



## **CALL TO ORDER**

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Chair Jarzynski called the meeting to order at 3:20 p.m.

## **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES, FEBRUARY 6, 2024 MEETING**

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Chair Jarzynski asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of the February 6, 2024, meeting; hearing none, Chair Jarzynski declared the minutes approved as distributed.

## **Report of the chair**

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### Senate Meeting Schedule

Chair Jarzynski informed the Senate that there are three meetings left for this academic year – all on Zoom. There will be two meetings in April where much of the work that is in our Standing Committees will be coming forward to the Senate for a vote. Chair Jarzynski encouraged Senators to make every attempt to attend those important meetings.

Chair Jarzynski also reminded all Senators that the May 7, 2024 Senate meeting is the transition meeting where all continuing Senators and newly elected Senators will elect the next Chair-Elect of the Senate and vote on the elected committees and councils of the Senate such as the Senate Executive Committee, the Committee on Committees, and others that the Nominations Committee is developing slates for candidates.

### Nominations for Elected Committees and Councils

Chair Jarzynski informed the Senate that the Senate Nominations Committee is in the process of generating slates of candidates to run for open positions on Senate-elected committees and councils, including next year's Senate Executive Committee, Senate Committee on Committees, University Athletic Council, Council of University System Faculty, and Campus Transportation Advisory Committee.

Chair Jarzynski also informed the Senate that the Nominations Committee is still looking for candidates to run for these important positions. Current Senators have already been contacted regarding these positions, and newly elected Senators will be contacted shortly to solicit self-nominations.

### Volunteering for Senate Standing Committees

Chair Jarzynski informed the Senate that in addition to the elected committees and councils, the Senate Committee on Committees will soon begin filling the University Senate's ten standing committees. These are volunteer positions, and most do not require one to be a Senator to serve.

The process will begin in April, and Senators are encouraged to share this as an opportunity to become involved in our campus shared governance. The link to learn more about joining a committee is available on [the Senate website](#).

## Senate Elections

Chair Jarzynski informed the Senate that the candidacy period for the staff, student, and single-member constituency elections for the 2023-2024 Senate ended on February 2, 2024. In addition, elections for these constituencies began on February 19, 2024, and ended on Sunday, March 3, 2024. Chair Jarzynski also informed the Senate that February 2, 2024 was the deadline for the Deans to report the results of their faculty elections.

Chair Jarzynski informed the Senate that newly-elected faculty Senators will be eligible for nomination for our elected committees and councils and leadership positions for the 2024-2025 academic year.

## Additional Information Item for March 6, 2024 Senate Meeting

Chair Jarzynski informed the Senate that after the meeting agenda was approved and presented to the Senate on February 28, 2024, the Engineering Senate brought forth a new issue in which they have adopted a motion against the letter sent from Maryland's Department of Budget and Management, which would end the prescription drug benefit for retirees.

Chair Jarzynski asked the Senate if there was an objection to adding a short presentation by Dr. Yang Tao on the topic of State of Maryland Bill 946: Prescription Insurance Changes for Maryland State Retirees & Future Retirees in 2025.

Hearing none, the Prescription Insurance Changes for Maryland State Retirees & Future Retirees in 2025 was added as item 9 on the March 6, 2024 Senate Agenda.

## **Special Order: Darryll J. Pines, President of the University of Maryland | State of the Campus Address**

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Chair Jarzynski invited Dr. Darryll Pines, President of the University of Maryland, to present on the State of the Campus.

President Pines thanked the Senators for their critical work and thanked everyone who had already donated for Giving Day.

President Pines gave an update that a Terp was in space, Jeanette Epps, Class of '94 and '00, and congratulated her accomplishments.

President Pines invited the Senators to attend the grand opening of the Driskell Center on April 4, 2024. The Center was built in honor of David Driskell, a distinguished University professor of art. President Pines mentioned that David Driskell's books and exhibitions were groundbreaking in showing the range and diversity of artists who were not always known or recognized by the general public.

President Pines also acknowledged the work of Barbara Gill, the Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management, Shannon Gundy, Assistant Vice President of Enrollment Management and James Massey Jr., Director of Undergraduate Admissions, who admitted the highest-scoring class ever, including 45,000 applications from 69 countries, all 50 states, and every county in Maryland. President Pines also said that the University is increasing in the number of top-25 programs.

President Pines mentioned that we are also rising in the National Academy of Inventors Patent Rankings, where the University placed ninth among U.S. public institutions and 21st in the world for patents.

President Pines mentioned that the University is also a leading school in terms of Fulbright students and scholars. The University is one of twelve universities to be distinguished in both programs, according to the Chronicle of Higher Education, and more than 500 Terps have been a part of them since 1946.

President Pines also mentioned that the University has invested \$30M in 50 efforts across campus; he highlighted results so far from the 3 institute-level programs (the Maryland Initiative for Literacy & Equity, engaging >1100 stakeholders so far; the Global FEWture Alliance focused on Food, Energy & Water, engaging 690 stakeholders so far; and the third addressing climate challenges, which has engaged 136 stakeholders so far).

