

**From:** [Karen Olmstead](#)  
**To:** [Karen Olmstead](#)  
**Subject:** Academic Affairs First Monday Email for October, 2021  
**Date:** Monday, October 4, 2021 10:13:08 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Dear Colleagues: October is Advising! As I've mentioned before, one of the most important conversations in my life was with an academic advisor that I met for the first time at that very meeting. I left (from what was undoubtedly a routine meeting for my advisor) with a plan for the next semester and something I had not been able to develop on my own: a goal and a plan for my future. Our commitment to excellence in student advising and mentorship is paramount to our success, but perhaps more now than ever as students' educational experiences may be different and needs may be more pronounced than in the past. Whether you are a professional advisor in our Academic Advising Center, a graduate program director, or a faculty member working with undergraduate and/or graduate students, thank you for your continued thoughtful advising and mentoring of our students.

The [SU Cares webpage](#) includes a number of links (see lower third of the webpage) that may be useful for your advisees. Our thanks to the many of you who have submitted **alerts through Navigate** for students who may need support. You can submit an alert (e.g., not coming to class, needs support in writing) at any time in Navigate and it will be forwarded to the appropriate person/office on campus for follow-up.

**Supporting students impacted by COVID-19:** My thanks to all of you for your support of students who may need to miss class due to illness or COVID quarantine. I know this is extra work for you (especially given the duration of absences for some students) and appreciate your support of students who may not be able to attend class due to a positive COVID test, illness, or quarantine. These students will appear as yellow on your rosters. Students should be able to show you the email they received from Campus Health regarding their medical absence if you are not sure when a student's medical absence began. SU's [Student Emergency Absence Policy](#) provides guidance to students and faculty alike on provisions for missed classes due to illness or other reasons and states that students should contact faculty as soon as possible if they need to miss class.

Also, SU Student Health Services has reported that a large number of students have been referred to them by faculty for minor illnesses. Campus community members who are concerned about symptoms that may indicate a COVID-19 infection should contact Campus Health at [campushealth@salisbury.edu](mailto:campushealth@salisbury.edu).

#### **Good news to share:**

- Several of your faculty colleagues represented SU very well last week at the USM's Kirwan Center for Academic Innovation Faculty Showcase. Recordings from the Showcase will be made available within the next two weeks, along with presentation materials. Thanks and congratulations to the following folks for presenting on teaching innovation and lessons learned during the pandemic:
  - Carolina Bown (Communication): Experiential learning during COVID: lessons learned from micro-internships and virtual networking.
  - Sarah Surak (Environmental Studies and Political Science) & María Fernanda Batista Lobo (La Universidad Latinoamericana de Ciencia y Tecnología, ULACIT): Global learning without leaving your seat: international classroom collaborations during COVID

and beyond.

- Letha Moszer, Sue Park, & Kathleen Arban (Social Work): Pandemonium or progress? Navigating remote learning during a pandemic.
- Chrys Egan (Fulton School), Echo Leaver (Psychology), Paul Scovell (Communication) & Brittany Foutz (Conflict Analysis & Dispute Resolution): Remote teaching specialists: reimagining liberal arts instruction during the pandemic.
- Jennifer Cox (Communication): "Kollaborating" with Kahoot! Teaching writing using quiz apps.
- Alison Dewald, Kayla Sealover,\* Cynthia Watson & Mindy Howard (Chemistry): At home with intermolecular forces: a remote lab module for chemistry gen ed students. (\*undergraduate student)
- Joshua Sokoloski & Anita Brown (Chemistry): Lab in the time of COVID.
- Jim Fox (Education Leadership): The connective power of video feedback and video messages.
- Mike Koval (Accounting & Legal Studies): Using video storyboards to prepare students for flipped classroom assignments.
- SU was one of only 15 campuses in the country to be accepted into the Association of American Colleges & Universities' (AAC&U) project to *Advance Evidence on the Efficacy of Civic and Community Based Engagement in Higher Education* which is funded by the Lumina Foundation. Congratulations Sandy Pope and the entire PACE team.
- Salisbury Mayor Jake Day has announced that our city has been selected to host the **National Folk Festival** again in August 26-28, 2022 (note the new date).

### **Training, Opportunities, Resources and Reminders**

- Given the public health concerns related to large events like traditional commencement exercises, we will be holding **Grad Walks** for each of the schools and the CHHS (Clarke Honors College grads will participate with the school or college of their major). These events will be held on December 18th on campus (GAC first floor and Perdue Hall Atrium). Stay tuned for more information on how you can attend and support your graduates.
- **2022 New Student Reflection:** Please see the email invitation from Sandy Pope (Sept 28) to help organize the 2022 New Student Reflection program.
- Students, faculty and staff are encouraged to submit their ideas for projects to help make the campus more sustainable through grants from the **SU Green Fund**. All proposal teams must include at least one student and at least one faculty or staff advisor. Applications should be submitted by Oct. 16.
- The **National Center for Faculty Development and Diversity (NCFDD)** offers a variety of resources to help academics (of all stages) better align their professional and personal goals. Because SU is a NCFDD Institutional Member, these resources are free to use! One of the most popular programs is the **14-day writing challenge** which uses best practices to help you create a consistent writing practice. The next opportunity to participate will be from October 18 to October 31. During this time, you will be asked to commit to writing every day for at least 30 minutes. You'll log on to the NCFDD's online community, start the timer, complete your writing, post your progress, and encourage others in your assigned writing group. Past participants credit this program and the accountability of the writing groups, with helping them to establish better writing habits, or to refresh stagnant

ones. **Registration closes 10/13/21 and can be found [here](#).**

New to NCFDD? Follow these steps to activate your account and sign-up for the challenge:

