



GTU

Office of the President

November 15, 2021

GTU Community Members:

Since introducing the GTU's 5-Year Strategic Vision to our wider community last spring, a great deal of valuable feedback from many constituencies has been received and integrated into our plans. On behalf of myself, the Executive Leadership Team, as well as the Board of Trustees, please accept our heartfelt gratitude for your interest and engagement as we together embark on this new chapter in the history of the GTU, and the future of theological education. This is an effort that will require our collective, ongoing involvement and collaboration; I am grateful for your participation in making GTU 2.0 a reality.

With that in mind, it is with great pride in the strides that our institution has taken towards implementation of GTU 2.0 that I offer the following update on our progress with several key initiatives included in our Strategic Vision:

- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Under the leadership and guidance of Marie Lucero, Chief Operating Officer, the GTU has retained the expertise of [Anna Fontus](#), a seasoned DEI professional with experience in higher education, to work closely with the Executive Leadership Team, Board of Trustees, and many others across our institution in developing a detailed plan for integrating the DEI Select Committee's recommendations within the GTU's organizational framework. This undertaking remains one of the GTU's leading priorities, and the intention is to knit a culture of DEI deep into the fabric of our institutional identity and practices, across all constituencies and areas.

In addition, for the community's reference, an Executive Summary of the DEI Select Committee's recommendations are available on the Board of Trustees web page, [here](#).

- Consolidation of Our Campus Footprint

Also guided by Marie Lucero, tremendous progress has been made in consolidating our physical campus. Beginning with the successful lease of the GTU's North Building (2465 LeConte Avenue) in August, the GTU has initiated the process of further centralizing our operations within the Hewlett Building at 2400 Ridge Road.

By undertaking a consolidation of the GTU's useable real estate, the GTU will achieve several primary objectives:

- o Generating rental income
- o Incremental conservation of operational costs
- o Fostering a more collaborative culture by increasing opportunities for synergy among employees and faculty

As we continue to take this work forward, a series of alterations will be made to the Hewlett Building over the course of three phases, beginning this month and planned to continue through summer 2023.



- Library

The Hewlett Library, led by Colyn Wohlmutter, has begun the deduplication process to reduce its physical footprint. In addition, our partnership with the [Internet Archive](#) will continue in December, as they receive microforms and print materials pageable from Berkeley School of Theology and the Hewlett building basement and build our digital holdings on [archive.org](#). You'll notice some disruptions to the space on the Lower Level as we move materials for the next stage of building alterations.

- GTUx

Spearheaded by Sephora Markson, Chief Strategy Officer, since launching our GTUx Pilot Initiative ([gtu.edu/x](#)) in spring 2021, the platform has attracted well over 1,000 registered users, generating interest and engagement from a wide network of new audiences.

As we look ahead to the launch of a larger, more robust platform in spring 2022, a new array of content is currently under development in collaboration with several faculty across the consortium, including a new suite of GTUx Originals as guided by the recently formed Content Review Panel, an academic body comprised of Core Doctoral Faculty representatives from each of the GTU's four departments, as well as the GTU's Director of Digital Learning.

We welcome your questions on these or any other initiatives associated with GTU 2.0 at a dedicated GTU 2.0 Town Hall with myself and the entire Executive Leadership Team, hosted via Zoom, planned for next **Tuesday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> from 10-11am**.

To attend, please reach out to Melissa Haddick at [mhaddick@gtu.edu](mailto:mhaddick@gtu.edu) to request access details. Questions may also be shared with the ELT in advance by submitting them to Melissa. For those who are unable to join, the meeting will be recorded, and a link can be requested from Melissa the following day.

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. Additionally, going forward, similar updates and opportunities to ask questions about the implementation of GTU 2.0 will be provided each semester.

We look forward to seeing you next week!

With peace and blessings,  
Uriah