



Salisbury University – Staff Senate
Thursday, September 10, 2020
Zoom

Members In attendance: Joe Benyish, Steve Blankenship, Donna Carey, Vanessa Collins, Paul Gasior, Lisa Gray, Sara Heim, Matt Hill, Teri Herberger, Tabitha Pilchard, Belinda Poole, Safaa Said, Jessica Scott, and Amy Waters

Members Absent: N/A

Executive Staff: President Wight, Tony Pasquariello

Chair, Tabitha Pilchard, opened the meeting at 10:00 am

August minutes were reviewed and approved

I. Reports

a. President Wight

- i. Renaming of the Honors College to the Glenda Chatham and Robert G. Clarke Honors College in honor of their \$1.5 million endowment gift. We're very happy to have this great relationship with these generous donors. They are SU alumni and met at SU.
- ii. COVID19 Testing - After a small sample was tested with a high rate of positives it was decided very quickly to test the entire campus.
 1. Grateful to everyone who rallied together and conducted the testing. Some issue on Tuesday and Wednesday with longer lines.
 2. So far 3603 were tested on Monday and Tuesday with 224 positive tests resulting in a 6.6% positivity rate (Wicomico County is at 6.1%)
 3. Faculty have been encouraged to move to a more remote format by Provost Olmsted
 4. President Wight will be speaking with the Health Officer to talk about next steps that may be needed.
 5. Current plan is for Monthly mandatory large-scale testing. Will maintain the regular testing options. Testing center will always be court plaza.
 6. Acknowledged that there were issues with lines being longer than they should have been with students coming outside of their timeframe.
 - a. Senator Jessica Scott brought up an issue where those who are both employees of SU and taking a course(s) labeled "online" were excluded from testing.
- iii. Budget – The system allowed us the authority to use 10 million in fund balance
 1. Acknowledged that there are many vacant positions – we're aware of how difficult it is as we're experiencing this in our own office.

b. Tony Pasquariello

- i. SU's FY21 revenue projections as of August 31 estimated a loss of \$26.3 million (from \$204.1 million to \$177.8 million)
- ii. USM authorized the use of \$10 million from the University's fund balance toward SU's FY21 budget.
- iii. 9 out of 12 USM institutions are making cuts. We're only doing a temporary salary reduction for executive staff.
- iv. Everyone needs to give serious consideration to spending
- v. Furloughs will be based on salary if they are needed.

c. CUSS Updates

- i. First meeting of the new year
- ii. Projecting 145 million dollar loss across the system
- iii. Goals and objectives were discussed for the upcoming year during committee breakouts.
- iv. 14 new members

II. Old Business:

- a. Standing Committees – Updates
 - i. Human Resources –
 - 1. Didn't meet because of the start of the school year.
 - ii. Communications/Snack & Chat Sessions
 - 1. Snack and chat for the month of September has been moved to November.
 - 2. Tabitha to reach out to Eli to propose a COVID snack and chat for September 23rd.

III. New Business:

- a. Staff Senate Suggestion Box – N/A
- b. Employee Appreciation Day
 - i. A coupon will be sent for the bookstore in the month of October via email.
- c. COVID Update by Staff Senate – See Snack & Chat
- d. Social Security Deferment – Federal government has allowed businesses to stop taking social security out of pay checks. Staff Senate reached out to Laurie Stroud at SU who said that the decision would come from the state – not SU – if the state decided to grant this option to its employees. If the state did participate we would be notified. Laurie Stroud has reached out to central payroll to ask.
- e. Review of the By-Laws/Sub-Committee: Lisa Gray will chair a sub committee to review the bylaws. Paul Gasior and Sara Heim will participate on the committee.
- f. Branding Exercise Representative: A staff senate representative was requested to sit on a monthly branding exercise. Joe Benyish has volunteered.

IV. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned: 11:45am

Next Meeting – October 8, Zoom

Respectfully submitted,
Sara Heim