

Salisbury University
Consortium Coordinating Committee meeting
March 13, 2024, 2 p.m.
President's Conference Room

Minutes

Present: Deneen Long-White, Chair (President, Faculty Senate); Joe Benyish (Chair, Staff Senate); Tim Robinson (President, Adjunct Faculty Caucus); Nick Plummer (President, Graduate Student Council); Wyatt Parks (President, SGA); Eli Modlin (Chief of Staff and Vice President of Public Affairs and Strategic Initiatives, President's Office); Eric Stewart (Deputy Chief of Staff for Communications, President's Office); and Gina Boobar (President's Office)

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the November 8, 2023 and December 6, 2023 meetings were approved.

Governance Body Reports

Report from Faculty Senate – Deneen Long-White

- On March 5th, there was a Faculty Senate Special Topics meeting on the budget. President Lepre and Vice President Aurora Edenhart-Pepe gave a budget presentation to the senate.
- Yesterday was a regular Faculty Senate meeting.
- SU will be hosting the USM Council of University System Faculty (CUSF) meeting on April 25th.

Report from Staff Senate – Joe Benyish

- The next Staff Senate meeting is tomorrow.
- SU will be hosting the USM Council of University System Staff (CUSS) meeting in June.
- Employee Appreciation Day is scheduled for Tuesday, June 11th. A full day of activities are planned. They intend to have different activities each year to change it up.
- They have been advocating for employee mental and physical wellness. HR is providing some resources through the Employee Assistance Program (EAP). We want to make sure everyone is on the same page.
- Elections will be held soon.

Report from Adjunct Faculty Caucus – Tim Robinson

- The only issue from adjunct faculty during this academic year is door access. Adjunct faculty whose contracts have ended lose door access, even if they will be returning the following semester. Often the new contracts are not submitted, signed and processed soon enough, and the faculty lose access. The most complaints about losing door access occur during the winter semester. Eli replied that they are looking into a resolution for this issue; possibly by extending the fall contract. They should be able to find a way to bridge the gap for faculty who are returning the following semester.

Report from Student Government Association (SGA) – Wyatt Parks

- Elections are underway. They have held two interest meetings, both of which had a large turnout. They have received 25 applicants in the last two days. This will be the first time in several years that the President's race will be contested.

- They had a pep rally in the fall and wanted to do a similar event this spring. They are looking at holding a Flock Party on April 20th.

Report from Graduate Student Council (GSC) – Nick Plummer

- The most significant and consistent issue for grad students is financial instability. The GSC is working on increasing some grad stipends. Most departments just use the base pay amount, so they are trying to educate departments that they can pay grad students more. They are also looking for other funding options, such as scholarships.
- For this year's Spring social, they are looking at a less upscale event.
- Elections will be held soon.

Updates from the President's Office – Eli Modlin

- SU gave capital budget testimony in Annapolis yesterday and Monday. It went very well.
- Eli reviewed several items of legislation that have been introduced that would affect SU. They are closely monitoring all proposed legislation.
- Although the State's budget is expected to be very tight for next year, the State plans to give State employees a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA).

Old Business

Bylaw Revisions

- Deneen reported that Faculty Senate has indicated they would not be in favor of any changes to the Consortium Committees.
- Joe proposed that, in light of this, they develop guidelines for the committees to ensure that they are meeting, including providing them with a charge and requiring them to report back to us. This would be effective beginning next fall semester. Each shared governance group needs to fill their committee vacancies as soon as possible in the fall semester.
- Joe also proposed that they invite the individuals responsible for convening each of the consortium committees to their upcoming meetings to discuss with them how to make their committee more meaningful – and a more meaningful experience for the members. They can meet with half of the individuals in April and half in May.
- The committee agreed to these proposals.

Joint Session

- The Committee settled on Wednesday, April 24th, 3:30-4:30 p.m., location TBD, to hold a joint session of all governance groups. Details will be discussed at the next meeting.

New Business

SU Policy on Making Public Statements

- Deneen said that the Faculty Senate met with the provost to find out what the University's policy is on making public statements. They discovered that the University follows the Chicago model. The Faculty Senate is considering forming a working group to discuss this further.

Forming an Ad Hoc Committee on the IRB Process

- Deneen reported that Faculty Senate voted this down at yesterday's meeting. They want to make sure there are clear IRB guidelines on the University website.

Employee Wellness/Crisis Response

- Eli shared that the University is forming a work group on mental health – made up of students, faculty and staff – to look at resources, communications, and creativity on how to deal with the issue. They are looking at a model where counselors can assist not only students but also faculty and staff. They are also working on improving communications about mental health resources, such as the emergency number on the back of everyone's Gull Card.
- Deneen noted that a sharps container needs to be installed on the third floor of Devilbiss Hall. There should be one on every floor of every building on campus. It was suggested that Jillian Townsend, Director of Environmental Health and Safety, be contacted.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 10th at 2 p.m. in the PCR.

Meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Recorder: Gina Boobar