1. Visit the [NCFDD website](#)
  2. Click “Join NCFDD”
  3. Select your institution from the drop-down menu
  4. Click “Activate My Membership”
  5. Complete a basic sign-up form with personal and professional information
  6. Activate your account by clicking the link in a follow-up confirmation email
  7. Once you are logged in, you will see information about signing up for the challenge under “Resources”.
  - 8.
- Links for the **Disability Resource Center and Accommodation Information Manager** (AIM) Faculty Portal have been added to the Faculty Quick Links section of the [Employee webpage](#).
  - **Digital Measures** has been rebranded to Watermark Faculty Success, but you can still access it at <https://dm.salisbury.edu>.
  - A **mid-term grades** request will come from Melissa Boog on Friday. Please have your mid-term grades submitted by the deadline.
  - Don’t forget annual training in **Cybersecurity** and **FERPA** (training modules in KnowBe4 in *Employee Links* box in Gullnet) and, if not completed yet, **Diversity** modules (required of all employees when hired, see Diversity Training in *External Links* box in Gullnet).

### **COVID-19 Updates**

- Tents located outside of Blackwell and Henson are available for faculty to reserve for classes and activities. Please use this [link](#) to make reservations.
- **Vaccination levels** are high among students, faculty and staff. At the end of September, vaccination rates were:
  - Residential students: 99% (n=1,907)
  - All Students: 93% (7,118)
  - Employees: 95% (1,769)
  - University: 94% (8,769)
- Fully vaccinated, asymptomatic members of our campus community may pick-up free, take-home COVID-19 test kits at the GSU Information Desk between 8 am and midnight, Monday through Friday.
- Although we have not confirmed that points of contact were on campus, we have been monitoring the number of breakthrough cases among employees in Academic Affairs. Since 9/7/21 (when this type of monitoring began), nine total cases out of more than 872 fully vaccinated employees in Academic Affairs have been reported.
- At the end of September, we were tracking 36 active COVID-19 cases on campus. Nearly 70% of these were breakthrough cases (not surprising given that 94% of campus community members are vaccinated).
- And speaking of public health – Flu Shot clinics will be held on campus this month (see 9/24/21 email from Campus Health).

Thanks again for all you do and best wishes for the month of October,

Karen

**Upcoming Dates of Interest (bold indicates events added this month). For more detailed Information regarding instruction-related dates of interest, please consult the [Registrar's Calendars](#). For information about Faculty Senate meetings, please consult their [webpage](#). 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.**

- 10/1 Deadline for Deans to forward Sabbatical Part A application (fall sabbatical) to Provost.
- 10/6 Spring 2022 book submissions due to SU Book Store**
- 10/9 Sea Gull Century
- 10/12 Faculty Senate Meeting
- 10/14 Academic Affairs Virtual Town Hall (4 pm) ZOOM Link [here](#)
- 10/15 Deadline for Deans to submit completed and signed Part B Sabbatical Report forms to Provost (spring 21 sabbaticals)
- 10/16 Green Fund grant applications due
- 10/22-24 [Homecoming and Family Weekend](#) including Flock Party
- 10/26 Faculty Senate Meeting
- 11/1 Deadline for Departmental Tenure or T&P Review Committee to submit recommendations and forward applications to Department Chair
- 11/9 Faculty Senate Meeting
- 11/11 Academic Affairs Virtual Town Hall (4 pm) ZOOM Link [here](#)
- 11/12 Faculty Senate Faculty Friday Social (Location TBD)
- 11/15 Deadline for Department Chair to submit recommendations and forward tenure and/or T&P applications to Deans
- 11/23 Faculty Senate Meeting
- 12/1 Deadline for Deans to submit recommendations and forward tenure and/or T&P applications to Provost
- 12/9 Academic Affairs Virtual Town Hall (4 pm) ZOOM Link [here](#)
- 12/14 Faculty Senate Meeting
- 12/15 Deadline for Provost to submit tenure recommendations to President
- 12/18 [Grad Walk](#)**
- 1/15 Deadline for President to send written notification of tenure decision to candidates
- 1/31 Deadline for President's Office to notify faculty of the decision regarding their Fall 2022 Sabbatical applications

#### **Major events on the horizon**

- July 2022      We are SU Campaign tentatively ends**
- Fall 2022      Identify workgroups for Middle States re-accreditation self-study**
- S23 thru AY23-24 Work on Middle States self-study**
- Summer 2023 Anticipated launch of Workday for Financials and HR**
- Fall 24           New General Education Curriculum begins**
- AY24-25        SU Centennial, 2020-2025 Strategic Plan ends, Middle States reaccredi**

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