



Salisbury University – Staff Senate

Thursday, April 8, 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, and Jessica Scott

Members Absent: Amy Waters

Executive Staff: President Wight

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

I. Reports

a. President Wight

- i. Opened by asking staff senate for feedback on teleworking and how it should be used moving forward. A policy is currently being created.
- ii. Second, the President asked for feedback on the possible implementation of mandatory vaccination for all students and employees. There would be religious and medical exemptions. This topic is currently being discussed at the system level. A few concerns were mentioned: Would there be a hit to enrollment numbers if this were implemented, and staff senate felt there would be possible legal push back from employees not willing to comply.
- iii. No further updates were provided.

b. CUSS Updates

- i. CUSS met on March 23 with Coppin University hosting. We were welcomed by President Anthony Jenkins who began his tenure as Coppin's president last June.
- ii. In March, Gov. Hogan submitted a \$74M supplemental budget as a bonus for state employees. If passed, state employees will receive a \$1000 one-time bonus. "This supplemental budget recognizes the hard work of our state employees, who have overcome significant challenges to deliver essential services to Marylanders during this public health emergency," said Governor Hogan. "We have been successful in weathering this storm without having to implement any layoffs or furloughs. I want to especially thank our front-line workers, including police officers, healthcare workers, highway maintenance workers, and all of our dedicated public servants for their exceptional service."
- iii. MetLife will replace Unum as the state's supplemental life and long-term disability carrier. Information was also sent out by SU HR. Check your mailboxes. Enrollment dates are Apr 1 – Apr 30.
- iv. CUSS members met in small groups with consultants from Huron Consulting Group to elicit thoughts and perspectives on issues and challenges facing USM as they prepare to work on the overall USM strategic plan. Refer to the email from the Chancellor's Office, "Shaping the USM's Strategic Plan."
- v. Next meeting will be April 20th hosted by Towson.

II. Old Business

a. Standing Committees – Updates

- i. Human Resources
 1. The staff handbook is nearly finished and is being presented to executive staff for review
- ii. Communications/Snack & Chat Sessions
 1. Robin Hoffman is confirmed to present on Teams - April
 2. Candace Henry with the Disability Resource Center – May
 3. A summer break will be observed

4. Steve Blankenship will present on Identity Theft - Sept.
5. HR will review benefits - Oct.
6. All sessions are being recorded for future access

III. New Business

- a. Staff Senate Suggestion Box – N/A
- b. Ombuds Person – Eli reached out that this was still on President Wight’s radar and inquired if this is still something that is wanted. Was initially started as a CUSS initiative and Staff Senate was in support. Staff Senate agreed that we are still in support.
- c. Employee Appreciate Day – Looking to do something in person around the beginning of August as a “Welcome back” with boxed lunches and outdoor seating. If it rains it’ll be a pick-up option in dining. President’s cabinet meeting was in support of the idea. They are moving the faculty retirement event to August as well.
- d. Staff Senate Elections – Timeline was reviewed and approved. Joe and Steve are working together on a voting method.
- e. US Women’s Forum nomination – Will encourage members of campus to submit nominations

IV. Approval of the March Meeting Minutes

- a. Motion to approve: Steven Blankenship
- b. Motion to Second: Paul Gasior

V. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned: 11:50 pm

Next Meeting – May 13th, Zoom

Respectfully submitted,
Sara Heim