

**From:** [Karen Olmstead](#)  
**Subject:** First Monday Update from the Provost's Office  
**Date:** Monday, November 4, 2019 11:43:58 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Dear Salisbury University Faculty:

I've had the opportunity to meet with several academic and support units over the last few weeks (with more to come) and have been so inspired by the great work and expertise that exists within each. I've also appreciated the opportunity to learn what we can do better. I had a window into that today in a meeting with many students concerned about recent racially and sexually-charged vandalism in Fulton Hall and the campus environment more broadly. As noted in the recent email from the President, there will be a campus-wide meeting tomorrow (11/5) evening intended to increase dialogue and action around several issues of concerns. It's clear we have a lot to do as a campus. Fortunately, we have a lot to build on, not the least of which is leveraging our curricula, educational experiences, support staff and programs, and dedicated faculty to enhance an environment that supports student learning and success.

Below are news items to share and an updated calendar. If you want to share information about events/activities of interest to faculty across campus, please send them to [provost@salisbury.edu](mailto:provost@salisbury.edu) at least three days before the first Monday of each month.

**News to share:**

- Thanks to all of you who encouraged your students to participate in GULL Week in September – more than 3000 students participated or ~40% of the undergraduate student population. This was the largest number of students ever engaging in our regular assessment of undergraduate student learning. Although the Seidel School of Education walked away with the prize for the largest percentage with nearly 54% of students participating, engagement across all units has increased dramatically since the first GULL Week in 2015 when fewer than 12% of students participated.
- Kudos to the Department of Mathematics & Computer Science and colleagues in the Henson School on receiving final approval for a new degree at SU – the B.S. Data Science. This unique degree program provides the rigorous technical background and experience for successful careers within a wide array of public and private organizations.
- Congratulations as well to the faculty in the Department of Education Leadership for receiving final approval for another new degree at SU – the B.A. in Outdoor Education Leadership (ODEL). Formerly a minor, ODEL will be guided by the accreditation standards of the Association for Experiential Education to address local and regional demand for professionals trained in environmental and adventure-based programming.
- With final enrollment numbers in for Fall, I'd like to thank everyone for their efforts to support student recruitment and retention. Whether you are developing a recruitment strategy for your program or providing outstanding instruction and mentorship, your efforts are appreciated. SU is only one of two institutions in the USM that did not decline in enrollments this Fall. I'd like to give our graduate program directors a special shout-out; graduate enrollment is up 2% over last year, up as much as 40% in one program, and exceeds 930 students this fall, including 80 doctoral students.

- Congratulations to Mary DiBartolo in the School of Nursing for the launch of SU's first-ever USMx MOOC or Massive Open Online Course. The course, [Overview and Management of Parkinson's Disease](#), provides an overview of risk factors, stages, symptoms, medications and treatments. It's great to see the expertise of our faculty (and instructional designers) extend well beyond our campus footprint to students interested in this important topic and continuing education.
- As mentioned last month, the [draft SU Strategic Plan](#) is available online for feedback. Please give us your feedback by November 15<sup>th</sup> or attend an open session this Friday (11/8) at noon in the Nanticoke Room of the GSU.

Looking ahead, I see that my next first Monday email will be in our last week of classes for the Fall semester – we're in the home stretch.

Thanks again for all you do!  
Karen

**Upcoming dates of interest (new events in bold)** – see [Academic Affairs calendar](#) for times and locations for some of these events. For information about performances, lectures, and other cultural events, check out the [Fall 2019 Panorama](#). See <https://www.salisbury.edu/events/1619-2019-Series.aspx> for 400 Years of Resilience Events.

- 11/9 Admissions Open House
- 11/11 Veterans Day Ceremony
- 11/15 Unit chair/school director sends recommendations and tenure file to school dean
- 11/18 Faculty Development Committee's Continued Conversations: Effective Teaching and Learning Strategies event, 1-2 pm in AC 220H
- 11/19 Digital Measures Training Session, 10:00-11:00 a.m., AC221
- 11/21 Laridae Undergraduate Research Journal Launch, 3:30-5:00 pm in GAC Assembly Hall
- 11/23 Northeast Regional Ethics Bowl to be held at SU
- 12/1 Dean sends recommendations and tenure file to the Provost
- 12/6 Last Day of Classes
- 12/6 Faculty Senate Faculty Friday
- 12/7 Reading Day
- 12/9-13 Final Exams
- 12/14 Commencement
- 12/15 Provost sends tenure recommendations to the President
- 1/16 Posters on the Bay
- 2/13 OURCA presents: Writing Style Guide Workshop, 3:30-4:30 pm, Writing Center, GAC 260 (students learn the logic of different discipline styles to better understand and use them)
- 2/22 Admissions Open House
- 3/6 SU Women's Forum Conference 2020 Vision: 100 years of the Vote
- 3/7 Scholars Day
- 4/4 Admitted Students Day
- 4/18 Admissions Open House
- 4/24 SUSRC

- 5/1 Honors Convocation
- 5/8 OURCA presents: Three-Minute Blitz, 4-6 pm, Specific Gravity (fun 3-minute creative and research student presentation competition for a community audience)
- 5/15 Graduate Commencement Exercises
- 5/16 Undergraduate Commencement Exercises

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