

**Professional Staff Senate Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday, March 11, 2021**

**2:30 – 4:30 PM – Virtual**

**In Attendance:** [**Link**](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1W3SwiPQiHC1EY-Y7VXXm2___m4XrBLGyrsUUU8kzgHE/edit#gid=522842090)

**Non-Officer Staff In Attendance:** Elle Trusz, Sara Rolf, Dennis Cuddy, Eleanor Lewis

1. Call to Order: 2:34pm
2. Approved March 2021 [Meeting Agenda](https://umbc.app.box.com/file/785552995922?s=qwanh6lvr1xcq1i1q4fqhq09hq64g77l)
3. Approved February 2021 [Meeting Minutes](https://umbc.app.box.com/file/698350406204)
4. Self-Care Series – Greg Simmons, OIA (2:35 pm)
	1. OIA builds relationships to drive funds into campus & helps to create a vibrant campus life
	2. Self-Care strategies in OIA:
		1. Keep in mind each staff member has unique challenges. Listen and provide individual solutions
		2. OIA sent a survey to divisional staff to gauge individual needs
		3. Sarah Hansen started the Diversity and Inclusion workgroup
		4. OIA stopped having divisional meetings on Wednesdays to give staff more time to work on projects
		5. Acknowledge that a response isn’t needed outside of work hours if an email is sent past 5:00pm
		6. Find space for informal gatherings such as lunch & virtual games
		7. Cultivate a community where people can speak up about concerns regarding work load while caregiving at home
		8. Be mindful of how many emails we send each other. Can you just put a meeting on someone’s calendar instead of emailing about it as well? This may eliminate added emails and workload!
5. Guest Speaker – Dr. Ashley Minner (3:05 pm)
	1. Dr. Minner is a Professor in American Studies and a community-based visual artist
	2. Baltimore is the ancestral homeland of the Piscataway and Susquehannock tribes
	3. Dr. Minner is apart of the Lumbee tribe - the biggest native community in Baltimore, and largest tribe east of the Mississippi
	4. There will be a collection of Baltimore Lumbee materials and artifacts in UMBC’s library!
	5. Working on a walking print map for Lumbee sites throughout Baltimore
6. Staff Caregiver Committee – Jess Wyatt (3:35 pm)
	1. Back in February, an email went out to Faculty members about a Faculty Caregiving Committee
	2. We want staff voices to be heard as well, as many of us are caregivers to others or ourselves. We will be starting our own Caregiving Committee to help address the needs of our caregivers.
	3. Caregiving Ad hoc Committee
		1. We welcome senators and non-senators to be on this committee
		2. Strategy: survey to be sent out to staff members, followed by recommendations from the survey to Administration
		3. Recommendations will be sent by FY21 and then the committee will disband, unless there’s additional things that come up they need to work on.
		4. Similar to Work/Life Balance Committee so there will be cross communication
		5. Email Jess at jwy@umbc.edu if you are interested in serving on this committee!
7. PSS Name Change – Bobby Lubaszewski (3:45 pm)
	1. Thinking about changing our name to Exempt Staff Senate because every staff member is a professional (regardless of being exempt or non-exempt) and the name would be consistent with Non-Exempt Staff Senate
	2. Bobby has put a poll in the PSS Webex Teams Space for us to vote on whether we are in favor of changing our name. We will continue to think of possible names in the meantime.
8. Open Forum
	1. Layla Thompson-Koch has stepped down from PSS, and Roy Prouty will be stepping in for her. Welcome, Roy!
	2. PSS Elections are around the corner. More information will be sent out in the coming weeks. Nominations and elections will occur in April.
9. Adjournment – 4:06pm



**2020-2021 SENATE MEETING SCHEDULE**

*2021 meetings from 2:30PM – 4:30PM*

March 11, 2021

April 8, 2021

May 13, 2021

June 10, 2021