



**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
CAMPUS LIFE COMMITTEE**

**OPEN SESSION
REPORT SUMMARY**

Date of Meeting: September 18, 2025

Date of Next Meeting: TBD

Committee Chair: Nick Abrams '99

Committee Members: Board Chair John Bell '95, Peter Bruns, Katharine Fritz '04, Talib Horne '93, Summer LaRocco '26, President Rhonda Phillips, Jesse Price '92, Melanie Rosalez '92

Staff Members: Jerri Howland and Rafael Zapata

Dashboard Metrics

None

Executive Summary

Information Items:

Vice President for Student Affairs

Vice President Howland will present a summary of her Board report including an update on the changes to Prince Georges Hall, information on the campus housing capacity, update on the Community Serves program as well as answering questions on the Immigration Enforcement Policy. Dr. Howland's full report can be found on OnBoard.

Associate Vice President for Inclusion and Belonging

Rafael Zapata will report on IDEAA programming.

Student Trustee

Student Trustee Summer LaRocco will present a summary of her full board report which can be found on OnBoard.

Discussion Items:

Action Item: II.A. Endorsement of the 2025 Performance Accountability Report

The Performance Accountability Report (PAR) is a report required by the State of Maryland that assesses the College's progress on a variety of goals and objectives, including academics, enrollment, retention and graduation rates, financial aid, and student outcomes. The report provides data on specific metrics, as well as narrative describing strengths and challenges. Maryland law requires institutions to submit their PAR to the Maryland Higher Education Commission for review and final submission to the Governor and General Assembly.

Action Item: II.B. Immigration Enforcement Policy

As a public-serving institution in the State of Maryland, St. Mary's College of Maryland (SMCM), its administrators, faculty, and staff strive to provide essential services to our students and community members, in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations, regardless of their immigration or citizenship status. This policy establishes clear and enforceable guidelines in the event of an on-campus immigration enforcement action taken by federal law enforcement or immigration officials.



**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
CAMPUS LIFE COMMITTEE
SEPTEMBER 18, 2025**

**OPEN SESSION
AGENDA**

- I. DISCUSSION ITEMS**
 - A. Vice President for Student Affairs Report
 - B. Student Trustee Report

- II. ACTION ITEMS**
 - A. Endorsement of the 2025 Performance Accountability Report
 - B. Immigration Enforcement Policy

- III. INFORMATION ITEMS**
 - A. 2025 Performance Accountability Report
 - B. Immigration Enforcement Policy
 - C. Approved minutes from April 18, 2025



**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
CAMPUS LIFE COMMITTEE**

**OPEN SESSION
MINUTES**

Date of Meeting: April 18, 2025

Status of Minutes: September 11, 2025

Campus Life Committee Members Present: Committee Chair Nicolas Abrams '99, Board Chair John Bell '95, Peter Bruns, Hudson Christensen '25, Staff Liaison Melissa Golowski, Faculty Liaison Kristina Howansky, President Tuajuanda Jordan, Jesse Price '92

Campus Life Committee Members Not Present: Peg Duchesne '77, Katherine Fritz '04, Talib Horne '93

Staff Members: Jerri Howland

Others Present: Jennifer Sivak, Cindy Greb, Michael Dunn, Betsy Barreto, David Hautanen, Amir Mohammadi, Rafael Zapata

Executive Summary

Campus Life Committee Chair Nick Abrams called the meeting to order at 11:03 am.

Discussion Items

Student Trustee Report

Student Trustee Christensen's report was a review of the past year. The report focused on three specific areas:

- Athletics: The strengthening and conditioning training program issues (lack of space to train and the need to hire more trainers).
- Computer Science: Students expressed concerns about the lack of internships at Pax River and pointed out other avenues for internships with different partners.
- Communication: Problems with the Physical Plant and OIT, specifically having ineffective feedback in their respective Request for Service systems.

Hudson's full report can be found in the materials in OnBoard.

Vice President Report

Dr. Howland invited Cindy Greb and Rafael Zapata to report to the committee on progress in their respective areas. Dr. Howland's full report can be found in the materials in OnBoard.