President Pines introduced the Maryland Initiative for Literacy and Equity (MILE) led by Dr. DJ Bolger, Associate Professor in Human Development and Quantitative Methodology within the College of Education (EDUC). President Pines mentioned that MILE was awarded a \$250,000 grant by Prince George's County to run an after-school reading clinic at two elementary schools at Kingsford Elementary School and Hollywood Elementary School. President Pines added that MILES provided professional development for more than 400 Baltimore City Public School educators, and more than 75 administrators.

President Pines introduced the Global Futures Alliance, led by Dr. Amy Sapkota, Professor and Director of the Maryland Institute for Applied Environmental Health within the School of Public Health (SPHL). President Pines explained that the initiative is developing an application to help farmers in Tanzania manage their farms. In addition, it has 14 partnerships and engaged almost 700 students, faculty, staff, and external stakeholders.

President Pines mentioned how the University is addressing climate challenges for a sustainable earth, a project proposed and led by Dr. Ellen Williams in the College of Computer, Mathematical, and Natural Sciences (CMNS) until her retirement at the end of last year. The project is now led by Dr. Ralph Ferraro, Principal Faculty Specialist and Interim Director of the Earth Science System, Interdisciplinary Center (ESSIC). President Pines added that two pilot projects have been launched in Annapolis and Montgomery County to study how sea levels rise and how stormwater impacts water quality.

President Pines introduced XFoundry, a venture capital competition for students—the inaugural Xplore summit was focused on school safety, and the 2026 competition will be on mental health care for young adults.

President Pines announced the dedication of the new chemistry building on April 11, 2024.

President Pines reported on the completion of the 2050 Master Facilities Plan, which has been finalized after an 18-month comprehensive planning process. The plan includes a new Terrapin Way, next to McKeldin; Gateway Plaza, next to the Armory and the Purple Line; a new entrance to campus; and a plaza near Stamp Student Union on Campus Drive.

Finally, President Pines showed a video of how Testudo, the Terrapin, has evolved over its 90 years.

## **PCC Proposal: Establish a Master of Science in Climate Finance and Risk Management (Senate Document: 23-24-24) (Action)**

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Chair Jarzynski invited Wendy Stickle, Chair of the Program, Curricula and Courses Committee (PCC) to present on the proposal.

Stickle provided background and information on the proposal.

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

Hearing none, Chair Jarzynski called for a vote on this proposal. The result was 97 in favor, 3 opposed, and 3 abstentions. **The proposal passed.**

## **PCC Proposal: Establish a Master of Public Administration (Senate Document: 23-24-25) (Action)**

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Chair Jarzynski invited Wendy Stickle, Chair of the Program, Curricula and Courses Committee (PCC) to present on the proposal.

Stickle provided background and information on the proposal.

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

Hearing none, Chair Jarzynski called for a vote on this proposal. The result was 105 in favor, 3 opposed, and 5 abstentions. **The proposal passed.**

## **PCC Proposal: Rename the Bachelor of Science in “Community Health” to “Public Health Practice” (Senate Document: 23-24-26) (Action)**

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Chair Jarzynski invited Wendy Stickle, Chair of the Program, Curricula and Courses Committee (PCC) to present the proposal.

Stickle provided background and information on the proposal.

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

Hearing none, Chair Jarzynski called for a vote on this proposal. The result was 108 in favor, 2 opposed, and 1 abstention. **The proposal passed.**

## **SPECIAL ORDER**

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**Jack Blanchard**  
**Associate Provost for Enterprise Resource Planning**  
***Elevate Update***

Chair Jarzynski invited Jack Blanchard, Associate Provost for Enterprise Resources Planning, to present on the Elevate Update.

Blanchard began by giving an update on the timeline of human capital management and finance updates going live in November 2024 for the finance and Payroll and Human Resources (PHR) workstream. Blanchard provided an overview of training enhancements that have been developed based on feedback received from users.

Blanchard also gave an update on the timeline for implementing the student information system to a modern cloud-based solution on a single integrated platform. Blanchard explained that there is a Student Executive Steering Committee (ESC) that is working diligently on providing feedback to improve the system in time for a 2027 launch date.

Blanchard acknowledged the hundreds of people across the University of Maryland College Park (UMCP), University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES), University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science (UMCES), and University System of Maryland Office (USMO) who have generously contributed their time and expertise to the project.

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

Hearing none, Chair Jarzynski introduced the next business item.

## **SPECIAL ORDER**

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**Yang Tao**  
**Professor, Fischell Department of Bioengineering**  
*Prescription Insurance Changes for  
Maryland State Retirees & Future Retirees in 2025*

Chair Jarzynski invited Dr. Yang Tao, Professor in the Fischell Department of Bioengineering, to present on prescription insurance changes for Maryland retirees and future retirees in 2025.

Tao began by explaining how after years of eligible services to Maryland State, the University employee has earned full credits for healthcare benefits after retirement.

