on several fronts: meetings serve as check-in opportunities to discuss ongoing issues and new concerns

B. Town Hall (Ayo)

1. The town hall meeting logistics, including the venue, food, and activities, are finalized!!

2. Event is scheduled for March 13th from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m in Glass Pavilion

3. Goal: to address student concerns and gather real-time feedback for school improvement.

4. Please volunteer!!

C. Intercampus Spring Formal Funding Vote postponed

D. Internal Fund Transfer to Admin and Funding Vote discussion

1. Internal fund transfer proposed to reallocate surplus funds from various budgets to emergency funds and office supplies

2. Motion for the internal fund transfer passes

E. Vote for Bylaws change for social chairs to increase by 50 hours postponed due to quorum

VIII. Open Discussion & Questions

A. Reminder not to vote ahead of time!

IX. Vote to adjourn passes at 7:15 PM