

Meeting Notes



Date: 4/9/2026

Time: 10:00AM

Attendance: Joe Benyish, Candace Henry, Heather Kidd, Lisa Gray, Steve Blankenship, Frank Bowen, Dave Gutoskey, Shannon James, Kelly Cowger, Mary Katherine Taylor, Donna Knopf, Anthony Sanchez, JJ Remo, Cyndi Funkhouser, Lindsey Ward

Location: GAC 401

Approval of March Meeting Minutes; Shannon motioned, Cyndi second, minutes passed

Special Guest – Dr. Chrys Egan – Artificial Intelligence:

- Sent out executive summary for SS review
- Task force started in Provost office in spring 2025, a very diverse group of 32 people. Chrys and Ken Kundell are co-chairs. 4 subgroups based on impact of AI at SU
- Teaching and learning researched frameworks, faculty can clearly articulate whether AI persisted or not in the syllabus. 3 groups, AI not allowed, conditional, inclusive
- Research group is interested in exploring how AI might be used in scholarship
- Student support group not using AI, primarily concerned with privacy. May be used in EM in classrooms, courses, sections, etc
- Operations and Administration-where in SU procedures might we want to use AI
- Immediate requests of any objections and then put forward financial requests, primarily for training to determine the best tools
- Would like feedback from all shared governance groups
- SU collaborating with Frostburg and UB. UB is a fan of “Bootle Box”. UMCP has their own AI app, SU being thoughtful and cautious
- Feedback from SS- Candace is there faculty interest in having cameras in classrooms, Fulton not in favor, Henson is putting in a motion. OAA does not agree with cameras in classrooms, not coming from the AI task force. There is a proposal to have cameras in academic classrooms. Same concerns for video recordings as there are with audio recordings
- Joe-operations side could benefit from use of AI for staff
- Steve-once seed money received to buy licenses, can begin training and advocating for use of AI and to assist with employees and students with understanding of AI.



There are a bunch of not settled on any one. ChatGPT would be

competing models, and have Copilot is not the best; expensive to obtain licenses not want to move forward

- The committee does with 32 people, would want to add additional faculty, staff and students
- Lisa- not many staff on the initial team, staff could be helpful in determining the benefits of the use of AI
- Decided not to propose motions, informational session for feedback from shared governance group
- May be able to find staff who are really involved with AI and have interest.
- AI user group on campus, where people can share information with their use of AI
- Strategic implementation council, faculty senate think they all should be on it, some think the chairs, would like feedback on what SS would like to see on the implementation council. Staff should be represented on the council, what is the workload, time frame, etc. Want it to be practical to start May 1

Staff Senate Reports:

SS President-Joe Benyish

- Strategic plan steering committee meeting today to review feedback from campus community
- Consortium coordinating committee meeting last week, only time-shared government has time with president's office is with these meetings. Was better when shared governance was included in PAT meetings, has moved to extended cabinet which shared governance is not invited to

VP Candace Henry

- First summary email will be created today to be sent out to constituents
- Steve is SS accessibility liaison

CUSS Report: Kelly

- No meeting till next week, at CUSS exec meeting looks like shared governance survey will be main topic

Committee Reports:

HR Committee-Lisa Gray

- PMP training happening, several options available
- Manager development training started
- Timeframe for meritorious staff award, waiting to hear from Michael
- Joe-received information that comp and class is still a bit of a nightmare, new comp and class person recently started
- HR- Wendy is responsible for faculty and staff accommodations



- How is it decided when posted? Doesn't seem always posted a position is posted or not as though all positions are
- Joe & Lisa will email to regarding staff frustrations with position posting, reclassification, etc. get on Aurora's calendar
- I9 approval moving to contract initiators from HR, but HR still has final approval
- Why does HR get to assign work to staff not in HR

Engagement-Kelly Cowger

- Snack& Chat-Security with Campus Police not well attended. Miscommunication with Capt. Shockley regarding in person or online. Unsure why attendance was so low, could have been the email info that was sent out. Future snack & chats-HR benefits should continue. Teams snack & chat was well attended. Any others, play it by ear.
- Should continue with HH's
- Centennial day of service-April 18 will email list to SS, do not have to participate in any of those activities, but if you do, get a t-shirt from Alumni house.
 - Volunteer opportunities for day of service
 - Humane society
 - United way
 - Halo
 - Big brothers' big sisters
 - Chesapeake housing mission – Ramp build - Yes
 - Maryland food bank
 - Salvation Army
 - Kitten Kafe

Outreach- JJ Remo

- Town Hall-April 23rd 10am-12pm in Wicomico room
- Email reminder with web office

Membership & Elections-Steve Blakenship

- Will schedule meeting with Candance to get started, maybe a team's call to determine interest from staff

Special Guests:

11:00am – President & Eli Modlin

- Gerald Taylor event, not coming through a student organization, coming through MD Collaboration of College Republicans, SU student does lead that



group.
payments,
ability to
not

Group is responsible for
insurance, etc. SU has the
determine time and place but
content. Rescheduled due to no

security assessment, among other things. Payment and insurance have not been provided for the event. SU does not support the event. For outside events, organizations must pay for all costs (security, room, etc.)

- Legislative updates-collective bargaining for non-tenured track faculty is moving forward, should go to governor where it is expected to be signed into law. Non-tenured track faculty are defined differently by each institution; schools could choose to not participate. There is a way to separate covered and noncovered individuals, would have an impact on faculty senate. Collective bargaining lives with the Chancellor.
- Grad assistant collective bargaining passed both house and senate, understanding that it only includes UMCP & UMBC, does not include other 10 institutions
- The Governor signed a budget yesterday, 1.5% cola. SU still looking at impact
- SU was able to put 2 million dollars back into budgets; money was allocated based on the previous cuts that departments were asked to make. AA, SA, Athletics, EM, Facilities, Admin & Finance, IAB, Advancement
- Position movement-Exec Admin Assistant in A&F is temporary part time assignment; VP has authority to move a person into a position temporarily with the understanding that person is not applying for the position. Difference between changing roles and a new position. VP's have some autonomy but should use it judiciously. Eli as an example, moved to Chief of Staff position, but classification did not change. Federal government dictates through FLSA that administrative positions must meet certain guidelines; each institution can determine which positions the guidelines apply to. Cabinet decides what positions fall into what category, HR would implement the policy

EAD

- 8AM-Arboretum tour
- 830-930-Paint class-need 2 staff senators
- Fireside-830-1130-tye dye, sand art, sling bags & stickers
- 830-1130-Faces & Names, caricature, creative name making, airbrush tattoos, petting zoo,
- 930-Arboretum walk
- 930-1030 Yoga-room 206 GSU
- President activity
- 1030-1130-Line Dancing



- 1130-130 Lunch
 - 2- 4 Bingo, 1 rounds blackout round (fill bookstore gift card
 - Raffles-received about 15 work orders, gift cards may be used for bingo or lunch prizes
 - 5-7 Dinner for evening staff
 - SS needs to sign up for open spots
 - Any other giveaways beside stickers? Lisa will work on
 - Ice cream at Bingo?
- each round has 5 winners, the whole card), \$200

Old Business

- Did not get to

New Business

- Did not get to

Staff Concerns & Suggestion Box

- None

Other Topics

- None

Adjournment: 11:59