Cindy Greb, Executive Director of Career and Professional Development, reported on the internship program. The Signature Honors Internship Program (SHIP) offers a variety of

internships both on and off campus that afford students valuable hands-on experience in their chosen fields. The summer internship program has grown extensively over the last three years. Summer internship students are required to work 25 hours per week to qualify for campus housing, which is included in the internship. The SHIP program is primarily funded by SMCM from the bond at \$288,000 per year, from FY22 to FY26. Other funding sources are being leveraged to support this program. With the end of the original funding, the college needs to look for other opportunities to bring in funds.

Rafael Zapata, Interim Associate Vice President for Inclusion and Belonging, reported on equity programming.

- DeSousa Brent Scholars currently has 166 students, with 37 graduating. Each year, 40 - 45 students are invited to participate in this program, which is funded by the State Retention and Completion program, which serves underrepresented students.
- Landers Scholars currently has 17 students, 3 of whom will graduate in May. Equity Programs are working with the Admissions Office to select the next cohort.
- Sum primus currently has 43 students and is comprised of three cohorts. The first cohort will graduate in 2026.

Trustee Abrams questioned if any changes needed to be made in these programs due to the recent Presidential Executive Orders (EO). Rafael posited the college does not need to make any changes as we work within the law and are vigilant about monitoring any changes required as a result of the EOs.

Dr. Howland's full report can be found in the materials in OnBoard.

Action Items

Action Item III.A. Cultural Diversity Report

The Campus Life Committee recommends that the Board approve the 2025 Cultural Diversity report. President Jordan made the motion, which Trustee Bruns seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Action Item III.B. Consensual Relationship Policy

The Campus Life Committee recommends that the Board approve the Consensual Relationship Policy. Trustee Price made the motion, which Student Trustee Christensen seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 12:14 pm.



BOARD OF TRUSTEES CAMPUS LIFE COMMITTEE

VICE PRESIDENT FOR STUDENT AFFAIRS REPORT

Executive Summary

Summer was a busy time for Student Affairs: Health Services developed two new health suites to meet student's needs; Community Outreach and Engagement initiated a new community service program, Hawks in the Community, for all new incoming students; Student Life reviewed and inventoried housing capacity throughout the campus in preparation for a new facility master plan; Public Safety developed the Beyond the Fade retention program; and Brandon Engle, Director of Government Affairs, and I drafted a Immigration Enforcement Policy for the campus in compliance with the state mandate. However, the most exciting event for our students, besides welcoming our new president, was the modernization of Prince Georges (PG) Residence Hall bathrooms. Students were excited to tour the bathrooms, and everyone wants to live in PG next semester.

Health Services

In response to [House Bill \(HB\) 0477](#), Health Service staff developed a Reproductive Health Service Suite. The new reproductive health suite (funded by SMCN and the Health Disparities Grant) caters not only to students' wishes but also complies with the Maryland legislation. It is a comfortable private space, ideal for a student's first reproductive health visit. Health Services recognize that these exams naturally bring some anxiety, and therefore, they wanted to make it a positive experience. Health Services provides exams, labs, prescriptions, and referrals to all reproductive healthcare options. Referrals are specifically required by HB0477 which requires public higher education institution, in consultation with students, to develop and implement a reproductive health services plan, to provide at the institution or to refer students to a comprehensive range of reproductive health services.

A second suite, the Telehealth Suite, was developed to provide a private, comfortable environment for students to participate in telehealth sessions with their home-based healthcare providers. The telehealth suite also includes a clinical cart to allow Health Services staff to record vital signs as necessary for telehealth sessions. These two suites continue to meet the needs of our students as expressed they them in pulse surveys conducted by staff.

Community Outreach and Engagement (OCOE)

As part of Fall 2025 Orientation, Student Life teamed up with Community Outreach and Engagement to plan "Hawks in the Community," a new initiative this year to provide an opportunity for new incoming first-year and transfer students an opportunity for service or exploration in the St. Mary's community. Students were invited to choose from a variety of options, including on-campus and off-campus experiences. With this inaugural activity we were pleased that a **total of 209 students** registered for the following activities:

- On Campus
 - Climbing Lessons: 23
 - Zumba: 10
- Off Campus
 - Historic St. Mary's City (HSMC) Hike: 15
 - Food Tour: 16
 - Leonardtown Tour: 22
 - Shopping Shuttle: 24
 - Community Service Projects:
 - Greenwell Foundation: 10
 - Historic Sotterley: 4
 - Kate Farm: 15
 - Lexington Manor Passive Park Community Garden: 5
 - PAX River Naval Air Museum: 13
 - Patuxent Habitat for Humanity: 9
 - Piney Point Lighthouse: 15
 - St. Mary's River Watershed Association: 20