Tao further explained that on January 15, 2024, staff and faculty received a notice that prescription insurance coverage for retirees will be removed from the benefits, and will become effective on January 1, 2025.

Tao reported that two bills have been introduced to the Maryland General Assembly, [Senate Bill 0349](#) and [House Bill 670](#) to reinstate the State of Maryland retiree prescription coverage for the University employees hired prior to 2011. Tao gave an overview of a hearing held in Annapolis the week prior, and explained the repercussions if the elimination of the prescription coverage goes into effect.

Tao asked if there were any questions.

Chair Jarzynski opened the floor for questions or comments.

Kim Coles, TTK, ARHU, mentioned that the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) chapter is very concerned about this topic, and asked what can be done.

Tao mentioned that the week prior, there was a hearing held in Annapolis where the topic was discussed, and the Senators were invited to attend another hearing on March 18 to bring forth a resolution to the change in the plan.

Coles asked if the hearing from the previous week was successful.

Tao explained that the State Secretary from the Maryland Department of Budget and Management and a representative from the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Union (the Union) presented their cases against the change to the plan. Tao added that a representative from Tungsten University and the University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC) also presented their cases against the change to the plan.

Mohammad Hajiaghayi, TTK, CMNS, made a motion for a resolution to the change in the plan.

Below, the language of the resolution is noted in [blue](#):

[Retirees and employees who began working before July 2011 should be grandfathered in and keep the original prescription drug benefits they've earned.](#)

The motion was seconded.

Chair Jarzynski opened the floor for questions or comments on the motion.

Jordan Goodman, TTK, CMNS, mentioned his support for the motion, and added that the policy was not thought out well, and it was believed that it would not affect many people, when in fact it does.

Chair Jarzynski opened the floor for additional questions or comments on the motion.

Tom Edward, PTK, VPR, asked for clarification on if it's the language that was being voted on. Chair Jarzynski said yes.

Chair Jarzynski opened the floor for additional questions.

Ross Salawitch, TTK, CMNS, mentioned that his department is concerned about this issue.

Debbie Simpkins, PTK, AGNR, made a motion to amend the resolution by striking the "before July 2011" so the resolution can encompass more people that are going to retire, have retired, or started working after July 2011. Simpkins also mentioned that she sent letters to legislators, and shared a response from Maryland Senator Johnny Mautz. Mautz offered Simpkins an amendment that would fully restore the prescription drug plan, which the Maryland House of Representatives has withdrawn. Simpkins added that there are new efforts from Senator Mike McKay to introduce [Senate Bill 0349](#), which would fully restore the State retiree prescription plan.

Below, the language of the resolution 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](#):

[Retirees and employees ~~who began working before July 2011~~ should be grandfathered in and keep the original prescription drug benefits they've earned.](#)

The motion to amend the resolution was seconded.

Chair Jarzynski opened the floor for questions or comments on the motion to amend the resolution.

Tom Edward, PTK, VPR, asked if the bylaws require the University Senate to refer the resolution to a committee for review. Chair Jarzynski answered that they do not.

Sarah Oates, TTK, JOUR, mentioned her support for the removal of the text in the proposed resolution.

Jordan Goodman, TTK, CMNS, highlighted that removing that text was ill advised. He reminded the members that when the law passed, it was passed to provide retirees full prescription benefits to those employed prior to 2011. The employees who were employed after 2011 were not promised this, and if the amendment is presented to the House, it may be denied immediately.

Wendy Peer, TTK, AGNR, introduced Dr. Adel Shirmohammadi, Professor in Environmental Science and Technology in AGNR. Shirmohammadi mentioned that as a University employee who started in 1986, he remembers when in 2011 the policy was removed, and there was no mention of the removal, therefore questions the legality of it. Shirmohammadi is in favor of bringing this case to state legislators in favor of the resolution, and would further support the amendment to the resolution if it was possible.

Chair Jarzynski thanked Shirmohammadi and opened the floor for further comments about the motion to amend the resolution.

Mohammad Hajiaghayi, TTK, CMNS, introduced Andre Tits, Chair of the Engineering Senate. Tits mentioned he is opposed to the amendment to the motion, as the understanding is that the resolution was for those employed by the University prior to 2011.

Chair Jarzynski thanked Tits and called for a vote on the amendment to the motion. The result was 27 in favor, 54 opposed, and 11 abstention. **The amendment did not pass.**

Chair Jarzynski called for a vote on the original motion for a resolution to the change in the plan. The result was 82 in favor, 8 opposed, and 4 abstention. **The motion passed.**

Chair Jarzynski opened the floor for discussion on the motion.

Steve Halperin, TTK, CMNS, commented that the topic is well known amongst the faculty, but it is not well known amongst the staff at the University. Halperin suggested having Chair Jarzynski raise this issue to the administration of the University so they can let the staff employees know. Halperin further requested Tao send Chair Jarzynski the language he used to communicate to the School of Engineering about this topic.

## New Business

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There was no new business.

## Adjournment

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The meeting was adjourned at 4:58 p.m.