

## Meeting Notes



**Date:** 3/12/2026

**Time:** 10:01 A.M.

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

**Location:** GAC 401

**Approval of January Meeting Minutes;** approved Lisa Gray, Cyndi second

### **Staff Senate Reports:**

SS President-Joe Benyish

- Introduction of Michelle Vamos
- Congratulations to Cyndi on her BOR Staff Award
- Strategic Plan
  - Steering committee has been meeting for over a year now
  - Many opportunities to listen and be part of working groups on the plan
  - Conversations had at steering committee meeting
    - New timeline – 3-week feedback and then roll out on May 1<sup>st</sup>
  - Room discussion on feedback given
- Giving Day
  - April 7, 2026
  - Emergency Fund
  - Possibility of thinking about Staff Senate matching gifts in a certain area.
  - Even giving \$5 can go a long way with all the matching opportunities out there

VP Candace Henry

- Meeting recaps to send out to Staff members since meeting minutes are not voted on until the next month's meeting
- Send via email to send out to staff
- Motion – Kelly , 2<sup>nd</sup> - Lisa

### **CUSS Report:**

- BOR finalists announced
- USM Advocacy Day
- State of Shared Governance Survey



- Reminder to
  - Revamp coming of
  - CUSS Chair email changes. Up to 6 school
  - USM HR – paid family medical leave. Waiting on clarification
- fill out  
USM website  
coming soon for bylaw  
representatives from each

### **Committee Reports:**

#### HR Committee-Lisa Gray

- Employee Experience
  - Management development
    - Internal and external individuals to deliver trainings
    - Starts in March through November (no August)
    - Around 70 people
  - SU Lead
    - March 20 – June 5
    - 11 people
  - 2026 PMP
    - Begins April 1
    - First email notification about PMP will be in Fridays with The Flock on March 13
  - 2026 Service Awards
    - April 22
    - 183 Faculty and Staff
    - 68 Adjuncts

#### Engagement-Kelly Cowger

- Happy Hour – March 18
- SU Volunteer Day – April 18
- Snack and Chat – April 6 (2-3 pm)
- 40 people turn out for next snack and chat

#### Outreach- JJ Remo

- Town Hall – April 23
  - Asking questions in advance
  - Wicomico Room

#### Membership & Elections-Steve Blakenship

- Plan timeline next month meeting

## Special Guests:



- **Eric Berkheimer –**
  - Blackwell nicely
  - Looking at Spring 2027/Summer 2027
    - Matt and team will look at timetables for when offices and departments will begin moving in
  - One stop shop – Student services and focus for welcome center for Admissions
    - 1<sup>st</sup> floor -
      - Admissions welcome desk and presentation room
      - OAA
      - Academic Advising
      - Career Services
      - High Impact Practices (Fellowships, Student Abroad, PACE etc.)
    - 2<sup>nd</sup> floor -
      - Some decisions to be made on certain areas such as Student Success
      - Cashiers
      - Admissions
      - Financial Aid
      - Orientation
      - Registrar
  - Starting 3/16 parts of the square are going to be fenced off through July
  - New health corridor underneath Commons Dining Hall
    - Bookstore book sales moving to GAC
    - Bookstore clothing moving TBD
- **Aurora Endenhardt-Pepe**
  - Budget workbooks
    - Next meeting budget office employees come and demonstrate the workbook and how it is distributed by budget type
- **President Office - Eli Modlin**
  - Boards of visitors – names have not been announced and still need to be approved by BOR
    - No authority and purpose is an advisory board
    - Vote slated for late March/early April
  - Legislative updates
    - Last week in Annapolis
    - First time participating in SU Advocacy Day – learned a lot and plans for next year

**Space Presentation**  
construction is progressing



- Proud to have a crowd show up for SU when presenting to legislative representatives
- Bill for certain groups of people to unionize, who don't currently have union representation at the moment has not passed
- New General Counsel start date is May 13 and VP of Student Affairs start date June 8
- Steps for new Provost search has begun – projected to begin search this summer
- Dr. Nyland serving as Interim Dean of Clarke Honors College
- Strategic Plan draft shown at State of the University and additional feedback to be provided

### **Old Business**

### **New Business**

### **Staff Concerns & Suggestion Box**

**Adjournment: 11:58 A.M.**