



Vice President, Facilities & Building Services

Georgia State University

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Executive Summary

Georgia State University is seeking to hire a Vice President, Facilities & Building Services. The Facilities Management Services Division provides Georgia State University with safe, functional, efficient, and aesthetically pleasing facilities. In pursuit of excellence, the division fulfills this mission by acquiring, planning, designing, constructing, cleaning, maintaining, operating, repairing, and securing university facilities, while strategically managing both financial and physical resources.

Georgia State University (GSU) is a nationally recognized public research institution with its main campus located in downtown Atlanta, serving a diverse student population across multiple campuses. Known for its commitment to innovation, student success, and urban impact, GSU continues to experience significant growth and transformation—supported by a dynamic campus environment and evolving facilities' needs.

The Vice President, Facilities & Building Services, serves as a key strategic leader responsible for the overall vision, direction, and performance of the university's facilities enterprise. Reporting to the EVP and Chief Operating Officer, this role oversees comprehensive facilities operations, including capital planning and construction, plant operations, maintenance, custodial services, and campus safety infrastructure. The Vice President will play a critical role in aligning facilities strategies with the university's academic mission and long-term strategic priorities.

This leader will guide a complex, multifaceted organization, ensuring the effective stewardship of assets, the optimization of resources, and the delivery of high-quality services that enhance the campus experience for students, faculty, staff, and visitors. The role requires a forward-thinking approach to infrastructure planning, including energy management, deferred maintenance, and integration of innovative technologies to improve efficiency and performance.

The successful candidate will bring a proven track record of executive leadership in facilities management within a large, complex organization—ideally in higher education or a similarly mission-driven environment. They will demonstrate strategic vision, operational excellence, and financial acumen, along with experience leading large teams and managing significant capital projects. A collaborative and transparent leadership style, strong communication skills, and the ability to build relationships across diverse stakeholder groups will be essential. The ideal candidate will be a proactive, solutions-oriented leader committed to service, innovation, and continuous improvement in support of Georgia State University's mission and growth.

The University has recently completed an independent, third-party assessment of the Facilities division with a focus on operational strengths and weaknesses, data and technology assets and opportunities, compensation and organizational structure improvements, and resource optimization. Recommendations span a 3- to 5-year timeframe, with an anticipated FY2027 investment of approximately \$3 million.

Please refer to page 10 for information on the application and nomination process.

Role of the Vice President, Facilities and Building Services

Key Responsibilities

- Provide strategic, long-term vision and leadership for campus development and the planning, prioritization, and delivery of capital and infrastructure projects; lead the development and implementation of the Campus Master Plan and capital plan to guide sustainable campus growth and investment.
- Oversee design standards, capital programs, space allocation, project budgets, and RFQs/RFPs to ensure projects are delivered on schedule, within budget, and aligned with institutional priorities; collaborate with campus leadership, the USG Board of Regents, and governmental partners to ensure alignment with system priorities, regulatory requirements, and funding frameworks.
- Provide leadership for facilities maintenance and operations, building services, grounds, and custodial operations to maintain an exceptional campus environment that supports the student experience and institutional reputation.
- Direct and oversee policies, procedures, and operational standards to ensure the safe, efficient, reliable, and compliant operation of all university facilities and infrastructure.
- Drive continuous improvement through data analysis, benchmarking, and lifecycle planning to enhance service delivery and cost efficiency.
- Establish and monitor key performance indicators, service level standards, and benchmarking metrics aligned with industry best practices; use performance data, audits, inspections, and stakeholder feedback to drive accountability, validate outcomes, and improve operational effectiveness; ensure the accuracy and timeliness of all required reporting to the USG Board of Regents.
- Serve as a trusted advisor to senior academic and administrative leadership on major issues related to facilities, capital planning, physical security, and campus sustainability; align facilities initiatives with institutional priorities to maximize value and support informed decision-making; participate in senior leadership meetings as required.
- Serve as a trusted University liaison to key external partners such as the City of Atlanta and various downtown organizations on intersecting Facilities matters.
- Lead, develop, and retain a high-performing workforce through periods of change and growth; establish clear divisional goals and performance expectations, assess outcomes using measurable criteria, and address personnel matters fairly and consistently; promote professional development, engagement, accountability, and a culture of service excellence and continuous improvement.
- Ensure compliance with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, building and fire codes, and USG Board of Regents policies related to facilities planning, development, and operations; represent the university in facilities-related matters with governing bodies, governmental agencies, and community stakeholders; serve on university and external committees.
- Perform other related duties as assigned.

