

NESS Meeting Minutes May 14, 2025

Attendance: Helena Dahlen, President, Crocetta Argento, Jenny Carr, Erica Davis, Cathy Fu, Wendi Myers, Sharon Paul, Kyle Pokorny, Teresa Reese, John Roemer, Barbara Ann Smith, Amanda Turner, Terisa White.

Guests: FERPA Training with *Bethany Spore*, Compliance Manager, and *Pamela Hawley*. See slide deck in myUMBC NESS group.

- Pam and Bethany discussed changes to student information access processes.
- New training on FERPA will be required for staff accessing student data.
- Current users must complete training when prompted during annual access acknowledgment.
- Training aims to improve understanding of data privacy and responsibilities under FERPA.

Election of NESS President and Vice President, terms begin July 2025. Only senators can vote.

- Helena Dahlen was elected to serve as President for one year 2025-2026. The vote was 6 in favor and 0 against.
- Barbara Smith was elected to serve as VP for two years 2025-2027. The vote was 6 in favor and 0 against.

Voting to pass the Plan of Organization for the Representative Bodies of UMBC. Only senators can vote. [Plan of Organization for the Representative Bodies of UMBC](#) The plan was approved. The vote was 6 in favor and 0 against.

Middle State Steering Committee update/reminders *Barbara Smith*.

Please review the [Executive Summary](#) that was shared with the whole campus and submit your feedback by or before May 15th.

Committee updates

- University Steering Committee update: *Helena Dahlen*
 - President Sheares Ashby delivered a budget update. They are looking at 7.5% cuts, perhaps 10-15% eventually. They are making reductions while trying not to let people go.
 - Senior leadership positions are being filled.
 - Discussion on the March 13 shooting at the Wilken's police station. Don't forget to sign up for Active Assailant training.
 - Academic calendar: Two-day October recess for students starts in 2026.
 - Meal Policy: many questions from stakeholders, nothing settled yet.
- IT Steering Committee update: *Helena Dahlen*
 - There is training available to be an AI expert, with over 200 licenses available.
 - See the DoIT website for AI tools available to UMBC community.

- Retriever Essential, Advisory Board update: *Helena Dahlen*
 - Retriever Essentials will collect items discarded by students moving out of dorms and offer them at their Essential Space for the campus community to have.

CUSS Meeting Update and Survey - *Catherine Fu*

- Please read survey results [USM 2024 Shared Governance Survey](#)
- Chancellor Perman spoke at the recent CUSS meeting. He discussed financial challenges and the importance of enrollment and support for international students.
- The upcoming state leave program (ETA 2026) may allow employees to take leave without using personal leave balances. Information and training to follow.

Request for a NESS representative to join the Community Collaborative for Inclusive Excellence (CCIE). (*Jasmine Lee, Associate VP, Community & Culture, Co-director for Center for Social Justice Dialogue.*)

Open forum with the president: Is there any interest in having a town hall for NESS and ESS? Perhaps in mid-August, when more is known? Good idea to have folks submit questions in advance.

Don't forget the ESS/NESS Cookout on August 13! An invitation will be sent.

Next meeting will be June 11, 2025. Our guests will be Mariann Hawken, Director, New Media DOIT, presenting information about the new requirements for meeting digital accessibility, and Dan Petree, Interim VPAF. Dan will talk about his role at UMBC and how he envisions his department being part of the community.