Community Service Impact

A total of **113 students** participated in service projects (91 new students + 22 Orientation Leaders). Students volunteered at **eight (8) sites**, contributing approximately **226 hours of service**. Projects included harvesting produce for local food pantries, cleaning boats and aircraft on display at local museums, and planting oysters in the St. Mary's River. Each project included an educational component, so students could understand the context and impact of their work. [See the InsideSMCM news item here.](#)

Feedback and Planning

Community partner feedback was positive. All partners rated the overall experience a four (4) or five (5) on a 5-point scale and all stated that they would partner with us again. For next year, students will be notified about the program and asked to register earlier and will be provided training on volunteer expectations ahead of time. The goal is to have ALL new students participate next year. This will require partner sites and activities that can accommodate large numbers of students, as well as additional transportation options.

Student Life

The Offices of Residence Life and Student Activities were merged last fall to form the unit, Student Life. This merger provides support and continuity to staff especially due to high staff turnover and workloads. In preparation for the facility master planning process, Student Life conducted a housing inventory. We have traditional (corridor style) halls, townhouses, suites and apartments with a total number of 1423 beds:

Traditional Halls

Queen Anne (QA) 144

Dorchester	150
Prince George (PG)	141
Caroline	145
Townhouses	306
Lewis Quad	201
Waring Commons Apts.	97
Waring Commons Suites	<u>239</u>
Total Beds	1423

Currently we have an 83% residential rate with 85 beds available (*not including 10 beds offline to be used for emergencies*). Student Life has the capacity to max out our bed count to **1556 beds** if we remove ADA singles (*which are doubles used as singles*), add emergency offline rooms, convert lounges into rooms (3-4 beds) and convert single rooms (used for Resident Assistant staff) back to doubles.

Public Safety

The Office of Public Safety developed a new retention program series called *Beyond the Fade*. It is designed specifically to strengthen trust, belonging, and retention—particularly for male students of color—through culturally affirming programming. However, all students are welcome to attend programs and events. This series creates safe spaces where students engage in open dialogue, connect with mentors, and experience Public Safety as a supportive campus resource.

Programming and Engagement

Each session blends practical services with intentional conversations and activities aimed at student success:

- **Free Haircuts:** Professional barbers provide free services in a relaxed environment that encourages connection and conversation.
- **Group Conversations:** Facilitated discussions on relevant topics such as healthy relationships, managing stress, building resilience, and navigating college life.
- **Open Forums with Public Safety:** Informal conversations where students can ask questions, share experiences, and build trust with officers as approachable mentors.
- **Special Topic Talks:** Rotating discussions on themes such as cultural pride, leadership development, mental health awareness, and identity.
- **Sporting Events and Recreation:** Basketball, flag football, and other activities where students and officers build camaraderie outside the classroom.

The *Beyond the Fade* series will directly supports retention and persistence efforts by fostering belonging, affirming identity, providing mentorship and promoting holistic development. The first event took place on September 12, “Meet Us Before You Need Us”. The next event is scheduled for October 1st. Programs and events will be regularly scheduled throughout the academic year to maintain momentum and build sustained impact.

Immigration Enforcement Policy

In July 2025 the State of Maryland sent guidance for facilities that serve the public on implementation of [HB 1222](#). HB 1222 addresses immigration enforcement activity at public schools, public libraries and other “sensitive locations”. HB 1222 also limits the authority of certain State and local officials to grant immigration enforcement agents permission to enter private spaces at sensitive locations without a warrant. On or before October 1, 2025, each public school, public library, and unit of the Executive Branch of State or local government that operates at a sensitive location shall implement a policy with guidance issues by the Attorney General. Brandon Engle and I drafted a policy for SMCM see addendum #1. The draft policy was sent to Faculty Senate, Staff Senate, Student Government Association (SGA) President, and Student Trustee for review and comments.

Rafael Zapata, the new Associate Vice President of Inclusion and Belonging, is planning a restructuring of the IDEAA unit. See addendum #2 which discusses the current structure and proposed changes.

