

NESS Meeting Minutes November 12, 2025

Attendance: Helena Dahlen, President; Barbara Ann Smith, VP; Crocetta Argento; Jenny Carr; Makeba Ellis; Cathy Fu; Gina Hoagland; Shelly Johnson; Michele Kimery; Wendi Myers; Sharon Paul; Kyle Pokorny; Teresa Reese; John Roemer; Lisa Thomas; Terisa White.

Guest: *Bryan Casey*, Assistant VP and Controller to discuss the UMBC Interim Travel Policy [Here is a link to the slide deck](#).

- As our new travel system Concur launches, the travel policy may change. Policy changes are guided by UMBC's Travel Advisory Board
- Full vetting of the travel policy through shared governance was not possible before Concur was launched, so interim policy is presented now. Final approval will come from senior leadership.
- The interim policy is shorter and some processes are simplified from the current travel policy. If using the legacy travel system, use the legacy policy. If using Concur, use the interim policy.
- The legacy travel system will no longer take pre-approvals in December and will be completely phased out in early 2026, exact dates TBD.
- Please see <https://travel.umbc.edu> and join the [myUMBC Travel Group](#) for updates.

Guests: *Tessa Newton*, Associate Director, Leadership Annual Giving and *Laila Shishineh* and *Orianne Smith*, Co-chairs of P.A.W Circle [Here is a link](#) to the P.A.W. Circle slide deck.

- P.A.W. stands for Philanthropy At Work and is a way to foster community among those who support our university through giving.
- Each donor receives a special P.A.W. mug and is invited to a Mug of the Month gathering (with food!).
- Folks can donate online, through a payroll deduction or through planned giving.
- Several attendees wondered if UMBC is still participating in the Maryland Charity Campaign, which started last month. Tessa will check on this.

Ad-Hoc Information:

Sharon Paul reports that the Parking Advisory Committee is having a special meeting to discuss the shortage of parking for commuter students.

- Possible solutions include: Not allowing first year resident students to park on campus, allowing campus parking based on credit hours completed, improved space availability technology, rethinking student fees so students don't pay for parking unless they use it, reallocating existing parking and cleaning up the TRC lot so it could be used.
- Challenges: Parking culture vs. walking culture on campus, timely notifications to commuters are difficult, all students pay P & T fee, and no division-wide leadership to make a decision.
- NESS input:
 - Consider building more parking garages? Each parking space costs \$40,000 to build!

- Prohibit first year students from parking on campus, or offer a limited number of spaces through a lottery.
- Allocating the top of Admin garage for D parking will limit visitor parking there, which is not good.

Open Committee Positions within NESS. Please let Helena know if you can serve here.

- Athletic Policy Committee– Terisa White has volunteered. Thank you!
- Alternative CUSS rep. (Cathy Fu is primary)
- Pre School Committee
- Climate action Steering committee
- Transportation Working Group
- Inclusion Council Committee

The next meeting is scheduled for **December 10, 2025** at 11:30 am. The guest will be Melody Wright, Learning and Development Manager at HRSTM.

--- Cathy Fu, NESS Secretary