

**Provost's Announcements to the Faculty Senate**  
**September 22, 2020**

- 1. COVID-19:** After delays for several test results, SU's COVID-19 dashboard is now updated and we anticipate quicker turnaround of our mandated monthly testing (see [COVID-19 Testing Webpage](#) for current statistics and information on testing). Contact tracing does not indicate spread on campus or in classrooms. Of the 13 faculty who have tested positive since 8/11/20, three are not teaching this semester, five have all virtual classes, four have a combination of hybrid and virtual; and one has all virtual except one independent study. This [Baltimore Sun article](#) is helpful in understanding how the Maryland Department of Health calculates positivity compared to the method we are using (Johns Hopkins methodology). At the 9/22 FS meeting, I hope to have an update on coding of students in Gullnet rosters as well as a workflow of the testing and reporting process. **Action requested of the FS: None unless discussion requested.**
- 2. Spring Calendar:** Some USM campuses are considering cancelling spring break to reduce the likelihood of students leaving Salisbury and visiting areas where the risk of contracting COVID-19 (and potentially bringing it back to campus) is higher. Downsides to cancelling spring break are the obvious lack of a break for students and faculty alike and any impacts this has on their wellbeing and mental health. **Action requested of the FS: Seeking initial input on possibility of cancelling Spring Break 2020 or not.**
- 3. FY22 University and State Budget Outlooks:** As noted last meeting, these are both concerning (we have been asked to prepare a plan for a 10% cut of State-funding, ~\$5.44M). I would like to meet with faculty to discuss how to approach this level of budget reduction and FS Executive Officers recommended a joint meeting of the FS Faculty Financial Affairs Committee, the FS ad hoc Budget Committee, and the Chair of the Long-Range Academic Planning Committee. **Action requested of the FS: None unless discussion requested.**
- 4. Reception for Retiring Faculty:** We were not able to hold our traditional celebration of faculty colleagues who retired at the end of the spring semester and do not see a way to have an in-person celebration for several months. We plan to hold a virtual event during Homecoming Week (Oct. 19-25) with an in-person celebration when that's possible. **Action requested of the FS: Approval of this plan.**
- 5. THANK YOU!** This academic year continues to be a challenging one for all of us and I greatly appreciate all of the efforts of faculty to continue instruction, scholarship, and other activities under less than ideal circumstances.