ADDENDUM #1

SMCM Immigration Enforcement Policy

I. Purpose

As a public-serving institution in the State of Maryland, St. Mary's College of Maryland (SMCM), its administrators, faculty, and staff strive to provide essential services to our students and community members, in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations, regardless of their immigration or citizenship status. This policy establishes clear and enforceable guidelines in the event of an on-campus immigration enforcement action taken by federal law enforcement or immigration officials.

II. Definitions

- A. Restricted space(s)** include all areas of a residence hall (including individual rooms, study spaces, bathrooms, resident assistant offices, washrooms, kitchens, and recreational spaces); faculty and staff offices; counseling and health center offices and administrative spaces; restricted-access research labs; meeting rooms or conference areas during use; athletic locker rooms or performance dressing rooms; classrooms, performance spaces, athletics & recreational facilities during use; and all areas of an academic building between the hours of 10:00pm to 6:00am.
- B. Unrestricted space(s)** include uncovered campus grounds; the waterfront; sidewalks and pathways between buildings; parking lots; patios; meeting rooms (except located in library), conference areas, performance halls, athletic and recreational facilities, and classrooms when not in use; hallways and breezeways; common areas of the Campus Center and Library (excluding faculty/staff offices, limited-access locations such as archives, and meeting rooms and/or conference rooms during use); and portions of academic buildings not excluded above between the hours of 6:00am to 10:00pm.
- C. Federal immigration enforcement officer(s)** includes an employee of, or contracted staff operating under the authority of, a federal department, agency, or office who may make an arrest with or without a warrant for immigration-related violations of the United States Code.
- D. Valid warrant(s)** means a judicial warrant signed by a federal judge or magistrate in accordance with the Fourth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution used for criminal investigation or to authorize the search of private property, seize evidence, or arrest a suspect.
- E. Administrative warrant(s)** means a warrant signed by an administrative judge, agency head, or officer used for civil or regulatory enforcement.

- F. Exigent circumstance(s)** means an emergency situation such as imminent risk of death, violence, or harm to a person or property; active pursuit of a dangerous suspect; and/or the imminent risk of destruction of evidence.
- G. Confidential information** means information restricted by the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPPA), the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), the General Provisions Article of the Maryland Code, and student conduct or medical records.

III. Regulations

- A. The Director of Public Safety shall be the primary point of contact for issues related to immigration enforcement at SMCM.
- B. **Restricted spaces** on SMCM campus shall be marked with clear signage.
- C. Access to **restricted spaces** is limited to College administrators, faculty, staff, students, and invited guests of the College for the purpose of teaching, research, public performance or lecture, athletics and/or recreation, and healthcare purposes.
- D. Access to **unrestricted spaces** is permitted for administrators, faculty, staff, students, invited guests of the College, and members of the community.
- E. Access to **unrestricted spaces** is permitted for **federal immigration enforcement officers** for the purpose of civil immigration enforcement actions provided the Director of Public Safety receives notification of said action in accordance with Maryland Chapter Law 718 of 2025.
- F. SMCM does not consent to civil immigration enforcement actions on its premises, barring the presence of a **valid warrant**.
- G. Access to **restricted spaces** for the purpose of civil immigration action by **federal immigration enforcement officers** is *prohibited* except in circumstances where a **valid warrant** is provided to the Director of Public Safety, or where **exigent circumstances** require such access. Access to **restricted spaces** for the purpose of civil immigration action by **federal immigration enforcement officers** may not access **restricted spaces** based on the presence of an **administrative warrant**.
- H. If **federal immigration enforcement officers** appear at SMCM, administrators, faculty, staff, and students shall assume that they are engaged in immigration enforcement. Administrators, faculty, staff, and students shall:
1. Immediately contact the Director of Public Safety and

