



GTU

Office of the President

March 20, 2023

Dear GTU Staff and Faculty:

The spring term of our 60th anniversary year is well underway, and the GTU's Executive Leadership Team and I are pleased to share several updates on our progress with implementation of GTU's 5-Year Strategic Vision ("GTU 2.0"), which is now in its fourth semester.

We've included a summary of progress below. In addition, you are welcome to join us for a Town Hall on **Tuesday, April 18th from 10-11 am via Zoom** to discuss any aspect of GTU 2.0. A link to the Zoom room can be [found here](#), or you may visit the GTU's [Events page](#) for details.

- [Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion \(DEI\)](#)

At a recent meeting of the Board of Trustees, the first phase of our DEI Plan was implemented with a workshop led by consultant Anna Fontus. Focusing on "engaged board leadership," the workshop explored dynamics of power and its impact on designing equitable systems—including at the GTU.

Building on this work, ELT is meeting to determine which additional recommendations will be implemented in the near- and long-term, with ongoing support from DEI Coordinator, Wendy Arce.

- [Flora Lamson Hewlett Library](#)

As many who joined us on January 26th are aware, GTU's beloved Flora Lamson Hewlett Library has reopened with its primary entrance located on Scenic Avenue. For anyone who has not yet had an opportunity to explore the new space, we encourage you to reach out to Beth Kumar, Director of Library Services, for a tour. A recorded version of the tour will be available on the Library's website in the coming weeks.

Meanwhile, alterations to the second floor are continuing on schedule and should be completed in time for the fall semester. Once the definitive date of completion has been determined, we look forward to planning a significant community event to come together and celebrate the space.

Information about the progress of alterations, library services, and other essential updates are routinely shared on the Library's blog, [here](#).

- [GTUx](#)

GTUx continues to keep pace with its growth goals, attracting nearly 8,0000 registered users to date.

Recent content releases include the GTUx Original [Mindfulness at Work? Industry's Search for Meaning and Purpose](#), as well as a forthcoming Original in partnership with Women's Studies in Religion (WSR) on Women's Bodies and the Sacred. GTUx also looks forward to releasing a new suite of content in partnership with the Richard S. Dinner Center for Jewish Studies as part of the [Taube Family Series on Jewish Life and Culture](#), and with the [United Nations' Faith for Earth Programme](#).

Beyond that, GTUx looks forward to launching the pilot of its first professional development offering, a

Certificate of Completion based on the popular GTUx Original on *Ecospirituality* with Drs. Rita Sherma and Devin Zuber.

The latest releases and updates can always be accessed by visiting GTUx at gtu.edu/x

- **Program Innovation: Online Version of the Common MA**
In mid-January, the GTU submitted a substantive change proposal to WSCUC (WASC Senior College and University Commission) for the approval of an online version of the GTU Common MA. In mid-February we received and responded to initial comments and questions on the proposal. The Substantive Change Conference Call with the review panel, WSCUC staff, and GTU representatives is scheduled for March 24. We will be notified after the call about the committee's decision. If the proposal is approved, GTU Common MA students will be permitted to take more than 50% and up to 100% of their courses online.
- **Financial Equilibrium and Long-Term Sustainability**
GTU's All Staff and Faculty Meeting on Monday, February 27th was dedicated entirely to a presentation about the GTU's budget planning process, financial landscape, and progress on the path toward financial equilibrium as forecasted by GTU's 5-Year Strategic Vision. As discussed with GTU Faculty and Staff at that time, current activity is as expected and on par with projections.

The updates above will also be made available on the web page for the Office of the President, [here](#), as well as the Board of Trustees, [here](#), for easy future reference by all community members. A dedicated web page with information about GTU 2.0 initiatives and a web form to provide anonymous feedback is available on the GTU website, [here](#).

Similar updates and opportunities to ask questions about the implementation of GTU 2.0 will continue to be provided each semester.

With peace and blessings,
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