

Provost's Announcements to the Faculty Senate

September 13, 2022

1. **Building Access:** As noted in the 7/18/22 communication regarding campus safety, most buildings are now card access only. See the 9/2/22 email from Stay Informed regarding building hours, access for students and University employees, and who to contact with problems. To help us best serve all campus constituencies, we are considering campus visitors (not students or employees) in one of four categories and are working with the deans to get access to those that need it:
 - a. **Affiliate Card Access:** This is for regular campus visitors who need access to both buildings and campus computer resources like wifi, email, etc. Because affiliate card holders have access to our network (and are subject to audit review), we ask that they have a sponsor who is familiar with the card holder's needs. Some faculty emeriti may fall into this category.
 - b. **Community Access Card** (may have a different name, but this is a working title) provides access to designated buildings during regular hours. Users could include PRESTO students, SSO members, Chorale members, WorWic/UMES students who use our library, etc. We have reached out to deans for how to best serve these groups.
 - c. **Short-term visitors** can pick up cards in the HH Lobby during normal workday hours for access to specific buildings for a short duration (e.g., one day, few days).
 - d. **Attendees of campus events:** Generally, this will be handled through [Conference Services](#) by opening buildings for events.

FS Action Requested: Happy to take any questions or feedback.
2. **After Hours Testing Support for Students with Accommodations:** As noted in the 9/6/22 First Monday email for September, faculty can request after-hours testing support for students with accommodations by completing [this survey](#). FS Action Requested: Happy to take any questions or feedback.
3. **Faculty Handbook and FS Recommendations:** We need to develop and approve a process and timeline for annual updates to the Faculty Handbook. I recommend that I bring a draft document to the FS for consideration.

The updates to the [Faculty Handbook](#) recommended last spring will be completed by 9/13. The FS Recommendations regarding the Faculty Handbook from last May were accepted by the Provost. We will provide responses to the recommendations from various FS committees in the form of: 1) change made or responded to; or 2) review, recommendations, and approval that need to be carried out by the FS, its committees or the Graduate Council (e.g., reformatting of Chapter 2). Also, a pdf version of the current Faculty Handbook and the handbook available last spring will be available for comparison.

Finally, Jessica Clark (Assistant Provost for Faculty Success) has shared a draft document regarding FT-NTT faculty with a representative from the FWC. **FS Action Requested: Seek approval to develop a draft document regarding process for annual updates to the Faculty Handbook.**

4. **December 2022 Commencement:** We plan to hold more traditional Commencement exercises on 12/21 for August and December, 2022 graduates (Fulton and Henson Schools at 10:30 am and CHHS and Perdue and Seidel Schools at 3:00 pm at the Civic Center). More info to follow. **FS Action Requested: Happy to take any questions or feedback.**
5. **Enrollment for Fall 2022 (as of 9/7/22):** Overall enrollment on a full-time equivalent (FTE) basis is down 4.7% relative to last year (undergrad -3.8%/masters -14.9%/doctoral -15.5%). This decline is consistent with national trends. New student enrollment (headcount) is also down (-2.2%) with transfer (-15.5%) and graduate (-18.8%) declines offset by entering first-year students (+12.7%). As noted previously, providing support and engagement for retention and student success is key. At the next FS meeting, I will be sharing dashboards for trends in student credit hour, semesters to degree, and degrees awarded by school/college and program. We are exploring a visualization for retention by program. Department chairs and CHHS school directors should have access to extensive information in Navigate regarding many metrics by demographic status for their programs. **FS Action Requested: Happy to take any questions or feedback.**
6. **Public Health Questions & Answers:** We continue to monitor COVID-19, monkeypox (MPX), and influenza. USM and our peer institutions vary in their vaccination and masking requirements (updated matrix of USM and peer institutions to be provided at the FS meeting on 9/13/22).
 - a. KN95 masks continue to be encouraged and are available at the GSU information desk, deans offices and a few other sites. We encourage good mask etiquette of all (e.g., if others ask you to wear a mask, please do).
 - b. Campus Health continues to provide [COVID vaccinations](#) (clinic on 9/22/22; we anticipate having the bivalent vaccines in the next couple of weeks).
 - c. MPX vaccinations are being handled by the Maryland Department of Health (see [here](#) for information about the pre-registration system).**FS Action Requested: Happy to take any questions or feedback.**