2. Ask the **federal immigrant enforcement officers** to wait in a lobby or other **unrestricted space**.
- I. If **federal immigration enforcement officers** demand access to **restricted spaces** without waiting for the Director of Public Safety, administrators, faculty, staff, and students shall clearly state that they do not consent to such access but may not attempt to stop or otherwise impede the officer.
- J. If **federal immigration enforcement officers** continue to pursue access to **restricted spaces**, as promptly as possible contact the Office of Public Safety in addition to the Director of Public Safety, who shall make a record of the incident. This record shall include notes about any verbal exchanges, identifying details, actions taken by **federal immigration enforcement officers**, any arrests or other results of those actions, and the identity of any other administrator, faculty, staff, or student witnesses.
- K. In no circumstances should administrators, faculty, staff, or students physically interfere with **federal immigration enforcement officers**, attempt to make them leave an **unrestricted space**, attempt to conceal any person, or attempt to assist any person in evading **federal immigration enforcement officers**. Such actions may be violations of federal law.
- L. The Director of Public Safety shall make and maintain all records of any immigration enforcement activity by **federal immigration enforcement officers** at SMCM.
- M. The Director of Public Safety shall request and record the following information from any **federal immigration enforcement officer** or other federal officials who appear at SMCM:
 1. Name
 2. Badge Number
 3. Agency
 4. Purpose of visit
 5. Proposed action to be taken at SMCM.
- N. If a **federal immigration enforcement officer** requests access to **restricted spaces** on SMCM's campus, the Director of Public Safety may authorize such access if, and only if, the **federal immigration enforcement officer** possesses a **valid warrant**. To confirm the existence of a **valid warrant**, the Director shall:
 1. Obtain a copy of the document for record-keeping purposes,
 2. Confirm that the heading shows the document was issued by a federal judge or magistrate, not an administrative judge or official,
 3. Confirm that the document has been signed by a federal judge or magistrate,
 4. Confirm that the document lists St. Mary's College of Maryland among the places to be searched for a wanted individual or evidence, and

5. Confirm that the document has not expired.
- O. The Director of Public Safety shall ask to consult with the Assistant Attorney General assigned to SMCM regarding the **valid warrant** or the existence of **exigent circumstances**. If a **federal immigration enforcement officer** denies the Director of Public Safety the opportunity to consult counsel, the Director of Public Safety shall state clearly that they do not consent to the agents' entry but may not attempt to block or impede their access.
- P. If a **federal immigration enforcement officer** proceeds into a **restricted space** without exigent circumstances or without possession of a **valid warrant**, the Director of Public Safety shall notify the Assistant Attorney General and clearly indicate that the officers lack permission.
- Q. If an administrator, faculty member, staff, or student at SMCM receives a request for information from a **federal immigration enforcement officer**, they shall immediately refer that request to the Director of Public Safety. The Director of Public Safety shall seek legal counsel from the Assistant Attorney General assigned to SMCM unless State or federal law otherwise requires an immediate response. The Director of Public Safety shall also request and record the information outlined in Section III.M of this Policy, as well as a copy of any documentation supporting the officer's request such as a subpoena or court order as outlined in Section III.N of this policy
- R. If an administrator, faculty member, staff member, or student at SMCM is removed from campus by a **federal immigration enforcement officer**, the Director of Public Safety shall:
1. Confirm the identity of the removed individual and notify the President and Assistant Attorney General assigned to SMCM as quickly as possible,
 2. Ensure that any release of information complies with FERPA, and
 3. Contact any and all emergency contacts listed in the student's official records to provide accurate and timely information about the nature of the incident and location to which the individual was taken (if known).

ADDENDUM #2

Proposed Interim and Permanent Changes to
the Office of Inclusion and Belonging/IDEAA at St. Mary's College of Maryland
Submitted to the Campus Life Committee by Rafael A. Zapata
Associate Vice President of Inclusion and Belonging
September 17, 2025

1. Brief update on Signature Programs within the Office of Equity Programming
2. Supporting vulnerable students with Student Affairs
3. Restructuring within the Office of Inclusion and Belonging/IDEAA

Highlights:

- We currently have three vacancies in the Office of Equity Programming, and one person on leave (Tiffanie Holly).
- **The interim structure, for the Fall '25 and potentially Spring '26 semesters, would include two key changes:**
 - First, bringing in a tenured faculty member to serve as Co-Director of the Office of Equity Programming (along with myself), for 15 hours a week. This individual's focus would be on [*the DeSousa-Brent Scholars Program*](#).
 - This proposal was extensively discussed with, and pre-approved by Dr. Katie Gantz, Provost and Dean of Faculty. A faculty prospect has been identified.
 - Second, we would assign [*Alise Maxie*](#), current Coordinator of Multicultural Programming within the larger IDEAA unit, the additional role of Coordinator for [*the Sum primus Scholars Program*](#).
 - Finally, I would be the unit point person for [*the Landers Scholars Program*](#), the smallest of the three signature programs, with 20 total scholars.
- **The proposed permanent structure features several key elements:**
 - Combine Title IX and the developing Title VI administrative infrastructure into a new office (title TBD) focused on compliance and training, overseen by an Executive Director. Additionally, I suggest adding another position: one additional investigator/training specialist.

