

## **Provost's Announcements to the Faculty Senate**

### **October 12, 2021**

- 1. Presidential Search:** As described in an email sent on 10/8/21 from the President's Office, University System of Maryland Chancellor Jay Perman has launched a search for SU's next President. Information about the search is available [here](#). As noted in the Chancellor's letter, the well-regarded firm *Academic Search* will facilitate the work of the search committee which will include representation of students, faculty, staff, alumni, and other constituencies. Dr. Perman will host a campus town hall on 11/11/21 to take input on the qualities the campus seeks in its next president.

Although many arguments can be made for open and for closed searches, [presidential searches within the USM](#) are closed to facilitate the recruitment of high-caliber candidates who do not want to jeopardize their current positions in open search processes. Campus community members will have the opportunity to share their perspectives through the search committee and with Chancellor Perman. I look forward to continuing in my role as SU's Provost and supporting the search process as needed. **FS Action Requested: Happy to take any questions or feedback.**

- 2. Office of Diversity & Inclusion:** Ms. Joan Williams will be focusing her work on the results of the Campus Climate Study and in support of campus policies, procedures, and training for University faculty and staff. Staffing in the Office of Diversity & Inclusion is currently under review, but a search for a new Chief Diversity Officer is anticipated in the next months. **FS Action Requested: Happy to take any questions or feedback.**
- 3. Mosaic Mentoring Program** seeks mentors for junior faculty. [Mosaic Mentoring](#) brings a variety of mentoring experiences to new faculty and could use your support. The program has more mentees than mentors. **FS Action Requested: Please help us get the word out.**
- 4. Flexibility in working with students impacted by COVID-19:** As noted at the last FS meeting, SU's Student Government Association (SGA) has asked that faculty consider ways to support students who are in quarantine or isolation as a result of COVID-19 including a temporary extension of the timeframe in the [Student Emergency Absence Policy](#) to two weeks. **FS Action: Consider how to maximize student support, especially those who may not be able to attend class for an extended period.**
- 5. COVID Questions & Answers:** Vaccination percentages have been added to the COVID-19 webpage. As of the week of 10/1/21-10/7/21, the campus positivity rate was 0.75%. Although we have not confirmed that points of contact were on campus, we have been monitoring the number of breakthrough cases among Academic Affairs employees. 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 (1 currently). **FS Action Requested: Happy to take any questions or feedback.**