

Provost's Announcements to the Faculty Senate November 23, 2021

- 1. Fall Mini-Break:** Given concerns expressed by students and faculty alike, we are looking at establishing a mini-break (2 days) in October as part of our permanent calendar going forward. This Fall Mini-Break would be much like Spring Break; campus would not be closed but no classes would be held (residence halls would remain open). There are several challenges to this (e.g., instructional time, laboratories/clinicals, impacts of possibly needing to use Labor Day or Reading Day, etc.). The Registrar and Provost's Office will be developing a few scenarios. **FS Action Requested: Endorsement of moving forward on Fall Mini-Break scenario development and advance thinking on constraints around using different days for the break, need to start semester earlier, etc.**

- 2. Information Request from the FFOC:** Given the volume of data requested, I will not be able to provide this in 10 working days. Instead, I plan to request a meeting with the FFOC in December with delivery of requested data by the first of the year. **FS Action Requested: None, but can take any feedback or questions.**

- 3. Faculty Handbook:** The Faculty Handbook (FH) can be available for review in Acalog next month by FS or FS committee members. For ease of reading, we recommend indicating updates of policies/procedures as follows:
 - a) For changes to USM BOR policy/procedures, make no specific reference since this is included in the webpage for the USM policy;
 - b) For changes made to general SU policy, make no specific mention in FH because referenced webpage would indicate date of approval (e.g., [Acceptable Computer Use Policy](#));
 - c) For policies/procedures that change as a result of Faculty Senate action, recommend adding Summary of Recent Changes section to the FH (Major and Minor changes; see this [example](#) at Allegheny College). For initial launch, would go back three years to capture changes during revision process (FH will be annually archived).

FS Action Requested: Seeking feedback and approval of Chapter 6 (contents that were formally in Chapter 10) and Chapter 11 and consideration of recommendation regarding how to document FH changes.

- 4. Presidential Search:** Academic Search and USM representatives plan to meet with shared governance groups after the Thanksgiving break. Information about the search process is available at the [Presidential Search website](#). **FS Action Requested: Happy to take any questions or feedback.**

- 5. COVID Questions & Answers:** Booster shots are available on campus (info [here](#)). As of 11/11/21-11/11/17, the campus positivity rate was 0.48%. A vaccination clinic (Wicomico County) for community members (including children) is in development. 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), fourteen total cases in the more than 870 fully vaccinated employees in Academic Affairs have been reported (none currently). **FS Action Requested: Happy to take any questions or feedback.**