

**To: University Senate**

**From: Reka Montfort, Executive Secretary and Director**

**Re: Information of the Senate Meeting Scheduled for April 21, 2011**

**For the scheduled Senate meeting of April 21, 2011 69 voting Senators were required for a quorum. 66 voting Senators were present.**

Senate Chair Mabbs announced that the Senate lacked a quorum. Thus, she could not call the meeting to order, and no actions could be taken. However, she explained that she would go ahead and give her report because it was an informational item.

### **Report of the Chair**

#### Committee Volunteer Period

Mabbs explained that the volunteer period for Senate standing committees was now open. She encouraged the campus community and especially faculty to volunteer to serve on a committee by going to [www.senate.umd.edu](http://www.senate.umd.edu). The deadline to volunteer is April 22, 2011.

#### Plus/Minus Grading

Mabbs explained that the Academic Procedures & Standards (APAS) Committee was charged with reviewing the Plus/Minus Grading Policy. The Committee clarified that a policy to include plus/minus grading into the Grade Point Average (GPA) calculation had already been approved by the Senate and President in 2005. However, implementation of the policy was delayed. The APAS Committee has now asked the Provost's Office to develop an implementation plan for the policy. The Senate Executive Committee (SEC) has requested that the Provost present this implementation plan to the APAS Committee by November 1, 2011.

#### Remaining Senate Meeting

Mabbs reminded the Senate that this was the last business meeting for any outgoing senators. She thanked them for their service and commitment to the Senate. Mabbs also explained that the last meeting of the semester would be held on May 4, 2011. This meeting is considered the transition meeting at which time Eric Kasischke will take over as Senate Chair and the Senate will vote for its next chair-elect and elected committees. The names of candidates running for the various committees and their candidacy statements have been distributed and posted on the Senate website.

### Board of Regents Study

Mabbs confirmed that a study to consider a merger of the University of Maryland College Park with the University of Maryland Baltimore was approved by the Maryland State Assembly. The Board of Regents (BOR) has been charged with conducting the study and reporting back by December 2011. However, we will have no information as to how the study will be conducted until the BOR meets in June 2011. Therefore, Chair Mabbs and President Loh have agreed to postpone discussion of the possible merger with the Senate until there is more information about the study. It is expected that this discussion will take place at the first Senate meeting of the fall semester.

### Budget Update

Mabbs stated that the University System of Maryland (USM) budget was cut by .4%. The University of Maryland College Park's share of that cut is approximately \$1.6M. However, Mabbs clarified that the State of Maryland has sent us a flat budget, which does not fund mandatory cost increases. This includes a 57% increase in mandatory health benefits totaling approximately \$15M. Therefore, it is more accurate to state that the University of Maryland College Park current services budget is underfunded by \$16.6M. The University has been and will continue to protect jobs but this decrease in funding will provide little flexibility in our current budget.

### Facilities Master Plan

Mabbs explained that the Draft Facilities Master Plan was presented to the SEC earlier that day. She explained that the steering committee has held numerous open forums on campus and in College Park to solicit feedback on the Plan. The SEC has approved placement of the Draft Plan on the May 4, 2011 Senate agenda. This will allow for the Senate to provide feedback before the second draft is written. It is anticipated that the second draft will be available for comment on the Facilities website by May 9. We anticipate that the final version of the Facilities Master Plan will be presented to the Senate in September 2011.

### **Campus Safety Report 2011 (Senate Doc. No. 10-11-50) (Information)**

Mabbs explained that the Campus Safety Report was provided to the Senate by the Campus Affairs Committee as an informational item.