



## **CALL TO ORDER**

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Chair Jarzynski called the meeting to order at 3:16 p.m.

## **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES, DECEMBER 5, 2023 MEETING**

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Chair Jarzynski asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of the December 5, 2023, meeting; hearing none, Chair Jarzynski declared the minutes approved as distributed.

## **REPORT OF THE CHAIR**

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### Prioritizing Representation and Senator Attendance

Chair Jarzynski announced that one of the priorities for the University Senate Office would be ensuring that all constituencies across campus maintain proper representation. Chair Jarzynski reminded Senators that, in accordance with [Article 2.3 of the Bylaws of the University Senate at University of Maryland](#); standing Senators should not be absent from two or more consecutive University Senate meetings, without submitting an excused absence notification to the University Senate Office.

Chair Jarzynski informed the Senate that if a senator is found to miss two consecutive senate meetings, the University Senate Office will reach out and inquire if that Senator is able to continue service. This was declared to be an on-going project during the Spring.

Chair Jarzynski also reminded all Senators that the excused absence form is available on [The University Senate Website](#) and included in the Materials email Senators receive each week leading up to, and on the day of, the Senate Meeting.

Chair Jarzynski encouraged members to submit the excused absence form if one does need to miss a Senate Meeting, and thanked all members for the time, commitment, and participation in the University's shared governance.

### University Senate Office Staff Update

Chair Jarzynski announced the University Senate Administrative Coordinator position had been filled. Paola Zuñiga started as the University Senate Administrative Coordinator on January 29, 2024 after having already made significant contributions as the Marketing and Growth Lead at Azalio, and event support coordinator with the University of Maryland and American Kidney Fund.

### Senator Elections

Chair Jarzynski reminded the Senate that candidacy period for the staff, student, and single-member constituency elections for the 2024-2025 Senate ended on February 2, 2024. Elections for these constituencies began on February 19, 2024, and Chair Jarzynski encouraged any constituency members to vote.

February 2, 2024 was also the deadline for the Deans to report the results of their faculty elections. Newly elected Faculty Senators will be eligible for the nomination for our elected committees and councils and leadership positions for the 2024-2025 academic year.

### Nominations for Elected Committees & Councils

Chair Jarzynski explained that the Nominations Committee started its work in the first week of February, 2024. The Committee was tasked with identifying potential nominees for the Senate's elected committees and councils, including the Senate Executive Committee, Committee on Committees, Athletic Council, and Council of University System Faculty.

Senators received an email soliciting self-nomination and nominations of their colleagues. Chair Jarzynski encouraged Senators to consider running or nominating colleagues for these positions to continue fostering a strong nominations and elections process.

### In Memoriam- William Montgomery, Past Senate Chair

Chair Jarzynski informed the Senate that [William \(Bill\) Montgomery](#), University Senate Chair (2007-2008) passed away on December 31, 2023. Chair Jarzynski described Chair Montgomery's contributions to campus, as well as the international community of conservatories and orchestras he was a part of during his time as esteemed professor and flautist.

## **PROPOSAL TO MODIFY THE STUDENT CONDUCT MODIFICATION REGARDING HOUSING TERMINATION (SENATE DOCUMENT #23-24-05)**

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Chair Jarzynski invited Gideon Mark, Chair of the Student Conduct Committee, to present the proposal.

Mark presented that on September 11, 2023, the SEC charged the Student Conduct Committee (SCC) to review the proposal entitled Code of Student Conduct Modification Regarding Housing Termination. The proposal stated that the revised version of the Code of Student Conduct approved by the SEC in May 2023 inadvertently included language regarding the Administrative Housing Termination process and this language is now in direct conflict with the Department of Resident Life's (DRL) long standing administrative process. If not corrected, it would result in a misalignment between the policy and a practice by DRL.

The amended changes as approved by the Office of General Counsel remove the Code of Student Conduct's authority over the housing termination process and allow the Director of Student Conduct to continue to impose a temporary or permanent revocation of housing rights in the rare instance where such revocation is deemed appropriate, but the underlying matter is not being adjudicated under Resident Life's code of conduct.

Chair Jarzynski thanked Mark and opened the floor to discussion of the proposal.

Senator Karlsson, TTK, ENGR, thanked the SCC Committee for their work, and made a motion to amend policy V-1.00(B) University of Maryland Code of Conduct section VII.F.4. The amendment would include a few words to make the individual portion analogous with the rest of the section, and make clear the violations are the offense.

