

Meeting Notes

Date: 5/6/2026

Time: 10:02 a.m.

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

Location: GAC 401

Approval of April Meeting Minutes; 1st motion – Dave, 2nd - Steve

Special Guest – Dr. Brian Stiegler-PD Opportunity for Staff

- Dr. Stielger now with the Graduate Higher Education Program
- MHEC Approval – Post Masters Certificate in High Education
 - <https://www.salisbury.edu/explore-academics/programs/certificates/education-leadership-masters.aspx>
 - 4 courses
 - Dr. Stiegler advisor
- Now offering June classes, evening offerings and virtual courses
- Encouraging staff to take advantage of this new opportunity
- DPA – 3 courses being taught on SU's campus
 - Program combining with University of Baltimore (tuition remission)
- Continue professional development in career by taking advantage of these opportunities

Special Guest – Dr. Chrys Egan& Kara Raab Strategic Planning Council:

- Next step in Strategic Plan
- Draft document provided to Staff Senate in advance
- This council is to promote and support the people and programs of Salisbury University
- Looking for committee representatives from different units and currently in Phase 1 of the planning
- Questions on authority of the council and how the chain of command will work
- Planning to come up with a template to provide each unit to make it easier and less complicated
- Discussed the make-up of the representative members and how to balance them
- Looking for communication and transparency

Staff Senate Reports:

SS President-Joe Benyish

- T-shirt for Employee Appreciation Day
- Strategic Plan meeting with LRAP 5/7/2026

VP Candace Henry

- First recap was emailed out on April meetings and will continue to do them since we approve minutes a month later
- Election updates may need a new survey for a few folks that clicked through survey but didn't vote.
- Forwarded links do not work; links are individual. Reminder going out on Friday morning that voting ends on Sunday.
- Non-exempt not covered by collective bargaining no candidates

CUSS Report: Lisa/Kelly/Shannon/Frank

- Should be getting a presentation on PMFL
- Discontinuation of doctoral program how was that so easily done without including shared governance.
- CUSS meetings are open to all, communication is being sent out
- Lost large contingency at UMCP due to layoffs

Committee Reports:

HR Committee-Lisa Gray

- No Report

Engagement-Kelly Cowger

- No Report

Outreach- JJ Remo

- No Report

Membership & Elections-Steve Blakenship

- Elections are underway and they close 5/10
- Bylaw change for vacant seat-change to allow member at large for one year, Candace will work on proposed draft with Steve

Special Guests:

11:00am – President's Office

Athletics-

- Athletics-post season play, men's & women's lacrosse doing well, if they keep winning, we will keep hosting. Last game at Christopher Newport, fans trapped SU players on the field
- Men's play Roanoke at 3pm Saturday
- Women's play winner of Union and Mt. Union on Sunday at 1pm
- Feel free to say hi to president in president's box
- Baseball will play double header tomorrow. Softball and track and field also doing well

Strategic Plan updates

- Strategic plan is coming soon, more to come. Strategic plan steering committee meeting today

Enrollment update

- 1636-13% higher than freshman class last year
- How are we prepared for these students, AA making sure there are enough classes, wanting to ensure infrastructure in place to support students, working on housing, more to come. Look forward to coming to the upcoming meeting to talk about solutions. Good problem to have in president's opinion, challenging but good

Provost Search

- Exec staff of faculty senate tomorrow, building a search committee. Not using a consulting firm will be done in house. Thomas Laney and Jason Curtin will be chairing the search committee. Staff perspectives are important in who candidate should be. Goal is to launch the search in mid-August, hopeful to have person chosen prior to winter break with a start date of July 1
- Steve-staff in AA often are forgotten, we need a good working partnership with provost to build a better working relationship between staff and faculty
- From a staff perspective what can be built in to assist in the search process, possible case studies versus traditional questions
- SS come up with what a good scenario to discuss with provost candidates, should scenario be given ahead of time or on site, prepared and unprepared are both beneficial. Maybe it is a part one/part two

Orioles' partnership

- Official higher ed partnership for the season
- Salisbury can be seen in games
- Calls from other president's asking how we made that happen
- Beyond branding, excited about opportunities for students

- Sept 4th-SU night a Camden Yards, Salisbury/O's co-branded shirts, marching band will perform, Sammy will be there
- Alumni to send out information via email

Commencement speakers

- Katie Briggs-Orioles operations will speak at UG ceremony
- Jake Day-will speak at graduate ceremony
- 1223 replied yes to attend commencement, number could fluctuate

Aurora-

- PMFL, Nadalyne to provide one pager and can present at future meetings, grants time upon entry into workforce, criteria to be met to qualify for the benefit. Will be difficult to manage financially, turned in plans to USM on impact. Dan Shannon USM HR, building forms for all USM institutions. Working out the logistics
- Building closures, very proud of facilities handling. Asked academic buildings to close, so many requests to turn power back on; savings didn't pan out like they should have. Could have generated \$250,000 in savings, only generated about \$75,000. At this time, not looking at building efficiency for the summer. Telework policy will not be deployed for summer
- Summer hours-two days in summer instead of one since building efficiency is off the table. Looking into how to incorporate the additional days into the calendar. Working on how to announce it and what to call it
- Leave bank-no updates, bring up with new AVP, two very different candidates. Open sessions to be announced
- COLA & budget recently received a letter from Chancellor in how to deploy current budget, SU was on good footing due to following the recommendations of USM; other USM institutions are struggling, announcing layoffs. In the process of balancing the budget based on what was turned in by departments and the incoming class. COLA will be 1.5% if it moves forward. State will give funds for permanent positions, SU will most likely follow same process as years past
- Graduate assistants and NTT faculty conversations have begun regarding bargaining

Old Business

- EAD update, email draft will go out with sign up genius, first come first serve for t-shirts. Email will go out in a week or two. Virtual meeting week prior, Friday, June 5th.
- Town hall-negative feedback on not knowing format, will work to have info out earlier next year, no time frame in email, and will add time frame next year. What do we want to town hall to be? Are people better informed and that is why there were less questions.

New Business

- None

Staff Concerns & Suggestion Box

- None

Other Topics

Adjournment: 12:04