

From: [Karen Olmstead](#)  
To: [Karen Olmstead](#)  
Subject: First Monday Update from the Provost for October, 2020  
Date: Monday, October 5, 2020 5:16:16 PM  
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

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Dear Colleagues: As we enter the sixth (!) week of classes, I want to thank you all again for your good work and fortitude this semester. This has been such a challenging year and we have a way to go yet.

With the **General Election a month away**, many of us are pre-occupied with the voting process and outcome. The Office of Diversity & Inclusion will be offering a workshop for faculty on Thursday, October 22 from 3:00-4:30 p.m. titled *Election-Proof Your Classroom: Tools for Building Trust, Establishing Community Standards, and Managing Hot Moments*. Led by Lara Schwartz, founding director of the [American University's Project on Civil Discourse](#), this interactive online session lays the groundwork for productive dialogue across difference; de-escalation and connected communication techniques; and collaborative feedback to address concerns raised in classes. Check your email later this week for more information. Also, if possible, please avoid high-stakes assignments or assessments on Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. It's likely that many students will be pre-occupied with the election those days (and probably longer). Finally, our colleagues at the Institute of Public Affairs & Civic Engagement (PACE) have created a [website](#) with helpful information about voting.

Regarding more routine business in October, **thank you all for your great work advising students**. As I mentioned last year, one of the most important conversations in my life was with my academic advisor. What was a routine hour for my advisor (with a student he had never met before), provided something I hadn't been able to develop on my own: a goal and a plan for my future. The impact of good advising is always paramount to our success as an institution, but perhaps more now than ever. Thank you for your continued great work in advising and mentoring students. I know you will ask them how they're doing and how we can help to keep them focused and moving forward on their education.

**Good news to share:**

- Congratulations to Dean Andrew Martino and our colleagues at the SU Foundation for the recent announcement of a **\$1.5M planned gift from Robert and Glenda Clarke to support programming and students in the Honors College**. Glenda and Bob Clarke met at SU in 1968 and reconnected with the campus after relocating to the Eastern Shore in 2012 after their successful careers in education. Our thanks to the Clarkes for their incredible generosity.
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- The **Fulton School of Liberal Arts Awards** typically are bestowed in May of each year, but the pandemic delayed the announcement. Please join me in congratulating the award winners:
  - Chairperson: Lori DeWitt, Communication
  - International Education: Sally Perret, Modern Languages/Salisbury National Office of Competitive Fellowships
  - Research Mentor: Yuki Okubo, Psychology
  - Civic Engagement: Andrew Sharma, Communication
  - Scholarship: Heidi Fritz, Psychology
  - Service to Fulton and the Community: Bill Wolff, Art
  - Support Staff: Patti Filutze, Philosophy and Michelle Hirsch, Communication
  - Teaching: Manav Ratti, English and Rachel Steele, Psychology

### **Training, Resources, and Reminders**

- As noted above, *Election-Proof Your Classroom: Tools for Building Trust, Establishing Community Standards, and Managing Hot Moments*; Thursday, October 22; 3:00-4:30.
- School/college curriculum committee training for Curriculog (our new online curriculum management platform) is underway. Training materials will also be available on the Undergraduate and Graduate Curriculum Committee websites.
- A key objective of our current strategic plan is to “Develop and articulate an identity that distinguishes SU as an outstanding public regional comprehensive University committed to academic excellence and student success.” To that end, Salisbury University is undergoing a [strategic communication brand initiative](#) to clarify key attributes and understand how to best tell our story. SU’s Brand Exercise Project Steering Committee asks that you take a 10-minute survey to give your input to this important initiative (see email send from [Brand@salisbury.edu](mailto:Brand@salisbury.edu) on 10/1).
- Our membership in the [National Center for Faculty Development & Diversity](#) provides access to a wide array of resources, including monthly writing challenges, preparing tenure and promotion materials, self-care in a time of uncertainty, discussion boards, and more. Don’t forget to tap into this rich resource.
- If you haven’t done so already, please complete the Information Security Training modules (see email from SU IT Training ([ittraining@salisbury.edu](mailto:ittraining@salisbury.edu))). The modules range from Phishing Fundamentals to FERPA and provide important information to you and which is part of our institutional compliance responsibilities.
- And, final nudge (I know how busy you all are), please complete the Coronavirus training available in MyClasses if you haven’t done so already.

**COVID-19 Information** on the [COVID-19 websites](#)

pm via Zoom: <https://salisbury.zoom.us/j/97901159546?pwd=QIM2aWowUIZuT3NITXpZL3ZtV3Ezdz09>

Meeting ID: 979 0115 9546

Passcode: 245794

One tap mobile +13017158592, ,97901159546#

My monthly office hours are schedule for the fourth Friday of every month at 11AM:

Topic: Provost Open Office Hour

Meeting ID: 621 049 135

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://salisbury.zoom.us/j/621049135>

If you want to share information about events/activities of interest to faculty across campus, please send them to [provost@salisbury.edu](mailto:provost@salisbury.edu) at least three days before the first Monday of each month.

Again, I want to thank all of you for your thoughtful work, expertise, and resilience in this truly difficult time,

Karen

**Upcoming dates of interest (new events and deadlines in bold)** – See the [Registrar's Calendar](#) for important dates

10/5 [Faculty Mini-grant applications](#) due

**10/8 Faculty Town Hall (see above for Zoom info)**

**10/22 Election-Proof Your Classroom: Tools for Building Trust, Establishing Community Standards, and Managing Hot Moments Workshop (see above)**

**10/22 Faculty Town Hall (see above for Zoom info)**

**10/23 Virtual Celebration for Retired Faculty (postponed from May, 2020) 3:00 pm via Zoom**

**11/5 Faculty Town Hall (see above for Zoom info)**

**11/6 Last Day to drop a class in regular session (Grade of W)**

**11/19 Faculty Town Hall (see above for Zoom info)**

12/4 Last Day to change grade of I awarded in Spring 2020 semester

12/18-12/20 Commencement Exercises for May and December 2020 graduates

Karen L. Olmstead, Ph.D.

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