Below, the language of the amendment is noted in **pink**. The proposed removed text from the original policy is noted in **red strikethrough**. The committee's proposed addition to the policy is noted in **blue**:

- c. **Violation of ~~R-r~~ules addressing conduct in the residence halls, whether**

or not such conduct is also subject to proceedings under such residence hall rules and procedures.

The motion was seconded.

Chair Jarzynski opened the floor for discussion on the amendment.

Mark responded that the amendment is supported by the original proposer, the current director of Student Conduct Committee and the Associate Director for Communities, Department of Resident Life.

Seeing no further discussion, Chair Jarzynski called for a vote on the Amendment to the Proposal to Modify the Student Conduct Modification Regarding Housing Termination.

The result was 103 in favor, 0 opposed, and 6 abstentions. **The amendment was adopted.**

Chair Jarzynski then opened the floor for discussion on Proposal to Modify the Student Conduct Modification Regarding Housing Termination as Amended (Senate Document #23-24-05).

Senator Stairs, TTK, ARHU, asked if there would be an incident in which the Director of Student Conduct would have to be involved in decisions after the proposal is adopted.

Mark introduced the James Bond, Director of Student Conduct to respond.

Bond responded that one of the only instances in which this may happen would be if a resident student violates the Code of Student Conduct but does so outside the resident halls. This would be rare but may be an incident where the student may not need to be dismissed but may want to be removed from the living community. Bond clarified that in these rare circumstances the Office of Resident Life is also consulted.

Seeing no further discussion, Chair Jarzynski called for a vote on the Proposal to Modify the Student Conduct Modification Regarding Housing Termination, as Amended.

The result was 113 in favor, 2 opposed, and 9 abstentions. **The amendment was adopted.**

## **REVISION TO THE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES PLAN OF ORGANIZATION (SENATE DOCUMENT #23-24-10)**

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Chair Jarzynski invited Gene Ferrick, Chair of the Elections, Representation, & Governance (ERG) Committee, to present this proposal.

Ferrick began by giving context and background on the proposal. The University Plan requires all Colleges and Schools be governed by a Plan of Organization. These Plans must conform to provisions and principles set forth in the University's Plan, the Bylaws of the University Senate, the Policy on Shared Governance in the University System of Maryland, and best practices in shared governance. Revisions to these Plans must be reviewed and approved by the Elections, Representation, & Governance (ERG) Committee, the Senate, and the President.

The College of Agriculture & Natural Resources (AGNR) submitted minor revisions to its Plan of Organization to the University Senate Office for review in May 2023.

Article 11 of the Plan of Organization for Shared Governance provides provisions for the review of College, School, and the Library Plans of Organization every ten years.

A provision in The Bylaws of the University Senate, Appendix 7, Section 3 allows a College, School, or the Library with a recently approved Plan of Organization to submit additional minimal or technical amendments to the Senate within one year of final approval by the University President.

Based on that Bylaws provision and the nature of the AGNR Plan revisions the ERG Committee conducted a focused review of only the proposed revisions. The AGNR Plan of Organization remains on its 10-year review cycle with a full comprehensive review to occur in 2032.

A change was made for a more inclusive tenure-track faculty membership composition by allowing tenure-track faculty to be included instead of just tenured faculty and revisions clarified the total faculty members on the DEIR Council and clarified that the Maryland Agricultural Experiment Station (MAES) DEIR member could be either a faculty or staff member.

The ERG Committee approved the minor revisions of the Plan by vote on October 13, 2023 and by an email vote that concluded on December 21, 2023.

The AGNR College Assembly approved the revised version of its Plan in a college vote concluding on November 27, 2023.

The ERG Committee moved that the College of Agriculture & Natural Resources Plan of Organization be approved by the University Senate.

Chair Jarzynski thanked Ferrick and opened the floor to discussion of the proposal.

Hearing none, Chair Jarzynski called for a vote on this proposal. The result was 103 in favor, 0 opposed, and 6 abstentions. **The proposals passed.**

### **PCC PROPOSAL: ESTABLISH A MASTER OF SCIENCE IN QUANTUM COMPUTING (SENATE DOCUMENT #23-24-19) (SENATE DOCUMENT #23-24-19)**

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Chair Jarzynski invited William Reed, Assistant Provost for Academic Planning in the Office of the Provost to present to present this proposal on behalf of Wendy Stickle, Chair of the Programs Curricula, & Courses (PCC) Committee who was unable to present at the meeting.

