



Presidential Task Force on
Accompaniment, Safety and Belonging

Summer 2026 Progress Report

September 10, 2026

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Preface and Purpose

The Presidential Task Force (PTF) met weekly throughout the summer to ensure steady progress, with individual work group and sub committees meeting as needed to ensure sustained momentum and progress.

Below is a summary of ongoing and completed work based on work group and committee assignments advanced in the Summer of 2026. Please see the [Presidential Task Force website](#) for [previous reports](#) and past completed items. In some cases, committee work is cross-functional and completed outside traditional committee structures and assignments. This report is a high-level summary and is not a comprehensive accounting of all the work done by the Task Force.

Summer Commitments

Summer Commitment 1: Post institutional statement condemning racism and discrimination

COMPLETE

- A [clear statement](#) was added to the Presidential Task Force website under "Our Guiding Commitment," and reinforced through multiple campus communications from February through May.

Summer Commitment 2: One-stop reporting and accountability framework

COMPLETE

- A one-stop reporting "[Report a Concern](#)" link is active in the footer on all Gonzaga webpages and enables all Title IX, Harassment & Discriminations, Bias, and Student Code of Conduct complaints to be reported at a single location.

Summer Commitment 3: Visual explanations of reporting and accountability processes

SUBSTANTIALLY COMPLETE

- Flowcharts and process maps [have been published](#) for bias reporting, Campus Security & Public Safety responses, Title IX, Harassment and Non-Discrimination, , Referral Pathways for the Resolution Center for Student Conduct and Conflict (RC3), and the RC3 Student Conduct process. When a report is submitted, the corresponding process flowchart will be shared with the reporting individual. The flowcharts will be updated and republished as workflows evolve.

Summer Commitment 4: Review of communication protocols

SUBSTANTIALLY COMPLETE

- The Task Force reviewed concerns regarding communication, transparency, and follow-up in conduct, bias, harassment, and discrimination cases. Conduct, bias, harassment and discrimination cases will now be managed in the same case management platform, which

provides the ability to streamline and automate workflows and improve communications to the Parties as well as between University offices.

- The Center for Student Involvement and Resolution Center for Student Conduct and Conflict are working with GSBA to clarify reporting and communication processes so that GSBA bylaws specifying conduct expectations for Senators and elected GSBA officers can be effectively enforced.

Summer Commitment 5: Clarified IT Use Policy and Zagmail Accountability

COMPLETE

- The Information Technology Use Policy was updated to explicitly address the use of Gonzaga email accounts within the IT Use Policy and explain accountability for misuse. The University also clarified enforcement processes for email account misuse as well as steps for ongoing monitoring/reporting practices related to online misconduct.

Summer Commitment 6: Belonging & Community Programming for Orientation & Welcome Weekend

COMPLETE

- New Student Orientation and Fall Welcome Weekend programming were redesigned around belonging, mission, community, and connection. New belonging and inclusion-focused activities, residence hall experiences, affinity programming, keynote events, and assessment tools have been developed and are scheduled for implementation beginning Fall 2026.

Workgroups Progress

Workgroups were established to address the nine original demands of the Gonzaga Black Student Union received by the administration in the spring of 2026. Many of these items were time-specific whereas others were goal-specific. Some near-term items were completed during the spring and summer of 2026. Other items were already being addressed, but the work was not as visible to the Gonzaga community as it needed to be. Long-term commitments, such as accountability frameworks and recruitment and retention, remain ongoing, and will continue to be areas of focus and collaboration across the units that oversee this work as we strive for continuous improvement in our systems and structures in support of inclusivity and belonging for our campus community.

Workgroup 1: Institutional Statement on Racism, Accountability and Respect

COMPLETE

- Issued campus-wide communications condemning racism on:
 - Feb. 24, 2026
 - March 17, 2026

- [March 27, 2026](#)
- [May 4, 2026](#)
- The Task Force web page [opening statement](#) condemns racism and affirms the University's commitment to fostering a campus climate of respect, dignity, and belonging.
- Posted to message to Instagram, Facebook, and LinkedIn on September 4, 2026 calling our community to lead with care, respect, and dignity online and off.

