

Provost's Announcements to the Faculty Senate
March 9, 2021

- 1. FY21 Budget:** I am working with the deans and others (who are working with academic programs) to allocate a contingency of ~\$2 M we had set aside to handle unanticipated costs, lost revenues, etc. (FY21 runs from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021). Some of these funds were already used for faculty development and instructional technology in Summer 2020. Some of the balance will be used to address a revenue gap that exists this year (~\$6M shortfall to be covered by all divisions including Academic Affairs). This week, we pushed out a total of \$625K to different units for one-time purchases (e.g., computer lab refreshes, upgrading of facilities, software purchases, etc.). This is an iterative process as we determine funding available to fill the FY21 revenue gap, for facilities projects, etc. **FS Action Requested: Happy to take any questions or feedback.**
- 2. FY22 Budget:** The budget picture for FY22 (starts on July 1) is not clear right now, but we should know more in the next few weeks. Currently, based on projected enrollments and costs, we anticipate that the University's budget may be as much as 2% lower than in FY21. That said, passage of the stimulus bill pending with the U.S. Senate could provide up to \$40B to higher education and up to \$10M to Salisbury University and its students (these are estimated amounts based on current information on the bill). Further, we do not know how enrollment will end up this fall, but may be stronger than expected if the negative impacts of COVID continue to be mitigated. We will be asking departments and programs to build their budgets organically mindful of the possibility that budgets may be up to 2% lower or 2% higher than last year. I will be sending an email out over the weekend to deans and academic units regarding the FY22 budget process. **FS Action Requested: Happy to take any questions or feedback.**
- 3. Reminder: Faculty Diversification and Success Planning** At the last FS meeting, I mentioned a review of our Tenure & Promotion guidelines as part of a comprehensive approach to increasing equity in faculty careers at SU. The action requested of the FS was approval to either: 1) Convene a summer work group to examine current University-wide criteria and research best practices/challenges in order to make any recommendations to the FS next September; or 2) Personnel in the Office of the Provost conduct this work over the summer. **FS Action Requested: Guidance by March 31 on whether we should convene a faculty workgroup this summer or continue research/development of recommendation in the Provost's Office for presentation to the FS next fall.**
- 4. Spring Break is next week!** It will be short – but boy, do we need it. I hope your spring break is rejuvenating. My thanks as always for all the effort and commitment that SU faculty bring to their work and to you for your service on the Faculty Senate.