Professional Qualifications and Personal Qualities

Special Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities

Strong candidates will have many of the following qualifications and personal characteristics, in no particular order:

- Ability to lead a diverse workforce toward the [university's strategic vision](#).
- Use independent judgment to make strategic decisions in the best interests of the university and division stakeholders.
- Strong knowledge of facilities systems, utility, and safety requirements in higher education, including different models for organizational design (e.g., zone management, organization by trade, organization by division) and approaches to in-sourcing and out-sourcing services.
- Strong analytical skills, including familiarity with cost/benefit, life cycle cost, and net present value analysis, as well as insourcing/outourcing designs.
- Familiarity with public/private partnership and off-balance sheet financing structures as they apply to facilities and utilities management.
- Ability to manage complex projects and large operating budgets.
- Extensive verbal and written communication skills. Ability to develop effective and comprehensive communications to various stakeholders.
- Ability to build and sustain positive and collaborative working relationships with a wide range of constituents and extensive customer service skills.
- Proven leader, manager, and mentor with demonstrated successful change management skills with a collaborative, inclusive, and consensus-building management style.
- Strategic leadership responsibility in finance, budget, strategic planning, or related areas at a complex organization, preferably a college or university.
- Ability to create an environment encouraging collaboration, consensus building, and positive diplomacy.
- Ability to coordinate and prioritize tasks, resolve problems creatively, negotiate solutions, and prioritize work to ensure resources are employed appropriately.
- Commitment to the mission of the University, customer service, and best practices in facilities operations and management.

Minimum Hiring Requirements

- Bachelor's degree in Architecture, Urban Planning, Engineering, Management, Business Administration, or a related field, and seven years of relevant experience.

Preferred Hiring Requirements

- Master's degree in a relevant field and 10+ years of experience within an urban research university setting.

Reshaping Downtown Atlanta



Overview

Georgia State University is embarking on a [transformative reinvestment](#) in its downtown Atlanta campus, anchored by a [historic \\$80 million gift from the Robert W. Woodruff Foundation](#)—the largest philanthropic contribution in the institution’s history. This gift serves as the catalyst for the University’s “Building Pathways for Success” initiative, a \$107 million portfolio of capital projects that will reshape the physical environment and redefine the student experience across the campus. Reflecting both institutional ambition and civic partnership, the initiative signals a bold commitment to reimagining Georgia State’s urban footprint and strengthening its role in the continued revitalization of downtown Atlanta. Known as the [GSU Blue Line](#), a 3.7-mile, signature walking path will physically and visually connect key destinations across campus. The Vice President, Facilities and Building Services, will play a pivotal role in advancing this vision, providing leadership and oversight to ensure these transformative investments are executed effectively and achieve their intended impact.

College Town Downtown

Central to this effort is a vision of creating a cohesive and vibrant “[college town downtown](#)”—an evolution from Georgia State’s historically decentralized, commuter-oriented campus into a more connected, immersive academic environment. The initiative encompasses nine major projects, centered on key campus anchors such as Hurt Park and Woodruff Park, to transform these areas into dynamic hubs for student life, community engagement, and academic activity. Planned improvements include expanding green spaces, enhancing pedestrian pathways, creating new gathering and dining areas, and modernizing academic facilities, all designed to foster connectivity, safety, and a stronger sense of place.

A defining feature of the transformation is the expansion of the campus Greenway and the creation of a central quadrangle linking existing open spaces—physically and symbolically unifying the campus. This includes the strategic removal of legacy structures such as Sparks Hall to open sightlines, improve circulation, and create a more pedestrian-oriented environment. The Panther Quad is envisioned as a vibrant, student-centered destination that activates surrounding facilities and fosters engagement, programming, and informal interaction.

Complementing this, the Central Academic Quad will establish a cohesive, landscaped environment that links key academic buildings and green spaces, strengthening connections across campus and promoting interdisciplinary exchange. Complementary investments will reimagine surrounding facilities, including upgrades to the Arts and Humanities Building, activation of 100 Edgewood as a hub for student life, and improvements to Woodruff Park that strengthen connections to adjacent academic and civic spaces. Collectively, these efforts aim to cultivate a campus that is both academically rigorous and experientially rich, aligning with Georgia State’s mission to support student success.

More broadly, the “College Town Downtown” initiative reflects an integrated approach to campus planning and urban placemaking—balancing large-scale transformative projects with the ongoing renewal of existing infrastructure to meet the needs of a growing, evolving university community. As these projects advance, Georgia State is positioned to not only enhance the daily experiences of its students, faculty, and staff but also to contribute meaningfully to the economic vitality and livability of downtown Atlanta. For the next Vice President, Facilities and Building Services, this moment represents a rare opportunity to steward a complex, high-impact portfolio of capital initiatives that will define the University’s physical landscape for decades to come.

