



STAFF SENATE

Thursday, May 8, 2025

GSU Nanticoke Room

Minutes

Senators: Joe Benyish, Steven Blankenship, Tabitha Pilchard, JJ Remo, Candace Henry, Donna Knopf, Lisa Gray, Isabella Chow, Shannon James, Kelly Cowger, Keaton Burke, Frank Bowen, Tony Sampson

Guests: Aurora Edenhart-Pepe, Dr. Carolyn Lepre, Eli Modlin, Princely Muro

- I. Call to Order 10:00
- II. Approval of April Meeting Minutes – will vote via email after meeting
- III. 10am – Special Guests
 - a. President’s Office
 - i. President shared appreciation for the town hall last week. Was very productive and engaging.
 - ii. Federal Updates – FY26 Federal budget includes cuts to Dept. of Education, watching closely programs that might be impacted here that receive federal funding.
 - iii. Advocating in Annapolis for SU, hosted Student Regeant on campus last week to showcase SU. Board of Regents meeting Monday to advocate for capital project plan to show necessity of existing capital projects for student success. Blackwell, Performing Arts (already raised 12m in donations), Dorm Renovations, GSU Renovations, Maggs/CCHS Renovations.
 - iv. Geothermal Construction Fences should come down in time for commencement.
 - v. Discussion about Silos and how to improve communication on campus.
 1. Timeliness of updates and information is important
 2. Awareness of what other departments/areas of campus do
 3. New Staff Orientation could help raise awareness
 4. Ideas on how to include more subject matter experts in decision-making and projects
- IV. Staff Senate Reports
 - a. Staff Senate Chair – Joe
 - i. Please contribute discussion topics for administration prior to monthly meetings
 - ii. Moving forward with Consortium Bylaw changes to remove committees. Faculty Senate is drafting changes to share with other governance units
 - b. CUSS Update – hasn’t met since last meeting. State FMLA changes to how funding is split between state and institution starting July 1.
- V. Staff Senate Liaison – Aurora Edenhart-Pepe
 - a. Tough to balance inclusion vs the need to implement changes in a timely manner.
 - b. PMP Update – concerns about tight turnaround/schedule. Demo of new PMP process by Princely
 - c. Campus interviews for HR AVP starting next week 15th-19th
 - d. Emergency fund will be coordinated with new AVP.
 - e. Leave bank program approved by BoR, new AVP will design SU program.
 - f. Summer Hours – hasn’t been voted on by Cabinet yet.
 - g. New employee labor/relations starting next week.
- VI. Old Business
 - a. Staff Senate Website – Heather – Moved to next month, Heather had to be out of office.
 - b. Town Hall Recap – Very positive feedback

- VII. New Business
 - a. By-Law Vote – Steve – Motion to Vote by Tabitha, seconded by Tony. Passed unanimously.
 - b. Staff Senate Tasks on Teams Demo – Joe – Will cover on Wednesday EAD meeting
 - c. Employee Appreciation Day Discussion – Candace – Meeting Wed @ 9 to follow up on EAD
 - d. Elections – Tabitha – Voting starting on Monday ending Friday,
 - e. Summer Kickball League? Dave & JJ
- VIII. Staff Concerns & Staff Senate Suggestion Box
- IX. Other Topics
 - a. For next meeting – Reclassifications discussion with HR
- X. Adjournment - 11:59