



Salisbury University – Staff Senate

Thursday, February 11, 2021

Zoom

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

Members Absent: N/A

Executive Staff: President Wight & Dr. Janet Wormack

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

I. Reports

a. President Wight

- i. We are working with the County and the State Department of Health to ensure some employees have access to the vaccine in phase 1C.
 1. When those eligible receive a link it goes to everyone eligible in 1C and the appointments go quickly.
- ii. Many variants of the virus that are now circulating some of which are more contagious. Our positivity rate remains low, less than one percent. As these variants transfer through the population, when there is an outbreak it'll be more rapidly blooming. We will increase the rate of testing in March because of this. We're not 100% sure where we'll land on this yet but do expect the amount of time to be shortened between testing.
- iii. Everyone will continue to be tested regardless of vaccination status.

b. Dr. Janet Wormack

i. Budget Update

1. Currently making reductions in the budget. We need to reduce by 6 million to balance the budget due to lower than projected enrollment rates.
2. My goal always, is not to impact the mission of the institution.
3. The reductions will not impact employees.
4. There will likely be some vacant positions that will go unfilled.
5. Governor's appropriation have gone through for next fiscal year. The Governor has supported SU at 52 million, a positive amount.

ii. Human Resources Update

1. We're working with HR to offer leave so employees can go get the vaccine with out using their own personal & sick leave
2. FMLA for COVID needs will be extended and an update will be sent out from HR
3. Unemployment fraud email was sent out. HR will support you if you've been targeted, please reach out to them.

iii. Enterprise Resource Planning System: We're in a consortium with 4 other Universities, Frostburg, Coppin, University of Baltimore & UMES, those involved are evaluating the vendors to switch to a more efficient & effective data management system. The switch will be fully implemented by the year 2024.

iv. Development: Scarborough Leadership Center will be renovated for financial aid & Blackwell Hall is on the roadmap for redesign but the timeline has been extended to 2026.

c. CUSS Updates

- i. Advocacy Day is next week via Zoom.

d. Standing Committees – Updates

i. Communications/Snack & Chat Sessions

1. Staff Senate Town Hall on COVID had around 90 participants and went very well.
2. Barri Zimmerman & Tony Pasquariello will join us for a budget update for March's snack & chat.

II. New Business:

- a. Staff Senate Suggestion Box – Had an anonymous request for more information on the vaccine and how various SU employees are being selected to make an appointment. HR sent out an email detailing this information and more so the request was deemed satisfied.
- b. Staff Handbook – Staff Senate will have representation at the weekly meeting to discuss the staff handbook that is currently being updated by HR.
- c. Consortium/Cabinet Meeting Update – Hoping to have a new scheduling system for COVID testing in place by March so testing may be scheduled farther out. They will also be adding Saturdays moving forward to testing schedule.

I. Approval of the January Meeting Minutes

- a. Motion to approve: Joe Benyish
- b. Motion to Second: Vanessa Collins

III. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned: 11:20 pm

Next Meeting – March 11, Zoom

Respectfully submitted,
Sara Heim