Salisbury University – Staff Senate

Thursday, April 9, 2020

Zoom

**Members In attendance**: Joe Benyish, Steve Blankenship, Donna Carey, Vanessa Collins, Lisa Gray, Paul Gasior, Sara Heim, Teri Herberger, Matt Hill, Tabitha Pilchard, Belinda Poole, Safaa Said

**Members Absent**: N/A

**Executive Staff**: President Wight, Marvin Pyles

Chair, Tabitha Pilchard, opened the meeting at 10:00 am

1. Reports
   1. President Wight
      1. Appreciates our dedication to supporting the University
      2. Student move out is 97% complete – they practiced social distancing and received positive feedback on the process.
      3. Spring commencement has been rescheduled for Dec. 18th – 20th
      4. Currently planning to be face to face in the fall but should be prepared to go back online if the virus resurges again.
      5. Continuing to move forward in hiring the Chief Diversity Officer
      6. Hiring pause - not a hiring freeze – “we’re being careful about the new commitments we make to others.”
      7. Anticipating student enrollment numbers to drop due to COVID19
      8. State funding is also likely to drop
      9. Asked about how staff are doing and how teleworking is going – the consensus was that teleworking is going well and staff have been able to do most of their duties from home.
   2. Marvin Pyles
      1. Thanked staff for stepping up and the quick response time
      2. Vice Presidents have received revenue projections with a 4% cut on 4/8/20 but it’s likely they will be revised as more information becomes available
      3. 140 contingent employees were let go due to inability to work from home and the University will not challenge claims to unemployment
      4. All summer programs and camps are cancelled for the summer or have moved online
      5. When the governor starts to lift restrictions, we’ll start having conversations about bringing employees back to campus.
      6. Enrollment is 200 students down from this time last year
      7. Projected 10% decrease in student admission for Fall 2020
   3. CUSS Updates
      1. Held online and mainly consisted of a COVID19 update
      2. Board of Regents awards will be narrowed down to 9
      3. Advocacy Day was able to move forward and received good feedback
2. Old Business:
   1. Standing Committees – Updates
      1. Human Resources
         1. Projects they were working on have been placed on hold given the heavy work load on HR in light of COVID19
      2. Communications/Snack & Chat Sessions
         1. Will look into hosting a Zoom session on LinkedIn Learning
   2. Update on the Climate Study Work Group
      1. Deadline extended for an additional month – low response rate for non-exempt employees and students
3. New Business :
   1. Staff Senate Suggestion Box – None submitted
   2. Staff Senate Elections
      1. Will move forward and voting will be online as done in the past
   3. Employee Appreciation Day will tentatively be held in the Fall – Marvin Pyles offered support
4. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned: 11:50am

Next Meeting – May 14, Zoom

February minutes were reviewed and approved via email.

Respectfully submitted,

Sara Heim