

From: [Karen Olmstead](#)
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Subject: Academic Affairs First Monday Email for May, 2021
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[CUSF-USM Panel Informational Document.pdf](#)

Greetings Colleagues: As we roll into the end of the 2020-2021 academic year, I am genuinely humbled by the fortitude, ingenuity and commitment that faculty and staff brought to their work this year. It's *Thank a Teacher Week* and in addition to faculty, I want to thank everyone working in and with Academic Affairs for your outstanding efforts this year. THANK YOU for your truly important work in an academic year like no other.

My thanks as well to all of you who voted in the recent election regarding SU's General Education model. The new model was approved and will launch in fall 2023. I am so proud of the efforts of the General Education Steering Committee (GESC) and the Faculty Senate for their thoughtful, inclusive, and deliberate approach to this essential component of the undergraduate experience at Salisbury University. Current GESC members include: Melissa Boog, Tom Cawthern, Tom Goyens, Randy Groth, José Juncosa, Kashi Khazeh, Deneen Long-White, Shawn McEntee, Kara Owens, James Parrigin, Althea Pennerman, Maarten Pereboom, Mike Scott and Zach Townsend. Thanks as well to previous GESC members including James King, previous GESC chair.

Good News and Congratulations

- Please join me in congratulating SU's 2021 President's Diversity Champion Award Recipients:
 - Faculty: Rebecca Anthony (Social Work), Carolina Bown (Communication), Jennifer Jewell (Social Work), Yuki Okubo (Psychology), and Tina Reid (Nursing)
 - Student: Dorien Rogers
 - Undergraduate Student Group: Douglas DeLost, Allan Hall, Hailey Lagimoniere, Tayah Redina, Elizabeth Robles, Logan Smith, and McKinsey Zepp (Inclusive Instruction for Secondary Teachers Virtual Field Trip)
 - Staff: Bob Score (Publications)
- It was another banner year for SU's Nationally Competitive Fellowships Office with four Fulbright Student winners, one alternate and SU named for a fourth consecutive year as a Top Producer of Fulbright Students by the U.S. Department of State. This year it was particularly hard to win a Fulbright with nearly 12,000 applicants for the awards. In addition to the Fulbright Student awards, SU students won many other prestigious fellowships including Goldwater (3), Boren (4), DAAD-Rise (3), Critical Language (2), St. Andrews (1), PPIA-JSI (1), Fulbright Mitacs-Globalink (1), and Hertog (1). Kudos to Kristen Walton, all of the faculty mentors, and, of course, our outstanding students for these impressive awards.
- Speaking of impressive wins, please join me in congratulating Dean Kotlowski (History) who was recently named a Fulbright Distinguished Chair in Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences at the Australian National University, Canberra for Spring, 2022. Distinguished Chairs "are viewed as among the most prestigious appointments in the Fulbright Scholar Program. Candidates should be senior scholars and have a significant publication and teaching record." Congratulations, Dean!
- We look forward to celebrating a large graduating class this month with more than 1500 graduates and more than 1000 planning to participate in the Grad Walks! Please feel free to add your message to graduates through SU's online [Kudoboard](#) and join in the celebrations.
- Congratulations to Kara French and Emin Lelić (both Department of History) who were selected as *SU Libraries Information Literacy Partners of the Month* for Feb./March and April/May,

respectively.

- And congrats to our hardworking colleagues in SU Conference Services who won the Outstanding Institutional Achievement Award from the Association of Collegiate Conference and Events Directors for their outreach efforts to young athletes last summer when their traditional summer campus were cancelled.

Summer 2021 Planning

- Although we plan to be at normal (pre-pandemic) densities in fall, summer session in-person courses will take place at 3-foot distances. Please contact Conference Planning for updated classroom densities if you are not sure of summer classroom capacities.
- The Juneteenth Holiday (observed this year on 6/18) was approved after the Summer Academic calendar was finalized. If you are teaching remote synchronous or in-person courses on 6/18, please plan an alternative activity/assignments.

Fall 2021 Planning

1. **Enrollment:** The current enrollment picture remains concerning. Although we are down only 26 new first-time and transfer students compared to this date last May, we lag by more than 300 returning students (this excludes those graduating). The Academic Advising Center and others have been reaching out to students who have not yet registered for fall. Thanks for encouraging students to register if they have not done so already (registration remains open through May 14).

2. Section Availability/Modality/Classroom Density

- Deans and chairs can use Gullnet or EAB APS to monitor section demand by modality to evaluate the need to open/close sections. Please let Rich Wilkens know if you have questions about how to do this.
- Our goal is return to pre-pandemic densities in classrooms and other instructional spaces. The University's Instructional Planning Team stated that "...all efforts should be made to achieve normal operating densities in the Fall 2021 semester, especially because all SU community members have the mandate and opportunity to obtain the vaccine. We fully expect that this is an achievable goal."

