

Faculty Senate Notes

September 22nd, 2026

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Senate President was in the chair. Also attending were the FS Vice President, FS Secretary, the FS Webmaster. SU President Lupre and Interim Provost Clark.

Senators Attending: Amit Poddar, Angela Freeman, Anita Brown, Beth Towel, Brian Flores, Brooke Rogers, David Yoon, Ellen Shaefer-Salins, James Fox Jr., Matthew Bailey, Natasha Finegan, Nicole Kulp, Simbarashe Pasirayi, Thomas Laney, Victor Muriel, Yuki Okubo – Missing Deneen Long-White

Meeting begins at 3:30

SU President Carolyn Lupre and Interim Provost Jessica Clark made announcements and answered questions.

- Gave updates on enrollment numbers, FY class highest ever (1610), also most diverse group
- Retention is up for higher-risk groups
- Current acceptance rate is 92%
- Incoming Freshmen GPA 3.7 average
- FTNTT pin – process is being reviewed by General Counsel
- Working to determine what FTNTT positions need a search to get a PIN
- Trying to maximize candidate pool so possibility exists for FTNTT to move to tenure track if department wishes
- HR position is moving forward
- The Daily Record award for influential Marylanders – Eli Modin;

Questions that were asked/ responses.

- Faculty positions that have been approved are not being posted – This is due to an HR capacity issue. Administration knows about this and is working with HR.
- Scheduling concerns due to fall break – missing two Mondays in a semester, without a Monday at the back end. Main issue is that the schedule is planned out multiple years in advance.
- Concern about preparedness of students coming into college, as well as the number of FY classes, fewer number of transfer students
- Some programs are growing with transfer students, administration is thinking about looking at these numbers program by program

- Do we need to make curricular changes to help incoming students? Can we get money to help with this?
- Why is the current strategic plan committee makeup different than how it sat in May? Should LRAP members be on the committee?
- Who is leading CAFÉ (with two new interim assistant provosts)? The two are sharing duties.

Faculty Senate meeting minutes from Sept. 8, 2026 were presented and approved.

The Senate President made announcements

- Technical working team working to move student evaluations from Peoplesoft to Watermark

Anita Brown moves to suspend order to move motion not currently on the table forward.
(Angela Freeman seconded)

Voting - Passed

Angela Freeman moved a motion to allow Standing Faculty Senate committees to choose an associate chair for their committees. (Anita Brown seconded)

Debate (a couple of comments)

Voting on motion— Motion Passes

FTNTT motion (was being discussed when meeting ended on Sept. 8) was brought back to table and discussed. Anita Brown mentioned that on Sept. 8 there was discussion on whether the motion should be specific or more general. Senator Brown – reached out to FTNTT faculty to ask which was better, 90% of FTNTT like the more specific approach, and Senator Brown read statement from FTNTT faculty stating such. Amit Poddar mentioned the SAC work on this topic. Interim Provost Clark said that HR is still working on things. Victor Muriel stated that wording in the motion needs to be changed to create the best hiring practices. IP Clark stated that she doesn't believe the Oct. 8 deadline isn't realistic. There was discussion about which FTNTT faculty need to go through search to get a PIN.

Angela Freeman made an amendment to change wording to this effect. (Victor Muriel seconded). IP Clark expressed concern about the possibility of letting Dean's and chairs have

time to make this happen (need to change date). Senator Poddar expressed concern that wording isn't correct, as having an open search doesn't mean a PIN will be offered.

Victor Muriel offered amendment to change wording of 1st amendment (Amit Poddar seconded). Debate.

Voting. Motion to accept 2nd amendment passed.

Voting: Motion to accept 1st amendment passed.

Brooke Rogers discussed how original motion is too detailed, mentioning how past motions have not been acted on by administration because they were too specific.

Substitution motion presented by Brooke Rogers. (Amit Poddar seconded). Debate.

Natasha Finnegan proposed an amendment changing the wording of the substitution motion. (Seconded by Nicole Kulp). Debate.

Voting – failed.

Debate on substitution motion.

Motion to remove second paragraph of substitution motion by Amit Poddar (Seconded by Samba Pasirayi).

Voted, Passed.

Debate on substitution motion.

Amit Poddar made a motion to add part of original motion to the substitution motion (Seconded by Samba Pasirayi).

Voting: Passed.

Motion to limit debate until 4:45 pm by Angela Freeman (Seconded by Natasha Finnegan).

Voting passed.

Natasha Finnegan proposed an amendment to strike the October 8 date in substitution motion (Victor Muriel seconded).

Voting: Passed

Voting to replace original motion by substitution amendment. Motion passes.

Voting on FTNTT Motion passes.

Amit Poddar made a motion to bring back the Special Session compensation motion to table (seconded by Samba Pasirayi). Debate/discussion.

Anita Brown proposed a Substitution motion (Seconded by Amit Poddar). Debate/Discussion. The substitution motion was still on the table when the FS meeting adjourned.

The FS meeting ended at 5:00 pm.