



Salisbury University – Staff Senate  
Thursday, August 13, 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, Kevin Veddar

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

July minutes were reviewed and approved

I. Reports

a. Kevin Vedder

- i. Original return to campus document will be updated with new information and released in the near future.
- ii. Daily COVID19 screening using Android and Apple App called SU Mobile has been implemented and should be completed daily even if teleworking
- iii. Testing for all SU members starts tomorrow. Will be conducting follow-on testing. More information will be released once the details have been worked out

b. President Wight

- i. The goal is for routine testing of the campus. USM might release protocol that requires a follow-up mid-semester comprehensive testing of the campus.
- ii. SU was able to test around 200 people in about an hour. We're conducting testing almost entirely with our own people – means it's cost effective and we can test possible outbreak clusters quickly.
- iii. Acknowledged that everyone is working as hard as they can to start a semester that's going to look very different than usual – thank you for the tremendous effort
- iv. Enrollment numbers are 6.5 – 7% down. Not where I want to be but we'll manage it.
- v. There is a healthy balance left over from the CARES Act that is available for the fall semester – students haven't been making full use of that resource yet. Can't be used for tuition and fees, but it can cover transportation and technology cost for students.
- vi. A Senator ask about College Park and their plan to start the first two weeks online. Answer: It is not my intention to start the first two weeks online. College Park has a very different dynamic of bringing students to PG county which has higher COVID19 rates than Wicomico and a student body of 40,000+

c. CUSS Updates

- i. Met virtually in July
- ii. The due date for changes to benefit elections changed from July 1<sup>st</sup> to July 29<sup>th</sup>
- iii. Regent staff awards announced – 2 from SU, Meghan Baker & Claire Williams – both were nonexempt nominations
- iv. Planning for upcoming year and housekeeping items

II. Old Business:

a. Standing Committees – Updates

i. Human Resources –

1. Working on onboarding orientation – Nadalyne and Kevin are leading the effort
2. Senators expressed concerns about using personal phones while teleworking
3. Senators expressed concern about the lack of communication among some departments and returning to campus plans for their staff

4. Senator reported that HR is still requiring physical signatures for grant based contracts

ii. Communications/Snack & Chat Sessions

1. Robin Hoffman to present on Office360 August 19<sup>th</sup>. Staff will be given an opportunity to ask questions a few days before the session so Robin can prepare.
2. September 16<sup>th</sup>: Recognizing when to report an isolated incident Counseling Center/Student Health Services presented by Lilian Odera and Vicki Lentz
3. October 21<sup>st</sup>: Benefits HR presented by Nadalyne Campbell
4. Proposed for November, CRASE, active shooter...Lt. Daniel Calhoun is working with the instructors to decide if this can be done in a virtual model.

III. New Business:

- a. Staff Senate Suggestion Box – Questions were submitted for the town hall. Questions that were submitted after the town hall will be forwarded to Kevin Vedder in HR.
- b. Employee Appreciation Day
  - i. A desk cell phone holder with the SU logo will be purchased for staff members. Gift certificates to the book store and possibly cool beans will be included.
- c. VP of Admin and Finance search is ongoing, around 30 applicants submitted thus far
- d. Changes to Title IX – draft will go out for staff senate to review. Hearing Officers needed to be identified under new regulation and have been determined. If the individual wants to make formal charges then there has to be a live hearing and the accuser and accused can question each other through an advisor.

IV. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned: 11:45am

Next Meeting – September 10, Zoom

Respectfully submitted,  
Sara Heim