Updates on project timeline and progress can be found under the "[Projects in Motion](#)" section.

About Georgia State University



Overview

Georgia State University (GSU) is a nationally recognized R1 public research university located in downtown Atlanta, Georgia. Founded in 1913, GSU has grown into one of the largest and most diverse institutions in the country, enrolling over 53,000 students from 155 countries and 49 states. GSU is widely celebrated as a national leader in student success, particularly for its ability to graduate students at the same rate regardless of race, gender, or socioeconomic status. Its innovative, data-driven approach to student support has become a model for institutions across the country. The National Institute for Student Success, created and housed at Georgia State, disseminates these evidence-based best practices to colleges and universities across the country and around the world.

The University is also known for its entrepreneurial spirit and rapid research growth. According to U.S. News & World Report, GSU ranks #1 in the nation for its commitment to undergraduate teaching and as one of the top five most innovative public institutions for 11 years. Georgia State is also one of the fastest-growing research universities in the country. In total, GSU has invested more than 1.88 billion dollars in research over the last 10 years.

GSU offers more than 250 undergraduate and 180 graduate degree programs across 12 colleges and schools. Its urban location provides students with unmatched access to Atlanta's industries, cultural institutions, and government agencies. With a strong emphasis on equity, innovation, and impact, Georgia State continues to redefine what a public research university can achieve in the 21st century.

Mission

Georgia State University, one of the largest, most innovative multi-campus public research universities, transforms the lives of students, advances the frontiers of knowledge, and strengthens the workforce of the future. With campuses in and around metro Atlanta, Georgia State readies students for professional pursuits, educates future leaders, and prepares citizens for lifelong learning. Enrolling one of the most diverse student bodies in the nation, Georgia State prioritizes student success, ensuring that students from all backgrounds graduate at high rates. The University provides outstanding experiential educational opportunities and exceptional support for students seeking degrees from the associate to the doctoral level.

One of the nation's fastest-growing research institutions, Georgia State's scholarship and research focus on solving complex issues ranging from the most fundamental questions of the universe to the most challenging issues of its day, while creative activities expand and enrich the world.

Strategic Plan: A BluePrint to 2033

Georgia State University launched a bold 10-year [strategic plan](#) to guide its growth, innovation, and impact through 2033. The plan reflects GSU's identity as a diverse, urban, multi-campus institution committed to student success, research excellence, and community engagement. This strategic plan also reflects GSU's commitment to inclusive excellence, innovation, and social mobility, aiming to prepare students and faculty to thrive in a rapidly changing world.

Colleges and Schools

With more than 50,000 students and six campuses in the greater Atlanta area, Georgia State is one of the country's largest, most dynamic institutions. Georgia State University comprises 12 colleges and schools, each offering a wide range of academic programs and research opportunities. These units reflect the University's commitment to interdisciplinary learning, innovation, and student success.

- [Andrew Young School of Policy Studies](#)
- [Byrdine F. Lewis College of Nursing and Health Professions](#)
- [College of Arts & Sciences](#)
- [College of Education & Human Development](#)
- [College of Law](#)
- [College of the Arts](#)
- [Institute for Biomedical Sciences](#)
- [J. Mack Robinson College of Business](#)
- [Perimeter College](#)
- [School of Public Health](#)
- [Honors College](#)
- [The Graduate College](#)

Leadership

M. Brian Blake, Ph.D., President



As the eighth President of Georgia State University, Dr. M. Brian Blake leads the State of Georgia's largest university, spanning 6 campuses and a community of nearly 51,000 students and 8,000 faculty and staff.

Before joining Georgia State, Dr. Blake had over 25 years of faculty and administrative experience across 5 comprehensive research universities, including serving as Provost at George Washington University and Drexel University, as dean at the University of Miami, and as associate dean for research at the University of Notre Dame. During the first 10 years of his academic career, he was a professor and later department chair of Computer Science at Georgetown University.

In addition to several honorary degrees, Dr. Blake has a Bachelor of Electrical Engineering from Georgia Institute of Technology, a Master of Science in Electrical Engineering from Mercer University, and a Ph.D. in Software Engineering from George Mason University. [Read his full biography here.](#)

L. Jared Abramson, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer



Mr. Abramson brings over 20 years of higher education experience and has served on several Boards. He has demonstrated expertise in finance and operations, academic and research administration, and business intelligence and strategic planning.

