



## Salisbury University – Staff Senate

Thursday, July 14 2022

**AC401 GAC Boardroom**

ZOOM VIRTUAL OPTION

### Minutes

**Members in attendance:** Vanessa Collins, Steve Blankenship, Megan Raymond, Matt Hill, Tabitha Pilchard, Jennifer Ellis, Candace Henry, Isabella Chow, Sara Heim, Paul Gasior, Joe Benyish, Lisa Gray, Jessica Scott

**Executive Staff:** Eli Modlin

Vanessa Collins,, Chair, opened the meeting at 10:02 am.

#### I. Eli Modlin

##### a. *Updates and information regarding Dr. Lepore's arrival... etc.*

- i. Rolling out new text message system for faculty, staff & students to augment emergency alert system. Should be more targeted to whom it is for, but will also be able to opt-in to more fun and informative texts as well. Not sure whether or not families will be able to sign up for the text messages; if and/or when this will be opened to the public is a future discussion. Decided to go with text messages since very low engagement on apps that have been released previously. Will be able to send specific messages to specific numbers, although departments will not be able to send messages on their own.
- ii. Search for Deputy Chief of Staff for Communications in process; position will work on internal & external communications.
- iii. Diversity & Inclusion
  1. All recommendations from Consortium Committee were approved by the Executive Staff. Working on implementation and rolling out the changes. Most changes have to do with pronoun display & usage, as well as training for search committees, student leaders, etc. through our current training company. Will be meeting with the training company next week to go over the system. Online version will include disability training; in-person training can have disability training added as specific to SU, as system is highly customizable. Resources for 1<sup>st</sup> gen college students and under-represented students, as well as political training, will be included.
  2. Searches for two positions in ODI were failed; one candidate that was brought to campus was not to move to area. Search ongoing.
- iv. Thanks from Executive Staff for all hard work on Employee Appreciation Day.
- v. No changes on COVID/Campus Health front at this point. Campus Health has moved to Blackwell Hall, but testing/masks/take-home tests/vaccines are still available. Open 8:15 am – 4:15 pm, Monday through Friday. Vaccinations are available per appointment. USM vaccine requirement expired in May 2022, so no vaccine or booster requirements currently for SU community. Still have requirements for those that are identified as close contacts in regards to isolation/quarantine. Student Health may still collect testing/vaccine info for fall semester, but it would not be a requirement for admission.
- vi. The locking of all campus buildings will be addressed within the next three weeks. Still being worked out; not being driven by COVID, but more regarding safety and security. Will be some conversation with safety task force, various shared governance meetings, etc. before a final

- decision. A main consideration is providing access for the outside community to areas that might be self-supporting (Bookstore, cultural events, etc.) without compromising security.
- vii. Cultural events will be coming back to SU; most likely a slower return due to caution about COVID. Cultural Affairs has now moved to Fulton; they are currently planning Panorama for the fall.

## II. New Business

### a. *Nominations & Election of Staff Senate Leadership*

- i. Chair
    1. Motion to nominate Joe Benyish by Steve Blankenship; seconded by Vanessa Collins & Tabitha Pilchard. Elected.
  - ii. 2<sup>nd</sup> Chair
    1. Motion to nominate Steven Blankenship by Vanessa Collins; seconded by Tabitha Pilchard. Elected.
  - iii. 3<sup>rd</sup> Chair
    1. Motion to nominate Jennifer Ellis by Joe Benyish; seconded by Vanessa Collins. Elected.
  - iv. Secretary
    1. Motion to nominate Isabella Chow by Vanessa Collins; seconded by Tabitha Pilchard. Elected.
- b. *SU hosting CUSS JUNE 20, 2023*
- i. Will ask Tracy Hajir to put it on Dr. Lepre's calendar for opening remarks/welcome. Will also need to confirm that the meeting will be in person in June.
  - ii. Can ask Eli/Dr. Wormack in lieu of Dr. Lepre.
- c. Megan will send over staff group photo to Staff Senate to review for gift. Vanessa will buy frames for the pictures.

## III. Reports

### a. *CUSS Update – Paul*

- i. Discussion about COLA/merit, as well as salary compression. New chairs were elected.
- ii. Being determined how many meetings will be live and how many will be in a remote/hybrid format. Will mostly be dependent on budget considerations.
- iii. End-of-year wrap-up at UMBC; approx.. 20-25 people attended.
- iv. SU received two BOR staff awards – Donna Carey & Haley Cristea.
- v. Next meeting 7/19/22.

## IV. Old Business

### a. *Employee Appreciation Day – RECAP*

- i. Lessons Learned – what worked; what didn't work; improvements, etc.
  1. Want to get the plan for next year in front of Exec. Staff as soon as possible while it is in the forefront of minds.
  2. Can have an email sent out surveying campus asking whether or not they participated, what they enjoyed/what they didn't, what they would like to see next year, etc.
  3. Had certain departments that were very supportive of allowing employees to attend the events during the day, while other departments were not allowed to attend anything but lunch. Need to bring up with Exec. Staff that support for attendance events should be encouraged by all departments.
  4. Possibly ask for a more relaxed dress code (shorts, SU apparel) for all.
- ii. Events

1. Morning activities – had approx.. 30 attendees from all over campus. Seemed to be well attended.
  2. Lunch – chair & photo booth were very popular. Still complaints regarding vegetarian/vegan/gluten free options for food. Would like to look at the menu to change things up (Salad bar? Dessert? Change away from fried chicken?)
  3. After-lunch activities
    - a. Great participation, but would be nice to have more volunteers from management/VP/deans/general staff to assist in manning the stations.
    - b. Massage chairs, ice cream, street signs a big hit. Oxygen bar not as much. Would like to expand the offerings, change a few activities to make things fresh each year. Activities were people can take away some type of souvenir seem popular.
    - c. Possible to set up the TV/video display for a Wii-style game that staff could play?
  4. Afternoon fitness
    - a. Not as well attended due to being directly after lunch and during a very hot portion of the day. Should move afternoon portion to morning and have a second activity in the morning.
  5. Group photo
    - a. Will drop next year; was a one-time event to provide a gift to the new president.
  6. Door prize giveaway
    - a. Only had approx. 35 people sign into the Zoom; many were still in Fireside. May want to broadcast the giveaway in the lounge so that those still participating in the activities can view.
    - b. Still have gifts at the Bookstore that have not been picked up.
    - c. Invite Jason Curtin to do the announcing of the prizes again next year.
    - d. Possibly change the giveaway from being a door prize to having every employee eligible whether they attend or not.
- b. *Date for next year – Wednesday (June 7 or June 14)*
- i. Due to Orientation, aiming for June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, or 5<sup>th</sup>. Will need to also meet with Dr. Janet as soon as possible regarding proceeding as to funding.
- c. *Meritorious Staff Award*
- i. Need Staff Senate representation.
    1. Tabitha volunteered to be the representative for the award.
  - ii. Find/ask someone in Student Affairs, Advancement/Foundation/External Affairs to be a representative.
  - iii. Will be considering nominations for any staff retirees in 2022 calendar year.
  - iv. Awards presented at Annual Service Awards in April.

V. Approval of the May Meeting Minutes

- a. *Motion to approve: Steve Blankenship*
- b. *Second: Jennifer Ellis*

VI. Adjournment

- a. *Next Meeting – August 11, 2022*