Reed provided background and information on the proposal.

Chair Jarzynski thanked Reed and opened the floor for discussion.

Hearing none, Chair Jarzynski called for a vote on the proposal. The result was 130 in favor, 1 opposed, and 5 abstentions. **The proposals passed.**

### **PCC PROPOSAL: ESTABLISH A BACHELOR'S PROGRAM IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (SENATE DOCUMENT #23-24-22) (SENATE DOCUMENT #23-24-22)**

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Chair Jarzynski invited William Reed, Assistant Provost for Academic Planning in the Office of the Provost to present to present this proposal on behalf of Wendy Stickle, Chair of the Programs Curricula, & Courses (PCC) Committee who was unable to present at the meeting.

Reed provided background and information on the proposal.

Chair Jarzynski thanked Reed and opened the floor for discussion.

Senator Moaddel, TTK, BSOS, raised three issues with the proposal. First, Moaddel explained that identifying causes of systemic bias, discrimination or disadvantages should not be imposed as a part of the learning outcome. Second, Moaddel posed an issue with a C minus as the passing grade. Finally, Moaddel hoped for the incorporation of the World Value Survey into the program.

Chair Jarzynski thanked Moaddel for those comments, and asked if the Senator was making a motion for an amendment, which would need specific language, or a motion to send the proposal back to the committee, or if these comments were part of the discussion.

Dean Rivera, BSOS introduced David Cunningham, Director of Undergraduate Studies in the Department of Government and Politics at the University of Maryland to respond to these comments.

Cunningham responded to each point brought forward. First, the learning outcomes were developed with the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Committee, with additional conversations with the executive committee and faculty committee. All these groups agreed that the legacy of colonialism, the impact of race and identity were important aspects of the learning outcome.

Secondly, Cunningham explained that a C minus is the required passing grade for courses in the Government and Politics Major. While changing this requirement could be a suggestion brought up in the next undergraduate studies committee meeting, at this point it would not be feasible to change this program requirement without effects for the whole department.

Lastly, Cunningham responded to the final point, believing that human rights are already integral to all the international relations courses, and specific studies in human rights is required both at the lower level and upper level.

Senator Hajiaghayi, TTK, CMNS, asked how this program compares to other top universities?

Before answering Senator Hajiaghayi's question, Senator Moaddel gave additional context. As an academic who specialized in Middle Eastern politics, history, and religion, Senator Moaddel claimed that over-investing in identity politics hinders the grasp of genuine issues, and prioritizing objective analysis and empirical methods is essential for teaching international relations effectively.

Dean Rivera introduced Cunningham again to respond.

Cunningham answered that in researching this proposal, both Big10 universities and local peer universities were compared. Many Big10 universities have majors that are named, or involve, International Studies, Global Studies, or World Politics. Similarly, institutions in and around the D.C. Metropolitan area have similar majors. The understanding is that it is not uncommon for universities to have a program like this, but University of Maryland can be unique in its focus on methods and data analysis, particularly within the Bachelor of Science track.

Senator Moradi, PTK, CMNS, asked if there was a similar program here at the University of Maryland, and if this could affect student numbers in other, potentially competing, departments?

Dean Rivera introduced Antoine Banks, Chair of Government and Politics, to address the questions.

Banks began by explaining the choice to include the DEI learning outcomes stems from a hope for including different perspectives, and not restricting or limiting studies to just one framework. Additionally, Banks explained that the disciplinary focus on International Relations is not something that the Government and Politics has, so there would not be University-level competition, but it is something other Big10 universities have.

Senator Keshavarz-Karamustafa, TTK, ARHU, spoke in support of the proposal, specifically that it gives attention to the significance of language learning, which this Senator said is often overlooked.

Chair Jarzynski then clarified that due to a stipulation in the [University Senate Bylaws](#) that an amendment for any PCC Proposal must be submitted at least 48 hours prior to the Senate Meeting. Chair Jarzynski then explained for this proposal the following options remained; a motion to send the proposal back to the committee, a motion to postpone consideration until next Senate meeting, or continue discussion urging individuals to vote according to opinion.

Chair Jarzynski introduced Elizabeth Beise, Senior Associate Provost, to speak.

Beise clarified that this is not the last step in an academic program proposal, and this item will also be presented to the Board of Regents and to the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC). All comments heard here can influence the proposal as it moves forward in the process. Beise reminded that if there were no structurally problematic issues with the proposal, that opportunities exist after this Senate meeting to affect changes.

