

NESS Meeting Minutes April 8, 2026

Attendance: Helena Dahlen, President; Barbara Ann Smith, VP; Crocetta Argento; Erica Davis; Cathy Fu; Justine Gonzales; Monica Green; Gina Hoagland; Andrea Morales; Wendi Myers; Kyle Pokorny; Teresa Reese; John Roemer; Terisa White.

Guests: *Yvette Moize-Ross*, Vice Provost, Enrollment Management & Planning and *Aminah Amjad*, President, Graduate Student Association to discuss the pillar:

Advance Student Opportunity & Success

- See slide deck [here](#)
- Yvette and Aminah would like feedback about how successful we think UMBC is with advancing the goals of student opportunity and success.
- Concerns that our group had:
 - Tension between being an R1 institution and the goal of inclusive excellence: Are professors adequately supporting students, especially challenged students in the first two years?
 - Are we failing our disabled students?
 - What does success look like for liberal arts students vs. STEM students?
 - What does “post-graduate success” mean?
 - Faculty often is torn between demands of teaching, research and service.
- We feel that UMBC is strong with
 - Commuter Success Center
 - Retriever Essentials
 - University 101 class is great. Require it for all incoming students?
- Other thoughts
 - Start center for neurodiversity like TU has?
 - We like the idea that UMBC offers a “distinctive” education.
 - Program supports like internships, networking opportunities, etc. are so important.

Election season.

- **Senator Election** results are in. Welcome to our new senators, and thanks to senators continuing a two year term
 - Starting a two-year term: Crocetta Argento, Catherine Fu, Monica Green, Kyle Pokorny and John Roemer
 - Continuing in their term: Helena Dahlen, Sharon Paul, Barbara Smith and Terisa White.
 - Leaving service with our thanks: Erica Davis
 - As a reminder, senators vote for President and VP and pledge to attend NESS meetings on a regular basis.

- **Election of President and Treasurer** for the 2026 -2028 period will occur in May. Current President Helena and Treasurer Terisa are ending their period in the spring of 2026. Barbara has one more year in her VP term.
 - Terisa is happy to serve as Treasurer for another term.
 - Helena cannot serve another term as President. Please consider running for this office– it's a fun job and Helena will help you.
 - A poll will be sent to senators in April. Results will be announced at the May meeting.

Report from previous Committee meetings

- AI Sub Committee meeting, Helena Dahlen
 - Not much to report. A work group was created with the goal of involving as many administrative staff as possible in this issue.
- The University Steering Committee, Helena and Barbara
 - March meeting: Dr. Sheares Ashby gave a budget update. This is a time of uncertainty, but she's not considering layoffs or pay cuts at this time. She promises to be open and transparent with communication.
 - The Middle States site visit went very well. As expected, there was feedback and recommendations, but we did pass. Hooray!
 - The search for the VP of Administration & Finance continues.
- Faculty and Staff Care and Belonging Committee– Monica Green: They now have a [website](#).

Ad-Hoc Information

- Meeting with the President for all staff is today at 12 noon in AD 101.
- HRSTM Week starts April 20, 2026! Link to register: <https://hr.umbc.edu/hrstm-week/>
The administrative professionals breakfast will be April 22.
- Cathy suggests doing a survey to determine the best NESS meeting time when we have a new president. Things change, and it would be good to make sure those who want to attend the meetings have the best chance of doing so.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 13 from 11:30 am - 12:30 pm.

Our guest will be Cael Mulcahy, President of USC and ESS.

--- Cathy Fu, NESS Secretary