**Provost’s Announcements to the Faculty Senate**

**October 1, 2019**

1. **Faculty Handbook:** Seeking approval of Chapters 9 and 12 of the Faculty Handbook. Action requested of the FS: Approval of Chapter 9, content in Chapter 12, and recommendation to move content in Chapter 12 to other chapters. Review/give feedback on Chapters 10 & 11 by Nov. 1; determine the process for and timing of approval of ‘final document’ (sum of all approved chapters).
2. **USM Chancellor Search Update:** The search for the new USM Chancellor is well underway with the expectation that a new Chancellor will be appointed by the end of 2019. The [search committee](https://www.usmd.edu/newsroom/news/1921) is co-chaired by BOR Chair Linda Gooden and Vice Chair Barry Gossett and includes CUSF Chair Robert Kaufmann. Action requested of the FS: None, informational.
3. **Strategic Plan Update:** SU’s 2020-2025 draft Strategic Plan is completed and will be posted on the website for comment by the campus and broader community. Following more than a year of information gathering, trend analysis and focus group discussions with faculty, staff, students and community constituents, the plan was developed around five strategic goals: 1) Improving Access and Affordability; 2) Supporting Student Development and Success; 3) Inspiring a Campus Culture of Inclusive Excellence, Support and Collaboration; 4) Deepening Engagement with the Community; and 5) Increasing Awareness of the University’s Identity, Practices, Outcomes and Impacts.

Each of the five Goals has associated Objectives and Strategies. The plan is aspirational and states that we may not be able to achieve all of the strategies over the next five years. Through a data-informed and shared governance process, a prioritization and budgeting process for the elements of this plan will be developed once the strategic plan is finalized.

During the development of the draft plan, potential tactics for several of the strategies were noted based on recommendations and comments from the focus groups. Because the implementation of the potential tactics will depend upon the final plan, campus priorities and capacities, and student and workforce demand, we will only be seeking feedback on the five goals, associated objectives, and more than 80 strategies at this time.

The draft plan is expected to be posted for comment during the first week of October (an announcement is forthcoming from the President on the process used to develop the plan and how you can give feedback). On the website, you will be asked to indicate whether you are faculty, staff, student, etc. so that we can share feedback with respective governance groups. Kara Owens, Associate VP for Planning & Assessment, will visit FS on 11/5/19 to take questions and comments. Action requested of the FS: Once the draft plan is posted on the website, please encourage your constituencies to provide feedback by 11/15/19.

1. **2020 Census Planning:** Just a reminder that the U.S. Census will be conducted in 2020. Several efforts will be underway in Student Affairs to increase student awareness about the need to complete the census. We invite recommendations from faculty on strategies to build awareness as well. As mentioned previously, the USM will be convening a workshop in Civic Education and Engagement on 11/8 where census awareness and involvement will be discussed. Action requested of the FS: None, informational.
2. **Registrar search:** The Registrar search is still underway. If there are any updates on this search by Tuesday, I’ll announce them at FS. Action item requested of the FS: None, informational.
3. **Transitional Terminal Leave:** At the request of FS leadership, I will provide information on the Transitional Terminal Leave (TTL) policy, number and cost of TTLs taken in the past few years, and considerations moving forward on Oct. 1. Action requested of the FS: At a future FS meeting, would like to review policy and other information provided to discuss sustainable strategy for TTLs.
4. **Upcoming events:** Several events upcoming this year for student and faculty engagement and development. See First Monday emails (next on 10/7). Action requested of the FS: Please read the First Monday email and help spread the word.