

Meeting Notes



Date:

9/11/2025

Time: 1:00PM

Attendance:

Joe Benyish, Heather Kidd, JJ Remo, Lindsey Ward, Cyndi Funkhouser, Donna Knopf, Anthony Sanchez, Mary Catherine Taylor, Steve Blankenship, Frank Bowen, Lisa Grey, Megan Raymond, Kelly Cowger, Dave Gutoskey, Candace Henry

Location:

GAC 401

Approval of August Meeting Minutes;

Motion to approve-Kelly Cowger, second Cyndi Funkhouser, all approve

Staff Senate Reports:

SS President-Joe Benyish

a. Staff Senate Chair – Joe

- i. Consortium coordinating committee meeting
- **Maryland Charities Campaign**
 - i. Sherri Makyrantz no longer coordinating MD Charities Campaign, Joe was asked to coordinate, he agreed. Would like donations to SU campaigns and not MD Charities campaign. October 6-December 12th open dates. 900 charity options, SU is an option.
 - ii. SS x FS Leadership Meeting – early October
- Meet to ensure same page for shared gover

CUSS Report: Shannon James

- i. Frostburg cut tuition remission for USM employees for ED.D program
- ii. Workday consortium, MD Workday Connect, President and past president to meet with Chief of Staff of Governor's office on Wednesday.
- b. **BOR Awards Process** – Lisa
 - i. Change of submission deadlines would like faculty and staff awards at the same time. BOR packets due to CUSS on 11/24/2025, email early next week to campus, full packet review on 11/6 final packets to SU CUSS review team, to president's office on 11/10, allowing 2 weeks for

get
from



submission to CUSS. Lisa will
updated packets to Joe.
Michelle Lambert won BOR
last year submissions.

Committee Reports:

HR Committee-Lisa Gray

- No updates

Engagement-Kelly Cowger

- i. Staff Senate Snack & Chat schedule out for year
 1. Civic Engagement-similar to new student civic engagement activity-Sandy Pope to lead activity-Thursdays, September 25th
 2. Employee Health Benefits-October 29th
 3. Teams-Robin Hoffman-
 4. Campus Safety-
 5. All virtual except civic engagement activity
- ii. EAD focus more in spring
- iii. Fall/Spring engagement-fall HH at Hoppers, themed coffee and conversations (recipe/hobby swap), spring-HH at Hoppers for spring break, volunteer hours for spring. Staff version of volunteer day, staff "gull games"
- iv. Year-round engagement Survivor group chat, movie, book using app for staff.

Outreach- JJ Remo

- Working on dates for spring semester opportunities, once dates are determined, the session will be outlined. Possibly town hall at the end of March or April. The State of the University is March 11 at 3pm, would like to wait until after that to schedule outreach.
- Strategic plan work groups are still meeting, should go back to president after that and to campus community for review.

Membership & Elections-Steve Blakenship

- CUSS seat, need to send interest email from SS account, once there is interest, simple process.
- A person will fill a seat for 6 months. Discussion on holding off on filling seat, should we wait, or should we move forward. Dave made a motion to suspend a special election, Candace second. Motion was passed to hold on filling seat until election time in spring.
- Mary Catherine and Anthony up for reelection, Kelly for CUSS, open seat for CUSS, Heather and JJ up for reelection. Contingents are elected every year. 2 CUSS 2 exempt and 2 contingents, no non-exempts



Old Business

SS Website-Heather Kidd

STAFF SENATE

- SS site is live, review and provide Heather feedback. Senators link to directory, easiest way for web office to manage.
- Possibly create a recap section for each meeting.
- Should campus announcements go out about new site? Yes, but want to wait until minutes are loaded.
- Could we add a gallery to show all of the events to show activities throughout the year? Record virtual events to post to site. Add header for past events.

Maroon & Gold Friday's/Spirit Squad-Dave Gutoskey/Joe Benyish

- Need to address additional details. Maybe send it out in a way that people let us know how they are participating.
- Suggestion, roll out at the start of lacrosse season. Bring a shirt to bookstore to trade for an SU shirt for a discount. Post on website to promote year-round.
- Announcement on January 30th?
- Clear on rules for trading shirts, what will happen to shirts traded in? Can be donated to Sammy's Stash or Salvation Army, could also be recycled. Bring in a clean shirt that is college branded and receive a 20% discount on SU clothes.

Staff who Soar-

- Going well, the group will meet soon to evaluate December nominees.
- Going really well, receiving a lot of nominations. Sticking with choosing 5. Even if nominated and not chosen, you should receive a notification that you were nominated.
- Gull patrol delivers tumbler and news that they won.
- Being mindful of introverted people could be a lot for them. Could HR talk with supervisor to determine if someone may not want the Gull Patrol?

New Business

Employee Appreciation Day brainstorm

- Staff who Soar-add to PowerPoint presentation. Switch morning and afternoon activities
- Activities to continue-paint class (art faculty to possibly lead) and we buy the supplies, arboretum tour, yoga (SU instructor, room 206), ping pong tournament, president activity, tie-dye t-shirts/sling bag, grab and go, petting zoo, sand art, air brush tattoos, photo booth
- New activities- bingo (afternoon), line dancing,
- Survey suggestions-mozzarella sticks and corndogs, tickets to sporting event, healthier food, volleyball tournament,

- Food-Commons use the Bistro Diamond catering, get the menu and



will not be open, will have to room, working with Black will forward to Joe once we cost. Will evaluate based on

- cost. If catering is too costly, dining will work to figure something out.
- Take back to engagement committee and draft the day

Staff Concerns & Suggestion Box

- None

Other Topics

- SS awards-have event for all winners not at EAD

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn-Frank, Lisa seconds. 11:33