Previously, he served as the inaugural vice president for financial planning and operations at the George Washington University (GW), where he was responsible for university-wide strategic financial planning, including creating and maintaining GW's five-year operating and capital plans, financial modeling and forecasting, as well as resource planning, budgeting, and analysis.

Mr. Abramson received a B.A. in psychology from the State University of New York at Albany and an M.A. in industrial organizational psychology from George Mason University. [Read his full biography here.](#)



Atlanta, Georgia

Atlanta is a vibrant, diverse, and rapidly growing metropolitan hub in the heart of the Southeast. Known for its rich history, dynamic culture, and global influence, Atlanta offers a unique blend of Southern hospitality and urban innovation. As Georgia's capital, it is home to major Fortune 500 companies, world-class healthcare and research institutions, and a thriving arts and entertainment scene.

The city is a center of higher education, with numerous colleges and universities that contribute to its intellectual and cultural vitality. Atlanta's diverse population and international reach make it an ideal setting for inclusive learning and community engagement. Its location at the crossroads of rural, suburban, and urban communities offers rich opportunities for educational partnerships and outreach.

With its temperate climate, expansive green spaces, and robust public transportation system, Atlanta is both livable and accessible. From historic neighborhoods and civil rights landmarks to cutting-edge innovation districts, Atlanta is a city that honors its past while shaping the future.



Procedure for Candidacy

Please submit all applications, nominations, and inquiries to the search team through the WittKieffer Candidate Portal by [clicking here](#). New users should select “Register Here” to create an account before proceeding. After logging in, navigate to “Open Positions,” then locate the role by entering the institution’s name and clicking the search wheel.

Nominations and inquiries can be directed to:

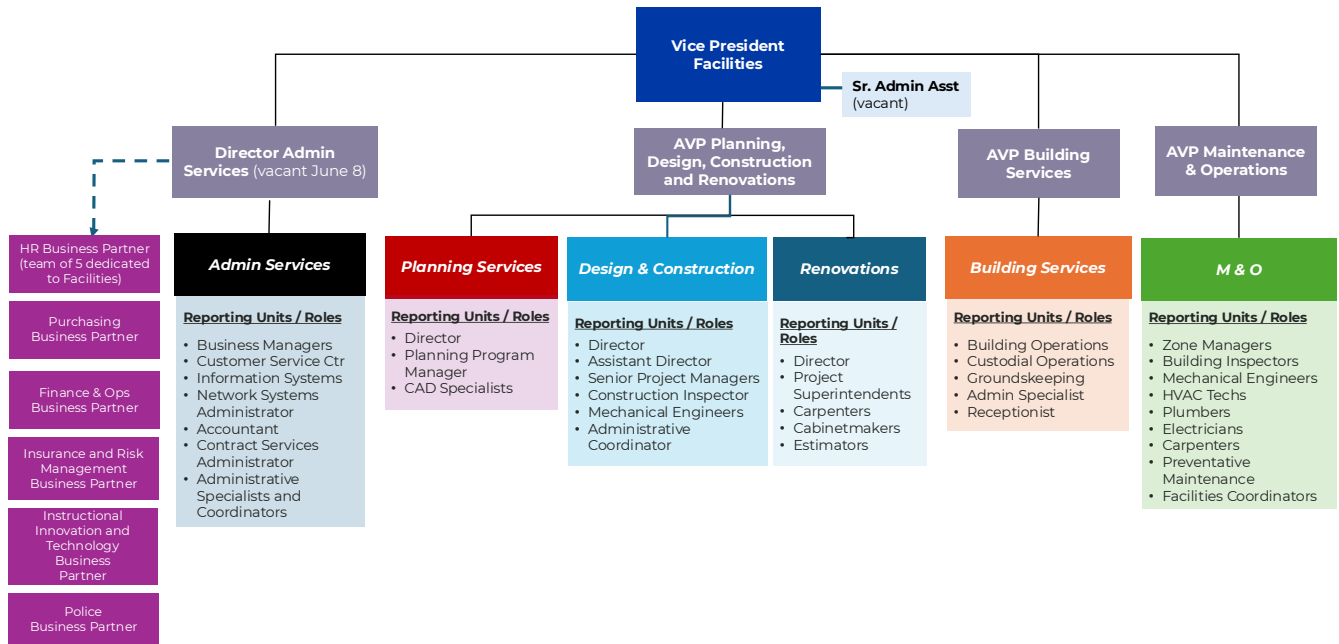
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Appendix A: Facilities Management Organizational Chart



Business Partners have central reporting lines but perform key functions for Facilities

Building Services and M&O have staff on the Perimeter campuses in addition to downtown