Moaddel made a motion to send the proposal back to committee, with hopes to modify two aspects; the language in learning outcomes to highlight empirical aspects rather than diversity perspectives, and to incorporate the study of values.

The motion was seconded.

Chair Jarzynski opened the floor for discussion on the motion to send the proposal back to committee.

Chair Jarzynski introduced Beise to discuss.

Beise noted that unless there is a natural change to the curriculum, the language in this proposal does not necessarily go out to students. So, barring a change to the curriculum, it remains unclear what sending it back to the committee would do beyond small language changes that would not greatly influence the makeup of the program.

Hajiaghayi responded that during previous [September 6 Senate Meeting](#) a proposal was sent back to committee, and that it may be beneficial in this case to do the same.

Dean Konana echoed the previous comment, that with no structural change to the curriculum, it would be best to move forward and place the hope for amendments and comments into the next phase of approvals.

Moaddel asked, in an effort to make the workload more effective and efficient, if the original motion could be changed?

Chair Jarzynski clarified that because the motion was made and seconded, a vote would take place before any alternate motions can be put forward.

Senator Raugh, PTK, CMNS, asked for clarification about the description being language solely available to the Senate. Raugh highlighted that catalog information is available to students, and asked if that was correct?

Chair Jarzynski introduced Beise to respond.

Beise confirmed that this catalog information is what students see when choosing a course of study. However, catalog descriptions are not language that is typically reviewed and voted on by the Senate, outside of this proposal. Beise reminded the Senate that the specific language can be altered after approval at the Senate today.

Moaddel re-affirmed the desire to re-commit the proposal to committee.

Chair Jarzynski called for a vote to re-commit the PCC Proposal: Establish A Bachelor's Program in International Relations back to the Programs, Curricula, & Courses Committee. The result was 43 in favor, 63 opposed, 19 abstentions. **The motion did not pass.**

Chair Jarzynski opened the floor for general discussion on the PCC Proposal: Establish A Bachelor's Program in International Relations.

Hearing none, Chair Jarzynski called for a vote on the proposal. The result was 101 in favor, 20 opposed, and 12 abstentions. **The proposals passed.**

## **PCC PROPOSAL: ESTABLISH A DEPARTMENT OF GLOBAL, ENVIRONMENTAL, AND OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH (SENATE DOCUMENT #23-24-23) (SENATE DOCUMENT #23-24-23)**

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Chair Jarzynski invited William Reed, Assistant Provost for Academic Planning in the Office of the Provost to present to present this proposal on behalf of Wendy Stickle, Chair of the Programs Curricula, & Courses (PCC) Committee who was unable to present at the meeting. Reed provided background and information on the proposal.

Chair Jarzynski thanked Reed and opened the floor for discussion.

Hearing none, Chair Jarzynski called for a vote on the proposal. The result was 119 in favor, 3 opposed, and 4 abstentions. **The proposals passed.**

## **SPECIAL ORDER OF THE DAY**

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**Elizabeth Beise**  
**Senior Associate Provost**  
***Considerations for a Possible Fall Break***

Chair Jarzynski invited Elizabeth Beise, Senior Associate Provost, to present on the Considerations for a Possible Fall Break.

Beise began by explaining the history of this initiative, which began with the recommendation of the University Senate Academic Procedures and Standards Committee to “explore the benefits and complications of adding a fall break” in December of 2022. A work group was then convened, charged by Provost Rice in March of 2023 to explore this possibility.

Beise explained the issues considered by the work group, including calendar impacts, special challenges, length and timing of breaks, guiding regulations, Big10 and University System of Maryland peer practices, as well as the impact on students.

The working group identified concerns such as lab courses that meet once a week, concerns about “learning loss” if days are added to Thanksgiving week, adding breaks to 12-week graduate professional programs or 7-week “sub-term” calendars that are challenging and often contradictory, and adjustments needed in summer that may be necessary to accommodate.

Beise then expanded on the calendar process. The University of Maryland (The University) proposes two six-year calendar options to The University System of Maryland (USM) years in advance, for review and implementation. This was last completed in 2019 for the 2022-2028 academic years. Beise shared that calendars repeat every seven years, and state regulations require 75 class days along with regulations surrounding start days, end days, final exams, Reading Days, and various administrative preparation time between semesters.