Workgroup 2: Accountability Framework

SUBSTANTIALLY COMPLETE & ONGOING

- Reviewed accountability systems across multiple university units.
- Mapped existing reporting, conduct, and governance processes.
- Identified areas where existing processes overlapped or created fragmentation. Reviewed and provided improvements to the Resolution Center for Student Conduct and Conflict (RC3) reporting resources.
- A list of potential outcomes that may be assigned to students who are found responsible of Conduct Code Violations has been added to the Resolution Center for Student Conduct and Conflict's website on a new [Conduct Outcomes Guidelines](#) page.
- Created an [easily-searchable PDF version](#) of the Student Code of Conduct, available on the [Student Code of Conduct web page](#).
- Visual flowcharts have been created for the processes listed below and [posted on the public website](#). When a report is submitted, the corresponding process flowchart will be shared with the reporting individual. The flowcharts will be updated and republished as workflows evolve.
 - [Bias reports and cases](#)
 - [Campus Security response workflows](#)
 - [Harassment and Non-Discrimination policy process](#)
 - [Title IX policy process](#)
 - [RC3 Referral pathways](#)
 - [RC3 Student Conduct process](#)
- A one-stop reporting "Report a Concern" link is active in the footer on all Gonzaga webpages and enables all Title IX, Harassment & Discriminations, Bias, and Student Code of Conduct complaints to be reported at a single location. Work on the reporting page will continue as we further streamline processes and make improvements to the user experience based on feedback.
- Streamlined reporting from multiple forms into a single form for reporting all Title IX, Harassment & Discrimination, and Bias complaints. This form is located and available at the one-stop reporting "[Report a Concern](#)" link.

Workgroup 3: Digital Safety and Policy Clarification

COMPLETE

- Blocked access to the Fizz app on Gonzaga's network on February 24, 2026.

- Updated the [Information Technology Use Policy \(ITUP\)](#) in March 2026 to clarify acceptable use of Gonzaga email and technology resources.
- Continue to monitor and report racist, harassing, or threatening posts that violate Fizz policies and community standards. Posts that contain threats of violence or personal attacks will be elevated to local law enforcement immediately.

Workgroup 4: Mandatory Training and Student Leadership Development

ONGOING

- Reorganized work group responsibilities to separate conduct enforcement from leadership training.
- Established the framework for a campus-wide Inclusive Excellence training model for student leaders. Program development will happen during the Fall 2026 semester with cross-campus membership including:
 - Payne Center for Leadership Development (PCLD)
 - Housing & Residence Life (HRL)
 - Lincoln LGBTQ+ Resource Center (LLRC)
 - Student Employment
 - Office of Inclusive Excellence
 - Center for Student Involvement (CSI)
 - Unity Multicultural Education Center (UMEC)
- Student leader training programs were audited and compiled into a comprehensive list. Data and feedback were analyzed and used to make improvements and identify training gaps and areas of concern, which included fragmented coordination, the need for more in-depth content, greater inclusion of student leader groups, and program assessment.
- Student programs on belonging and community were offered and assessed in July and August as part of Summer Orientation. Feedback received will be utilized to make future improvements.
- The keynote speaker for Welcome Weekend addressed human dignity and difference through storytelling and encouraged students to consider contexts that shaped their identities, and to embrace curiosity as a way to engage difference and bridge conflict. A post-keynote workshop was offered by student leaders, and discussions about the keynote speaker's book will occur in the fall semester in Magis Seminars.
- A Restorative Practices training pilot was introduced to student leaders in August at the Community of Leaders (COL) program, followed by a schedule of monthly listening circles which will occur throughout fall 2026.

Workgroup 5: Student Governance Framework

SUBSTANTIALLY COMPLETE

- GSBA bylaws, constitution, and code of ethics have been revised, incorporating feedback from students, staff, and administration. These revised documents will allow GSBA to

better address any conduct concerns that may arise involving GSBA in elected and hired positions.

- The Center for Student Involvement and Resolution Center for Student Conduct and Conflict are working with GSBA to clarify reporting and communication processes so that GSBA bylaws specifying conduct expectations for Senators and elected GSBA officers can be effectively enforced.

Workgroup 6: Student Liaison Initiative

COMPLETE

- Met with UACC, UMEC and GSBA leaders to design the liaison structure.
- Drafted a formal job description for the liaison position.
- Developed a governance and mentorship model for liaison support.
- Secured university funding to make the liaison role a paid position.
- Developed a liaison cluster model to support cultural student organizations.
- Finalized hiring process, posting and onboarding plans for the position. The [position is posted](#) and closes on September 25, 2026. (ZagsIgnite login required).
 - This liaison will work collaboratively with three other student liaisons to represent the student voice: 1) GSBA Director of DEI; 2) GSBA Director of Clubs & Organizations; 3) UMEC Liaison
 - The is being promoted with a [story on Gonzaga's website](#) and via social media (Instagram story, [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#)).

Workgroup 7: Student Publications

ONGOING

- Developed strategies to increase student, faculty and staff participation in:
 - The Bulletin
 - University journals
 - iZag radio and podcasts

Strategies include more tabling, ads in the Bulletin, social media posts, and presenting the opportunities to clubs as well as in classrooms.

- Conducted outreach to advisors and university partners regarding expanded student publishing opportunities.
- Secured temporary HUB space to support possible student publication projects.
- Engaged University Advancement regarding funding and partnership opportunities. Donor-funded institutional resources have been identified to support student engagement efforts, communications initiatives, and publication production.
- GSBA is updating the way they are presenting student voices, stories, and perspectives. Additional information will be provided in the coming weeks.

