

Faculty Senate Notes

March 24, 2026

Henson Hall 103

<https://www.salisbury.edu/administration/campus-governance/faculty-senate/>

Brian Flores, Sandy Pope, Jim Fox, Amit Poddar, Ellen Schaefer-Salins, Thomas Lamey, Rich Bowler, Bart Talbert, Brooke Rogers, Jose Juncosa, Mia Waldron, Mary DiBartolo, Yuki Okubo, Erin Weber, Anita Brown, Emily Zerrenner, Dave Keifer

Call to order: 3:30 pm

1. Announcements from President Lepre
 - a. Been giving operating and capital testimony in Annapolis, state legislature has passed Governor's budget, no additional cuts to USM
 - b. Funding for Performing Arts Center passed state budget for FY28, put in a request to move some of that funding up to FY27
 - c. Flat budgeting for next year
 - d. AVP of HR search in progress, aiming for candidates on campus this spring
 - e. Faculty and staff appreciation day at the Men's Lacrosse Game March 24
 - f. Q: Will there be a tuition increase? A: Put in for 2% in-state and 3% out-of-state with flat fees, pending Board approval
2. Approval of minutes from meeting on March 10, 2026
3. Announcements from Interim Provost Clark
 - a. Enrollment: stable at 6750 students, up 93 students from last year, retention looking stable. First-year applications continue to tick up, increase by about 1700 apps from last year with similar GPA, about 6000 students have received financial aid offers, admitted student days March 28 and April 11
 - b. Final budgets due May 1
 - c. AI Task Force working hard with policies for Faculty Senate review soon
 - d. Registrar position will be posted this week
 - e. Mark Romano, new General Counsel begins May 13
 - f. Q: How much acclimation time should we give General Counsel? A: He's ready to hit the ground running
4. Announcements from the Senate President
 - a. Reminder that [Strategic Plan feedback](#) due April 1
 - b. Reminder for senators to send feedback on Provost search by March 27

- c. Q: How will that Provost feedback go to President Lepre? A: Likely raw data with summary
 - d. Summer Advisory Council mostly set
5. New business
- a. Motion to send Graduate Curriculum Committee and unit curriculum committees the proposed curriculum approval guide for feedback
 - i. Allow GCC some time to review before CAG returns to Senate
 - ii. Note that Honors College also has a curriculum committee
 - iii. Discussion on length of time for review
 - iv. Question around process of revisions and if Senate should focus only on reviewer comments or provide their own
 - v. Feedback would be made available to Senators on Teams
 - vi. Question about impetus for these revisions and how long they've been on the table
 - vii. Comment on accept vs acknowledge, note that this is very impactful on students and should be dealt with sooner rather than later
 - b. Motion on a policy regarding mandated instructional alterations
 - i. Came out of discussions related to virtual snow week and class policy in wake of student death
 - ii. Discussion around virtual, cancellations, mandated course content
 - iii. Concerns as some faculty have pivoted back to handwritten assignments to combat generative ai
 - iv. Clarification between emergency and non-emergency – emergency is immediate possibility of harm
 - v. There is a [USM policy on emergency conditions](#)
 - vi. Discussion about what APC should look for or how best to consider
 - vii. Discussion related to professors who teach multiple sections in a week, 7-week courses, graduate education, academic freedom, directive to use class time for review rather than new material
 - viii. Previous [SU Inclement Weather policy](#) was sunset last fall
 - ix. Discussion on process and communication from SUPD rather than Academic Affairs or PR, seeking better clarity in process
 - x. VP of Admin and Finance and SUPD use an emergency rubric
 - xi. Suggestion to use peer institutions and use what others have done
 - xii. General Counsel will be available to review and make suggestions

- c. Motion to extend LLRC's deadline on a policy related to IT changes
- d. Motion to charge APC with a review of SGA's "Student Academic Transparency Act"
 - i. Effort from SGA to make students more aware of midsemester progress so they seek additional help or drop the course

Adjourn 4:38