

**Salisbury University
Consortium Coordinating Committee meeting
May 15, 2025, 3:30 p.m.
President's Conference Room**

Minutes

Present: Joe Benyish, Chair (Chair, Staff Senate); Candace Henry (Vice Chair Staff Senate); Joerg Tuske (outgoing President, Faculty Senate); David Keifer (incoming President, Faculty Senate); Olivia Ingrao (outgoing President, SGA); Jahnaiya Sutherland (incoming President, SGA); Thabiso Ratlou (incoming Vice President, SGA); Tim Robinson (Chair, Adjunct Faculty Caucus); Abbey Murphy (Vice President, Graduate Student Council); President Lepre; Eli Modlin (Chief of Staff and Vice President of Public Affairs and Strategic Initiatives, President's Office); and Gina Boobar (President's Office)

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the March 28, 2025 meeting were approved with amendments.

Updates from the President's Office – President Lepre and Eli Modlin

a. Budget

- President Lepre noted that a number of budget meetings have been held since the last Consortium meeting. Division budgets are due to Aurora tomorrow; we should be close to our target. Everyone has worked hard to meet the necessary budget reductions.
- There was an article published recently in the Baltimore Sun reporting how the state budget cuts are affecting Maryland higher education institutions. UMB, UMES and Morgan State are undergoing staff reductions and salary reductions. We are thankful for SU's financial situation, but it is a continual challenge. We will share everything forward when we have a final budget. We are still waiting for final confirmation from the USM regarding SU's actual final reduction number. USM Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance Ellen Herbst has been clear that she is anticipating there will be further cuts in the fall.
- David Keifer asked about the plan for communicating the final budget. President Lepre asked for suggestions. What is the best mechanism? Jeorg suggested posting it on the website and sending a campus email. Tim added sending an email in advance with the date that the budget will be posted. Also, the more information the better (i.e., where money was saved, how much was saved).
- Joe asked if there are any plans to look at strategic reorganization of SU's workforce in various areas, or ways we can consolidate programs? President Lepre replied that this is part of what certain groups are looking at – are there more effective ways for people to do their jobs? How can we make departments more efficient? What are some things we have been doing for a long time that we no longer need to do? Additionally, the System is looking at ways to do more with shared services to help lower costs for each institution.

b. Maryland Charity Campaign

- Eli explained that the Maryland Charity Campaign is an annual workplace giving campaign for Maryland State employees to support local and national charities. It's run out of the Secretary of State's office. The campaign goes from October through December. SU does very well each year. The System and the Secretary of State's Office recommend that the institution's administration does not run the campaign. Sherry Maykrantz has headed it up the last few years, but she is not able to do it any longer. The President's office assisted Sherry, as needed.
- Eli said the administration is putting it on the table in case the Consortium Coordinating Committee – or an individual governance body – would be interested in leading SU's campaign this year. The President's Office would continue to provide any necessary assistance.

Old Business

Consortium Committees

- Joe noted that the Faculty Senate held a special meeting in March and moved to send the Consortium committee bylaws issue back to the Consortium Coordinating Committee for revision.
- Consortium committees were created over 15 years ago, but for the past several years, efforts to operationalize them have faced difficulties. Suggested bylaw changes for the Consortium committees were discussed and proposed, but ultimately did not pass. Bylaw changes require approval from four out of the five governance bodies in order to pass.
- Faculty Senate must approve the changes first to ensure that the AFC follows suit.
- Joerg mentioned that the Faculty Senate officers planned to draft a proposal and present it to the Faculty Senate; however, with six new incoming senators, it was agreed to wait until the fall.
- Joe noted that most committees have not met this academic year, putting them technical in violation of Consortium bylaws.
- Joe expressed interest, as discussed during previous meetings, in reducing the number of standing Consortium committees and instead using ad hoc committees for greater flexibility.

New Business

a. Town Hall Recaps

- The staff and faculty town halls were very well attended; the student town hall also went well. The budget was discussed at all three town halls. The staff town hall also included discussion on Staff Senate initiatives.

Governance Body Reports

Report from Faculty Senate – Joerg Tuske

- The final meeting of the academic year was held Tuesday. During the meeting, elections for 2025-26 Faculty Senate Officers was held: Thomas Lamey, Vice President; Erin Weber, Secretary; Anita Brown, Webmaster, and, per the bylaws, David Keifer will become President.
- Most business was related to the budget. Numerous motions were put forward and approved.

Report from Staff Senate – Joe Benyish

- Senator elections opened today and go through next Tuesday. Open positions include one non-exempt, two contingent, and two CUSS representatives. There are also proposed bylaw revisions. There are a number of individuals running for the positions.
- Employee Appreciation Day is Tuesday, June 10th. There is a full schedule of events planned including creating Zen gardens, airbrush tattoos, paint class, tie-dye t-shirts, and cupcake decorating. Joe asked the President and Eli if they would ask the VPs to allow staff to participate.

Report from Adjunct Faculty Caucus – Tim Robinson

- The Adjunct Faculty Caucus (AFC) appreciates the communication opportunities throughout the budget process. The Provost met with the entire AFC team. The AFC is now just waiting to see what happens with the budget and how it will affect them.

Report from Student Government Association (SGA) – Jahnaiya Sutherland

- A successful transition of leadership occurred with the newly elected individuals taking office on May 1st. There will be further transition coming soon with SGA senators; there are numerous senators graduating this month. They will contact departments/schools for recommendations of students who would be good senators.
- The annual spring I Love Salisbury event went well. There will be some changes to the fall event; they are starting to work on that now.

Report from Graduate Student Council (GSC) – Abbey Murphy

- The current members of the GSC will be graduating and they have not had anyone express interest in joining. The election period has closed and there were no applicants. The GSC is trying to figure out what graduate students are looking for; even though students expressed interest in having events, events have had low attendance. If anyone has any ideas for nominees for the GSC, please submit them to Jessica Scott.

Meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Recorder: Gina Boobar