In review of peer and regional campuses, the working group found that 12 have a fall break, 13 have no classes on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving, four use a full Thanksgiving week as a break, seven have a two-day break in October, eight have no Reading Days, 11 have both a summer and winter session, and all but one hold classes on Election Day. Beise also noted that half start more than a week before Labor Day.

Beise also described the work of potential implementations of new calendars, which would not be until the 2025-2027 academic years. Considerations were given to using Monday or Tuesday before Indigenous Peoples’ Day, ensuring recruiting is still available during specific Holiday Weekends. Other considerations were given to moving Fall semester to start earlier, prioritizing the length of Summer and time between Summer and Fall as well as Spring and Summer, as well as academic and administrative units’ ability to prepare for any change in schedule (particularly performance-based or laboratory courses).

Beise presented two potential Fall 2026 academic calendars, one with an October Fall Break and one with a November Fall Break, alongside the currently proposed academic calendar. Beise highlighted how the potential breaks compare in terms of days off, holidays, class days, and scheduled Reading and Exam Days.

Beise also shared anecdotal data on reactions to the possible Fall Break, collected by the working group. Beise summarized the reactions of polls distributed to academic unit administrators, administrative or other units, units with lab performance and units without lab performance.

Impacts and concerns about laboratory and performance-based courses, instructional time, unit operations, and facilities or administrative units were compiled were discussed. These concerns



included details such as time-critical disruptions on bacteria or animal growth in labs, Monday-only classes that would be significantly impacted, student orientations and staff on-boarding timelines, as well as any break not being considered a holiday for faculty and staff.

In conclusion, Beise informed the Senate that this measure was a response to students and their needs, and in all discussion and responses the benefit to students is seen as outweighing inconveniences for faculty and staff. Beise confirms that a fall break is necessary as administration understands the time between summer and Indigenous People's Day is intellectually, emotionally, and physically long.

Chair Jarzynski thanked Beise for the presentation and opened the floor for questions on the special order.

Senator Marquez, TTK, ARHU, asked for clarification on the timing of a potential October break? The implications for the indigenous community are paramount if this day may center around a whole campus break.

Beise thanked Marquez for that comment and responded that this type of feedback is important moving forward as multiple considerations are balanced. The Office of Admissions and Enrollment Management, as well as recruiters for the University use that weekend as it's a national holiday as well as a University Holiday. But adding context, information, and discussions about the different groups will be vital as rationale continues to develop around the potential break schedule.

Senator Miller, TTK, SPHL, asked if there had been a response collected on student feedback, specifically on if students preferred an October break or a November break?

Beise responded that while no formal survey had been conducted, a member of both the Student Government Association and the Graduate Student Government were present on the working group for this project.

Provost Rice also commented that the two proposed Fall Breaks (in October and November) were shared with the Provost's student advisory groups, and that, while not an official survey, that group did have a preference for the October dates if implementing a Fall Break.

Senator Mayo-Brown, Exempt Staff, EDUC, spoke on behalf of staff. Mayo-Brown advised caution when communicating and justifying breaks that staff will not be able to utilize. Comments where academic calendar breaks can be used for staff to "make up work" as mentioned during the presentation could potentially demoralize staff who are already contracted during summer, winter, and reading day breaks. Mayo-Brown emphasized the need for staff to feel appreciated and take adequate mental health, family and personal breaks in addition to the opportunity afforded faculty and students.

Beise responded that University Human Resources would remain in consultation to ensure staff have a voice and representation in these conversations, but potential challenges in giving staff these holidays lie with Collective Bargaining Units, and the scope that an academic calendar can address. Adding holidays, which would incorporate staff, is different than simply delivering or not delivering classes on certain days.

Senator Lewis, PTK, ARHU, spoke about concerns of summer break potentially being shortened, and how that may affect the University of Maryland's leadership as an institution prioritizing international, Fulbright Scholar, study-abroad, and experiential learning.

Beise responded thanking Lewis for highlighting these concerns and clarified that none of the plans include a potential shortening of the summer term, just an adjustment of dates if that becomes required.

Chair Jarzynski asked if a feedback or response space existed for Senators with more feedback or questions on this topic.

Beise responded that any feedback or additional questions could be sent by email to [beise@umd.edu](mailto:beise@umd.edu).

Provost Rice noted that calendars are coordinated through the University System of Maryland, and the working group will continue to collect feedback on preferences, but the coordinated system calendar will be an ultimate factor in the implementation of any Fall Break.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

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There was no new business.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

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The meeting was adjourned at 4:59 p.m.