- I elevated the leadership positions in both the Office of Equity Programming (subject to name change) and the proposed office focused on compliance and training to Executive Director to attract candidates with higher levels of experience and leadership capacity.
- In the Office of Equity Programming, I suggest converting the Academic Advisor position to an Assistant Director role preliminarily responsible for programming and education across our programs, and to lead/oversee general projects involving the remaining two Program Coordinators.
- Program Coordinators will have generalized duties related to all signature programs. These include student academic and social support, program development and execution, academic and personal advising, etc., and possible sub-specialization in working with neurodiverse students, who comprise approximately 30% of the student population at SMCM.
- The Administrative Associate would work directly for the Associate VP for Inclusion and Belonging, with Coordinators of Equity Programming picking up the slack re: administrative work, with some support from the Administrative Associate.
- I add a Faculty Fellow at 10-15 hours a week for 1–2-year terms, to work with Associate Vice President of Inclusion and Belonging *and* the Executive Director of Equity Programming to support the signature programs, liaise and collaborate with faculty, develop and execute special projects focused on retention and success, and exploring external funding opportunities.
- President Phillips has asked me to consider renaming the division, in the event the federal government eventually mandates such changes. As part of this process, we have reviewed the names (some of them newly branded) of peer and aspirant institutions, as well as Maryland colleges and universities.



**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
CAMPUS LIFE COMMITTEE
STUDENT TRUSTEE REPORT
SEPTEMBER 18, 2025**

Within the first several weeks of the Fall 2025 semester, St. Mary's College of Maryland students, faculty, and staff have returned to campus with a refreshed and resilient mindset. The Fall 2025 semester began with a five day-long orientation weekend, including first year and transfer students' participation in "Hawks in the Community," an orientation event that connects St. Mary's students with local organizations and resources. This event demonstrates the college's devotion to strengthening the connection between the campus, often considered a pocket within the local community, and the Southern Maryland region.

Campus Welcome

Additionally, the "Welcome to Campus" event held on September 4 by the President's Office had a high turnout of students as well as faculty and staff, and all three groups had the opportunity to deepen their bonds and understandings of one another. Members of the President's Cabinet as well as general administrative figures were also present during the "Welcome to Campus" event, making it possible for students to put faces to names and have genuine conversations, destigmatizing the perceived divide between administration and the student body. Having such an event made it possible for all groups of shared governance on campus to gather for one common purpose: to celebrate St. Mary's and learn more about the environment overall. The President's presence, in particular, was especially meaningful, as her new tenure just began in July of 2025, meaning many students have not had the opportunity to meet her or members of her transition team.

The President's engagement with members of campus as well as the local community signals a commitment to accessibility and transparency. By making the time to host such events and make the effort to speak to almost every student, staff, and faculty perspective, President Phillips has set a welcoming and warm tone for the 2025-2026 academic year. This high level of engagement additionally reinforces values of community and has bolstered the campus community's spirit.

Commuter Students

While the efforts of St. Mary's College of Maryland to improve communication between faculty, administration, staff, and students on campus have been acknowledged by residential students, there is still a lack of focus on commuter students. As of Fall 2024 statistics from the Office of Institutional Research & Planning, 18% of students are non-residential (approx. 300), meaning they are commuting to attend classes at St. Mary's College of Maryland and are living at off-

campus residences. Despite this, students have reported a disparity in the resources and privileges allocated to commuter students compared to residential students. Many commuters describe a sense of “walking on eggshells” when on campus, suggesting there could be increased support for them. Even in a study room they reserved or at a friend’s house, commuter students still feel as if they are on borrowed time and as if they cannot fully relax on campus.

