

Provost's Announcements to the Faculty Senate

November 9, 2021

- 1. Presidential Search:** University System of Maryland Chancellor Jay Perman and USM Regent Robert Rauch will host a Town Hall on 11/11 at 3:00 pm regarding the search for SU's next President. The Town Hall will also be livestreamed. More information is available at the [Presidential Search website](#). Dr. Perman will also be meeting with the President's Cabinet, which includes shared governance heads, later that day. **FS Action Requested: Happy to take any questions or feedback.**
- 2. Faculty Handbook:** Updated information on the status of each chapter of the Faculty Handbook is available in MyClasses (see Modules). To minimize descriptions of policies that are updated and presented elsewhere, we recommend removing narratives of 1) [acceptable email use](#), 2) [acceptable computer/technology use](#), and 3) [smoke-free campus](#) policies and instead, simply directly linking to those websites. **FS Action Requested: We seek feedback and approval of Chapter 6 (contents that were formally in Chapter 10) and Chapter 11 at the 11/23 FS meeting. Also, requesting approval to link to policies above instead of replicating them in their entirety in the Faculty Handbook.**
- 3. Office of Diversity & Inclusion Searches:** The Office of Diversity & Inclusion will be launching searches for three open positions to support DEI initiatives across the campus to support diversity education and training, multicultural affairs, and administrative support. **FS Action Requested: Happy to take any questions or feedback.**
- 4. Cultural Affairs** has moved from the Office of Diversity & Inclusion to the Fulton School where it will be more closely aligned with the performing arts programs. The Cultural Affairs Council will be re-established under the leadership of the Fulton Dean's Office. The Office of Diversity & Inclusion will be an important partner on the Council. **FS Action Requested: Happy to take any questions or feedback.**
- 5. COVID Questions & Answers:** Booster shots are available on campus (info [here](#)). As of the week of 10/29/21-11/04/21, the campus positivity rate was 0.36%. At this time, there is no mass testing planned for the post-Thanksgiving break, but free take-home tests are available at the information desk in the GSU. 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 (including those at satellite sites). Since 9/7/21 (when this type of monitoring began), thirteen total cases out of more than 870 fully vaccinated employees in Academic Affairs have been reported (1 currently). **FS Action Requested: Happy to take any questions or feedback.**