

Salisbury University
Special Consortium Coordinating Committee meeting
December 11, 2024, 4:00 p.m.
Via Zoom

Minutes

Present: Joe Benyish, Chair (Chair, Staff Senate); Joerg Tuske (President, Faculty Senate); Olivia Ingrao (President, SGA); Abigail Isaacson (President, Graduate Student Council); Tim Robinson (Chair, Adjunct Faculty Caucus); President Carolyn Lepre; Provost Laurie Couch; and Gina Boobar (President's Office)

New Business

Fall Break – Feedback requested from shared governance on the proposal for a fall break in the fall 2025 semester. Proposed date options are Monday, October 20th and Tuesday, October 21st, or Thursday, October 23rd and Friday, October 24th.

- Abigail – Graduate students had split opinions regarding the proposal.
- Olivia – SGA also had split opinions. Although she did not receive many responses to the poll she sent out, slightly more students were in favor of October 23rd and 24th. Generally, though, students seemed to like the idea of a fall break and did not care which days they had off.
- Joerg – There was discussion at the recent Faculty Senate meeting regarding the feasibility of a fall break. Opinions were split between faculty members who teach a lab or clinicals as it poses a significant challenge to them. The other concern centered around the fact that faculty are obligated to teach a certain number of days, so they need to fit more material into fewer days. Although it's nice to have time off, when you return, the anxiety and stress may be compounded. The majority of faculty do not teach labs or clinicals, but there are significant challenges for those who do. If we do have a fall break, we should have more time to plan for it. Another issue is that next fall, classes start after Labor Day, which is late, and there will already be no Monday labs that week.
- Tim said he spoke with the Adjunct Faculty Caucus team. They are not going to oppose a fall break but they are not super supportive of it. The biggest concern is losing a day of instruction. It would take faculty down to the bare minimum of required hours. However, overall, they will go along with it.
- Joe – Staff Senate is generally supportive of a fall break for student and staff mental health. There is an Open House on October 25th, so if the fall break is October 23rd and 24th, there are many students, staff and faculty who will need to come in that Saturday.
- Joerg added that the University needs to make sure international students can stay on campus during the break.
- President Lepre added that whatever dates are selected for a fall break, there will be faculty, staff and students who will need to work – Physical Plant, Dining Services, Athletics, etc. Is there a benefit for the vast majority though?
- President Lepre thanked everyone for getting feedback on the fall break proposal. She will discuss further with Provost Couch, Aurora and Marty Neat and will reach back out to everyone in the next few days to update them.

Meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Recorder: Gina Boobar