The Commuter Lounge within the Campus Center is an ideal space, in theory, for commuter students to rest and use as a hub in-between on-campus commitments. The lounge additionally has a microwave and mini fridge for commuters to use, and there are commuter lockers within the Student Activities hallway right near the Commuter Lounge. However, the space is often frequented and filled with residential students who like to use the space for gathering. There is no issue with residential students using the space, however, it does again make the Commuter Lounge feel like a space in which commuters are intruding. The Commuter Lounge is in the Campus Center, which is part of South Campus, but there is no designated commuter-friendly space on North Campus. It would be considerate and inclusive to explore underused or adaptable spaces on North Campus that could serve as a dedicated area for commuter students. Doing so would go a long way towards making commuters feel acknowledged and supported on a highly residential campus. Dean of Students Derek Young has already begun creating a Commuter Advisory Board full of commuter students— this kind of effort to provide commuters with a voice is highly appreciated, and students are excited to become involved in improvements for this campus population. Some matters that will likely be discussed by this Commuter Advisory Board include parking for commuter students and possibly increased access to parking lots and commuter-specific event programming to increase interactions among the commuter community.

Inclusion and Belonging

Additionally, in reference to student belonging, students have expressed concern regarding the DeSousa-Brent (DB) Scholars program and their feeling of unity within the program. Due to high amounts of turnover within the DB office, students have expressed losing a sense of belonging and family during their time within the program. Upperclassmen DB scholars, in particular, have pointed out how the changes within the DB have created “disarray of an aid system for SMCM’s most vulnerable students.” Students have also expressed feeling abandoned by the program as they have not been receiving emails asking for updates on their wellbeing, damaging the sense of belonging that was fundamental to the program. With the new Seahawk Success Network (SSN) in place, hopefully these personal touchpoints of interaction can be restored and connections among DB scholars can be nurtured.

The presence of Associate Vice President for Inclusion & Belonging Rafael Zapata has been pointed out as a turning point for students, as he has made active efforts to interact with all students involved with the Office of Equity Programming. AVP Zapata’s high level of engagement with students and members of the campus community has been noticed, as some students note he is “one of the first people to provide students with a real sense of community and presence...” His work is commendable and should be heavily supported in every sense. One way of supporting him and his office’s work would be to conduct a search to fill the open positions within the Office of Equity Programming, as there are several. With these positions filled, it is the student opinion that AVP Zapata could truly bring back the family-like atmosphere and high level of support that DeSousa-Brent Scholars are hoping for.

Prince George Hall Renovations

There have been positive reviews of the renovations conducted on Prince George Hall (PG), and students are grateful for the many renovations in the space. Like any project, there have been some issues regarding construction and amenities, specifically relating to plumbing. However, these concerns were quickly addressed by the Physical Plant, and their efforts are appreciated. Overall, many students are grateful for the new space and are looking forward to more renovations in the future. While students are excited by PG's renovations, there are overall systemic issues related to upperclassmen housing, and possible renovations or beautification of upperclassman housing should be considered.

Campus.Life.Summer.Report.09.14.25.1

**ST. MARY’S COLLEGE OF MARYLAND
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
CAMPUS LIFE COMMITTEE**

ACTION ITEM II.A.

**ENDORSEMENT OF THE 2025 PERFORMANCE
ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT**

RECOMMENDATION

The Campus Life Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees approve the 2025 Performance Accountability Report for submission to the Maryland Higher Education Commission.

RATIONALE

The Performance Accountability Report (PAR) is a report required by the State of Maryland that assesses the College’s progress on a variety of goals and objectives, including academics, enrollment, retention and graduation rates, financial aid, and student outcomes. The report provides data on specific metrics, as well as narrative describing strengths and challenges. Maryland law requires institutions to submit their PAR to the Maryland Higher Education Commission for review, and final submission to the Governor and General Assembly.

**ST. MARY’S COLLEGE OF MARYLAND
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
CAMPUS LIFE COMMITTEE**

ACTION ITEM II.B.

IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT POLICY

RECOMMENDATION

The Campus Life Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees approve the Immigration Enforcement Policy.

RATIONALE

As a public-serving institution in the State of Maryland, St. Mary’s College of Maryland (SMCM), its administrators, faculty, and staff strive to provide essential services to our students and community members, in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations, regardless of their immigration or citizenship status. This policy establishes clear and enforceable guidelines in the event of an on-campus immigration enforcement action taken by federal law enforcement or immigration officials.