

April Lewis began the meeting at 10:02 a.m.

Present at the meeting were: Amy Griffin, April Lewis, Kevin Bruce, Julia Bliss, Kurt Florez, Rona Kobell, Lori Stepp, Lisa Ross, Samantha Mais, Michelle Prentice, Molly Pickel, Rhonda Schwinibart, Theresa Holloway

April introduced the executive team:

April Lewis, chair

Kurt Florez, past chair

Molly Pickle, vice chair

Rona Kobell, secretary

Here are the dates for the next meetings:

- August 12, 2020
- October 14, 2020
- December 9, 2020
- February 10, 2021
- April 14, 2021 (tentative meeting with Dr. Goodwin)\*
- June 9, 2021
- August 11, 2021 - Second meeting of UMCES Staff Council for 2020-2021 term

Here are the committees:

Communications: Kurt, Rona, Kevin

Staff awards: Michelle Prentice, Lisa Ross, Lori Stepp

Staff appreciation day: Molly (chair)

Many volunteers, including Rona, Kevin, Rhonda, April, and Michelle.

I. Staff Awards and Staff Appreciation Day

We discussed announcing the staff awards at our virtual Staff Appreciation Day as well as giving out the awards at commencement. Because commencement is an elevated event, and because we hope to have next year's commencement in person, this seemed like a good plan. It was approved as a plan.

Regarding Staff Appreciation Day, April asked how we would handle it this year. Kurt said Peter would like to do something, but maybe shorter, less than two hours. Ideas include Peter making remarks for about 15 minutes, then having some casual time, or presenting the

staff awards. Lori agreed that we can save staff awards for commencement as well as do it virtually.

We discussed that the day would be optional and what fun and maybe goofy activities we could do. Bingo, jeopardy with UMCES trivia, etc. April noted that the day could also be an opportunity for an Open Forum with Peter. (We have the town halls, but it can be difficult sometimes to get questions in.)

Molly is getting together a committee that will meet the week of Aug. 20. Staff Appreciation Day is Sept. 22; I do not think we have a time. We may have to move the date due to a conflict Peter has.

Rona brought up some matters that had come up on the DEIC, particularly having an ombudsman or some manner of keeping students informed about mental health resources and also helping them navigate issues in their towns, such as harassment while out shopping or doing field work. April said CUSS is working on some initiatives. We agreed to keep discussing it at a meeting where we had more time. Amy Griffin said she already sent students some information regarding resources but will be reaching out again about resources that are available to them if they need them.

### **Updates/Highlights**

Admin council – Kurt – discussion of how the campuses will open and the possibility of virtual Staff Appreciation Day.

CUSS -Michelle Prentice – CUSS is examining our contract with Maryland Correction Enterprise and looking at the question of prison labor and if we are paying prisoners enough. We buy furniture that was made or refurbished by prisoners in Maryland. Though CUSS is system-wide, UMCES is well-represented. Michelle, April, Lori and Rhonda are the members. It was noted that CUSS is an important forum to make voices heard within the system.

HR – April – we are getting ready for open enrollment. There will be a new login for the Workday system, which we all used last year for open enrollment choices. There will be more communication coming out soon as it will go live on September 16.

### Labs

**Kurt – HPL** – working on just keeping people safe when campus re-opens

**Theresa – CBL** - Five of our 21 buildings are open. People are working 10 per shift  
Five new students joined CBL and they were able to get an orientation.

Our lecture series that we have in person will move to Zoom -typically our speakers are local.

**Molly -IMET** - Most people teleworking; student Amanda Lawrence – just defended her master's thesis.

She just graduated; now she is a Knauss fellow.

We do have a virtual seminar series and here are the speakers:

Ming Li – sept 16

Lora Harris– Oct 21 – 3 p.m.

Fall lecture series coming up.

Screening the Story of Plastic

There will be public lectures in October and November

**CA- Lori** – The board of regents staff award was announced.

UMCES nominees got the award, which is impressive as we are the smallest out of the 12 schools The announcement should come out in September, but it has been revealed in a press release that the winners are Amy Griffin and Monica Chacon won. Congratulations to them!

**Rona/Kevin – Sea Grant** – saying goodbye to interns, hiring a legal fellow, continuing to post on social media, named new Knauss fellows.

**Rhonda - AL** - The essential team had been working hard on Phase 2 plans, especially as it relates to managing occupancy in a single building campus and meeting cleaning needs without an internal housekeeping staff. AL is also working on planning virtual events for the Watershed Moments and seminar series.