

Provost's Announcements to the Faculty Senate December 14, 2021

- 1. General Education:** My thanks to the Faculty Senate and the Membership & Elections Committee for your continuing progress on Gen Ed transformation plans and milestones. As requested, the Provost's Office (thank you Melissa Boog!) has developed a [Gen Ed 2024 Implementation website](#) with information about the new model, process, and progress. **FS Action Requested: None; happy to take any feedback or questions.**
- 2. Support for Refugees:** Given global strife, climate change/natural disasters, and anticipated continued large-scale human movement, several campuses have expressed interest in supporting refugees and/or impacted communities. I appreciate the efforts of SU faculty, staff, and students to support these communities (e.g., recent panel on Afghanistan in Transition). The Executive Staff has been in discussions with Brian Stiegler (Assistant Provost for International Education) regarding the evolving federal, State and USM resources and opportunities. Any plans for supporting refugee resettlement should recognize the level of trauma these families have experienced, the need for sustained support, and the network they could find on the Eastern Shore to support their success. While the University has several relevant resources (e.g., English Language Institute and education, social work, healthcare, and other expertise), standing-up long-term support will likely require collaboration with other agencies, institutions, and municipalities. **FS Action Requested: None; providing this information as context for agenda item regarding Every Campus a Refuge.**
- 3. Documenting our COVID-19 Response:** Efforts are underway to document University-wide responses to COVID-19. This documentation and archived materials may serve as important historical records of one of the most challenging times in the University's history as well as guidance for future crises. This project is in its earliest stages and we look forward to coordinating with individual units that are similarly documenting their responses. **FS Action Requested: None; happy to take any feedback or questions.**
- 4. National Student Exchange:** As noted in my First Monday email for December, SU is now a member of [National Student Exchange](#) (NSE). NSE provides accessible study-away experiences to undergraduate students at more than 180-member institutions in the U.S. (including Puerto Rico), Canada, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. For more info, see [SU's NSE webpage](#). Perhaps more than ever, low-cost domestic study-away opportunities will be of interest to and benefit our students. **FS Action Requested: None; happy to take any feedback or questions.**
- 5. Information Request from the FFOC:** I am meeting with the FFOC on 12/16 to discuss their information request and to share the University's draft Budget Document. **FS Action Requested: None; happy to take any feedback or questions.**
- 6. Faculty Handbook:** The Faculty Handbook (FH) is available for review in Acalog by FS or FS committee members (instructions on how to access forthcoming). We are completing the Changes page as approved by FS on 11/23, so please do not begin close review until after January 1 (I know you have other things on your minds right now!). **FS Action Requested: None right now; happy to take any feedback or questions.**

- 7. COVID Questions & Answers:** Given burgeoning caseloads in some states, winter months, waning immunity, omicron, etc., we've got some updates and changes to our COVID-19 protocols:
- All students and employees will be required to take an SU-administered COVID-19 test on their first day back on campus following winter break to maintain access.
 - Beginning in spring semester 2022, SU students, faculty and staff who received the one-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine will be required to test twice-weekly to maintain campus access unless they receive a booster shot within 90 days of their original shot. Twice-weekly testing also will be required for SU students, faculty and staff who received the two-dose Pfizer or Moderna vaccine unless they receive a booster shot within eight months of their second vaccination shot. Booster shots are available on campus (info [here](#)).
 - For the week of 12/3/21-12/9/21, the campus positivity rate was 1.37%.
 - A pediatric vaccination clinic (Wicomico County) is planned for 12/17 from 3:30-6:30 pm (to register, click [here](#)).
 - 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), 23 cases in the more than 870 fully vaccinated employees in Academic Affairs have been reported (two currently).
 - Free take-home Rapid tests are continue to be available at the GSU information desk.

FS Action Requested: Happy to take any questions or feedback.