3. Student Support and Wellbeing

- The first phase of New Student Orientation (Sea Gull Start-Up) will be held virtually June 14-25 (students are being pre-registered for courses in May). In-person activities for the second phase of new student orientation (First Flight) are planned for August 23-26 and subject to change given public health conditions at that time.
- Please make notes in Navigate to communicate with support staff regarding student concerns. This information is very helpful as we strive to maximize support for students.
- The [SU Cares website](#) continues to be the place to go with questions about student support and assistance.
- Dane Foust, VP for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management, has formed a Counseling Center Task Force to examine how to best serve the mental health needs of our student body.
- Information regarding how to use Namecoach will be available at the Technology Support Center [Knowledgebase](#) by June 1.
- [Powerful Connections](#) orientation program is a vital link for new students of diverse backgrounds and will run August 22-26.

4. Student Learning

- We appreciate your input through your department/program chair or dean regarding learning gaps that we might anticipate in returning and new students. Without a doubt, we will need to facilitate the re-orientation of returning and new students to more conventional learning environments (e.g., expected behavior in the classroom, attendance, etc.)
- Because we expect the upcoming academic year to be more typical, the Provost's Council, which includes representation from Academic Affairs and Student Affairs, recommends discontinuation of the [Request for Course Modifications due to Covid-19](#) and return to the [Emergency Absence Policy](#) for students who need to miss class due to illness or other challenges.
- The Center for Student Achievement (CSA) saw a significant decrease in visits and attendance this semester. Our collective goal for fall will be engaging and re-engaging students. The CSA plans to expand Supplemental Instruction and tutoring students.
- The Henson School has plans to expand tutoring, recitation sections, and other instructional support for students this fall.
- We hope to continue offering testing center services next fall as possible.

5. Faculty Support and Wellbeing

- Faculty Development Day is planned for 8/25/21 and will have two foci: 1) supporting Student Learning Outcomes (within and beyond the context of the recently approved GE model); and 2) Needs Assessment for a Faculty Development Center.
- We are planning a Summer Writing Program for faculty that will launch on the week of June 18th and which will include a writing challenge, weekly group meetings, deliverable on a stated goal, and a stipend. Watch for an announcement on the program on May 7th.
- Faculty interested in applying for tenure in fall 2021 may want to begin working on their dossiers in Digital Measures this summer. In order to facilitate this, we will follow the timeline described in the [DM KnowledgeBase](#) and will notify faculty of their eligibility to apply for tenure and promotion by early June. Faculty seeking an extension for their tenure and promotion review may do so by submitting a request to their chair and dean. This request for an extension of tenure and/or promotion review should indicate the impact of the pandemic on the applicant's teaching, professional development, and/or service contributions.
- New faculty orientation planning is well underway and is well supported by an outstanding set of resources developed by your colleagues on the New Faculty Orientation Committee.

6. Fall Campus Events

- We are looking into an online conferencing platform given the interest in continuing this in the future.
- The Great Hall expected to be offline for fall but we are working to return this venue for use for performances as quickly as possible.

COVID 19-related updates

- *Back to Campus* documents for employees and students are currently being revised and will be informed by the surveys recently sent out by Human Resources.
- As noted in the 4/27/21 email from *Stay Informed*, all University System of Maryland students, faculty, and staff will be required to be fully vaccinated to live, learn and work on campus in Fall 2021. Chancellor [Jay Perman's remarks](#) to the USM Board of Regents describes how and why this decision was reached. Details related to compliance reporting

and exemption approval are being finalized.

- COVID-testing dates are posted on the SU COVID website and will continue on a bi-weekly basis for students, faculty and staff until SU has received verification of an individual's vaccination status (typically via [CRISP](#), Maryland's designated Health Information Exchange). Once vaccination status is indicated as completed, members of the campus community will move to testing every 30 days.
- On-campus vaccination clinics are planned for 5/4, 5/10, and 5/11. See the 4/30 email from *Stay Informed* for more information.

Upcoming Dates of Interest (bold indicates events added this month)

5/4 Covid-19 Vaccination Clinic at SU (see 4/30 email from Stay Informed for more info)

5/10-11 Covid-19 Vaccination Clinic at SU (see 4/30 email from Stay Informed for more info)

5/11 [Faculty and Staff Town Hall](#) with President Wight at 3:30

5/12 Council of University System Faculty Town Hall at 3:30 (Zoom link for the Town Hall <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83828052233?pwd=KzB6ZUNCWTJTOG55VUNRVWpCVFhodz09>) see attached flyer

5/13-16 [Grad Walk](#) and Celebration Zones

5/14 [Graduate Virtual Commencement](#) launch at 6 pm

5/15 [Undergraduate Virtual Commencement Ceremonies](#) launch at 1 pm

5/15 DEADLINE: for President to notify faculty of promotion decision (Round 2)

5/17 Regular session grades due by noon

5/18 Workshop on Instilling Equity and Inclusion in Departmental Practices

5/20 Academic Affairs Virtual Town Hall 4:00 pm Zoom link [here](#)

6/18 Juneteenth Holiday observed

8/1 DEADLINE for President to approve/not approve Spring 2022 sabbatical applications

8/25 Faculty Development Day

10/9 Sea Gull Century

As always, very best regards and thanks for all you do,
Karen

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