Workgroup 8: Recruitment and Retention

ONGOING

Faculty

This work is ongoing and will be coordinated in the provost office during the fall 2026 semester.

- Convened 11 faculty members to develop action plans addressing concerns identified in listening sessions. [\[Details in July 2026 Status Report\]](#)
- Conducted multiple follow-up meetings to finalize planning documents. [\[Details in June 2026 Status Report\]](#)
- Created reports analyzing diversity of student, faculty and staff populations and Spokane-area recruitment trends. [\[Details in June 2026 Status Report\]](#)
- Formed a faculty advisory committee that reviewed reporting and accountability materials and began developing faculty mentoring and classroom climate resources. [\[Details in July 2026 Status Report\]](#)
- Reviewed Faculty Handbook expectations for professional responsibilities to students, classroom climate, and communication, along with sections of the University Policies and Procedures Manual that address employee coaching, documentation, corrective processes, and response procedures.

Students

This work is ongoing work and will coordinate with Admissions and AAAC

- Several student recruitment and retention programs that provide support are in place (i.e., [Unity Scholars](#), [Cristo Rey](#), [Gonzaga Access Pledge](#), [BRIDGE](#), and [Launch Northwest Scholars](#), [Strong Start](#), [Catalyst College Immersion](#), [Tribal Relations Summer Project](#), [Science in Action](#), [Climate Literacy Project](#), [Walking School Bus](#), [Gonzaga Family Haven](#), [Zags for a Day](#), [Unity Multicultural Education Center](#), [Lincoln LGBTQ+ Resource Center](#), and [Center for Global Engagement](#)).
- Integrated Task Force recruitment efforts with Student Affairs Educational Pathways initiatives.
- Exploration of need and resources for expansion of the BRIDGE program.
- Advanced development of local student pathway and transfer partnerships.
- Initiated production of a new international recruitment video highlighting Gonzaga's global community.
- Coordinated communications between UACC and Admissions for prospective and incoming students.

Workgroup 9: Dedicated Belonging Spaces

IN PROGRESS

- Assessed all Gonzaga spaces and DEIB-related spaces and resources across campus.

- Conducted a review of student needs and opportunities for enhanced belonging and community connection.
- Expanded discussions from a facilities focus to a broader student engagement and accompaniment effort.
- The work group has identified potential spaces and configuration options for further review. Over the coming weeks, work group members, in partnership with student liaison representatives and key campus stakeholders, will evaluate the viability of these options, gather input and assess operational considerations. Space may be available for implementation as early as October, depending on final review, stakeholder feedback and readiness considerations. The work group will continue to provide updates as this evaluation process progresses.

Additional University-Wide Accomplishments

- Established a cross-departmental Spokane cultural resource directory project chaired by Dr. Nicholas Wright (working title and domain: Spoculture). The directory is envisioned as a general Spokane community resource to highlight vetted local cultural and business assets and foster belonging across the region. The project team is exploring the best way to collect input and produce a guide and is engaging local colleges and universities as well as the City of Spokane and other entities in its development.
- Completed **Out to Protect** hate-crime investigation training certification for all Campus Security personnel.
- Launched planning for a regional NAACP-Gonzaga welcome event for Black college students across Eastern Washington. The event is being planned for Sunday, October 4 from 2-5 p.m., after the close of Fall Family Weekend, pending confirmation of a venue and other logistics.
- Faculty conducted two training workshops related to belonging and care for students on August 18 and August 27.
 - Faculty Operational Excellence Day (August 18): 191 faculty members participated in professional development sessions aligned with the Task Force's priorities around student support, belonging, and success.
 - Trauma-Informed Teaching: Faculty received guidance on recognizing challenges students may be experiencing and implementing supportive classroom practices, including clear expectations, consistency, and appropriate boundaries.
 - Inclusive Learning Environments and Student Belonging: Faculty explored strategies to foster belonging in the classroom. Most participants identified specific actions they plan to implement, with follow-up assessment and engagement planned during September.

- Fall Faculty Conference (August 27): Two sessions reinforced faculty awareness of reporting resources, student support systems, and early intervention strategies.
- University Reporting and Support Resources: Faculty were provided an overview of processes and resources related to bias, harassment and discrimination, Title IX, and other student concerns, including reporting procedures and available support services.
- Early Alerts and Student Retention: Faculty received practical guidance on identifying students experiencing academic, personal, or behavioral challenges and connecting them to appropriate campus resources through SOS and other reporting mechanisms.
- Next Steps: Questions and feedback collected during the conference sessions are being reviewed by the Faculty Advisory Group, which will develop additional faculty communications and resource materials to further support Task Force recommendations.

— End of Report —