

SALISBURY UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE MOTION

Submit this form to the Faculty Senate President

SUBJECT: Motion to keep faculty involved in budget decisions during the summer

SENATOR PROPOSING MOTION: Anita Brown

SENATOR SECONDING MOTION:

MOTION (this section alone will be recorded in the minutes):

In order to solicit appropriate feedback from the faculty, during the summer, the Administration shall notify the Faculty Senate's Summer Advisory Committee (SAC) and/or the Faculty Senate President in advance of any decisions related to the following essential components of Salisbury University's academic mission: course offerings and class sizes; release time, workload, and professional development funding; and the termination of faculty. Notifications to the FS on these matters must be made in a manner that permits time for proper deliberation among the SAC and the FS President, for consultation with the full Faculty Senate, and with the University Faculty more broadly for actions likely to have substantial consequences.

When possible, the Administration should avoid making such decisions related to the academic mission when most faculty are not under contract (June 16 to August 14), which makes it impossible to convene the FS. If the severity of the situation requires that such decisions be made while most faculty are not under contract, within 24 hours of notification from the Administration or the SAC, the FS President will notify the Faculty of the situation via e-mail, so the Faculty as a whole may contribute ideas and advice to the effort of managing the difficulties being faced.

Regardless of notifications related to emergency decisions, in order to keep the Faculty informed over the summer, within one week of each meeting the SAC has with the Provost, via email, the SAC will distribute notes of the meetings to the Faculty.

JUSTIFICATION:

In 2014, the Summer Advisory Committee (SAC) was started, at the request of the Faculty Senate, to attempt to provide faculty viewpoints to the Administration during the summer, when most faculty are not on contract. Previously, during the summer, the SU Administration had been making decisions that significantly impacted SU Faculty without a mechanism to seek input from them. Whenever possible, during the summer, the Administration should avoid making decisions which should involve faculty input. Recently, faculty have expressed concerns that decisions related to the budget shortfall should have included more faculty input. While the SAC is a small advisory committee to the Provost, it does not have formal authority to speak for the Faculty Senate (or the Faculty). Hence actions/decisions that will significantly impact faculty, courses, or the curriculum, should only occur over the summer in an emergency situation, but if such decisions do need to be made, there should be a mechanism to solicit faculty input.

Information about the SAC is available at <https://www.salisbury.edu/administration/campus-governance/faculty-senate/current-committees.aspx> .

SU's President and Provost have assured the Faculty that they intend to maintain the important pieces of SU's academics that make SU what it is. They have indicated that courses that need to be offered so students can graduate on time will be offered. They expect to maintain some professional development funding, and they are discussing some beneficial changes with the FS regarding some plans that had been announced. Over the summer, they do **not** expect to need to make decisions regarding changes not already proposed by the SU deans. Hence this motion is not being made based upon any expectations of such events.

However, there is some possibility that decisions related to the budget shortfall may need to be made over the summer, and this motion attempts to ensure that faculty input will occur in **any** decisions that may need to occur.

ANTICIPATED IMPACT:

Negative:

Positive: These actions will help maintain communication between the faculty and the Administration, and hopefully help the Faculty have some voice in emergency decisions during the summer, as well as in decisions that may be better handled during times when most faculty are under contract.

Is this a recommendation to the Provost? Yes X No
Is this a recommendation to someone else? No Yes, SAC, FS President

VOTE: Number of Senators Present: Motion Passes or Fails: