

## **University Senate**

September 16, 2010

### **Members Present**

Members present at the meeting: 108

### **Call to Order**

Senate Chair Mabbs called the meeting to order at 3:17 p.m.

### **Approval of the Minutes**

Chair Mabbs asked for additions or corrections to the minutes of the May 5, 2010 meeting. Hearing none she declared the minutes approved as distributed.

### **Report of the Chair**

Chair Mabbs welcomed the Senate to another academic year. She gave an overview of the chairs and pending business within the senate committees thus far. Mabbs reviewed the upcoming senate schedule. She explained that President Loh would be addressing the Senate at the November 11, 2010 meeting. She gave a brief overview of the Senate's legislation tracking system and encouraged senators and the campus community to review what the Senate is working on. Mabbs announced that the Senate has established a Facebook page called 'University of Maryland Senate' and a Twitter account called 'umdSenate'. She also gave a brief overview of Senate protocol and the process for using clickers to vote.

### **2009-2010 Senate Legislation Log (Senate Doc. No. 10-11-01) (Information)**

Mabbs explained that the log was provided to the Senate as an information item. It gives an overview of all of the work completed last year and the pending legislation that will continue this year.

### **Annual Intercollegiate Athletics Report (Senate Doc. No. 10-11-07) (Information)**

Mabbs announced that the report was provided to the Senate as an information item. It is a requirement of the Athletic Department's recertification process.

## Committee Reports

### Approval of the Standing Committee & Council Slates 2010-2011 (Senate Doc. No. 10-11-02) (Action)

Eric Kasischke, Chair of the Committee on Committees made a motion to approve the standing committee and council slates as presented. Mabbs asked if there were any objections. Hearing none, she called for a vote of the Senate. The result was a majority in favor of passing the slates. **The motion to approve the slates as presented passed.**

### University of Maryland Diversity Plan (Senate Doc. No. 10-11-12) (Action)

Chair Mabbs thanked the steering committee for its work and gave a review of work leading to the final plan. She introduced Robert Waters, Jr., Chair of the Diversity Plan Steering Committee.

Waters gave a review of the committee members' work in creating the plan. He also gave a timeline of their work over the past 18 months. Waters also gave an summary of the major initiatives proposed in the plan including:

- The appointment of a Chief Diversity Officer and creation of an Office of University Diversity.
- The establishment of a Diversity Advisory Council.
- The introduction of new initiatives to assist with recruitment and retention.
- Support for family-friendly policies and work- life initiatives;
- Leadership development opportunities for faculty and staff;
- Focus on assessment of climate for faculty and staff;
- The creation of a "Building Community" fund to support innovative approaches for enhancing the campus climate; and the
- Emphasis on supporting our new General Education diversity requirements.

Mabbs opened the floor to discussion of the plan.

Senator Shaw, Non-Exempt Staff & Chair of the Staff Affairs Committee stated that she was supportive of the spirit and vision of the plan but hopes that the Chief Diversity Officer and Diversity Advisory Council will work with the Senate and Staff Affairs Committee to come up with specific strategies for the inclusion and professional growth of the great staff at the university.

Senator Cohen, Faculty, College of Computer, Mathematical, and Physical Sciences, asked if Asian Americans are considered underrepresented on our campus. He did not find it consistent with the campus demographics. He also asked for clarification on whether the target numbers included the Asian American population.

Waters responded that the data in the Diversity Plan aligns with the statistics represented in the University's Strategic Plan.

Senator Nasif, Undergraduate, College of Arts & Humanities, asked why the plan only references diversity of color and not diversity of thought.

Waters responded that diversity of thought is also important to the campus.

Senator Mar, Faculty, College of Arts & Humanities, introduced Erin McClure a staff member in the School of Public Health. McClure stated that honest and open dialogue was key to the success of the Diversity Plan. She stated that the words of engagement dialogue programs address equity issues on campus and should be a key component of the diversity program.

Senator Owen, Faculty, Libraries, and Chair of the Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) Committee stated that he commends the committee for its work. He believes that the plan includes all members of our community. It will make us stronger as we move forward to become a more diverse campus. He encouraged the Senate to support the plan.

Senator Smith, Faculty, College of Arts & Humanities, commended the committee and Waters' leadership. She explained that the committee listened to objections and made appropriate changes to the final plan to reflect multiple diversities. She urged the Senate to support the plan. She also approved of the committee's decision to keep the plan an ongoing process that will evolve over time.

Senator Winchester, Undergraduate, College of Life Sciences, commended the work of the committee. He also thanked the committee for taking student voices into consideration throughout the planning process.

Senator Mar, Faculty, College of Arts & Humanities, thanked the committee for an inclusive process and yielded her time to Rev. Holly Ulmer, Chaplain. Ulmer stated that she has been involved in the Words of Engagement Program through the Office of Diversity and Inclusion for several years. She has been involved in the Interfaith Secular and Multiversity Gender dialogues. She explained that there are very few opportunities for a diverse group of students to open up and learn from each other.

Mabbs called for a vote to endorse the University of Maryland Diversity Plan. The result was a majority in favor. **The motion to endorse the University of Maryland Diversity Plan passed.**

**PCC Proposal to Reassign the Units and Programs of the College of Chemical and Life Sciences to the College of Computer, Mathematical and Physical Sciences (Senate Doc No. 10-11-08) (Action)**

Mabbs introduced Nariman Farvardin, Acting President, to give a brief overview of the processes that lead to the proposal.

Farvardin explained that the proposal consists of two parts. The first piece would integrate the College of Life Sciences (CLFS) and the College of Computer, Mathematical, and Physical Sciences (CMPS) and the second would rename the College of Computer, Mathematical, and Physical Sciences (CMPS) to the College of Computer, Mathematical, and Natural Sciences (CMNS).

#### History

Approximately one year ago, a group of faculty submitted a letter to the President and Provost to consider a possible integration of CMPS and CLFS. Many discussions between the two colleges ensued. A faculty working group was established to discuss the intellectual merits and possible implementation of the integration.

#### Proposal

Ultimately, a proposal emerged which suggested that the units in CLFS be moved to CMPS and that the existing administrative structure of CMPS be adopted. The constituents from both colleges voted strongly in favor of the proposal. The proposal states that there will be no immediate changes to programs or academic affiliations. There are also no anticipated changes in staff lines but staff duties may be reassigned. If the Senate chooses to pass the proposal, it will then vote to approve the renaming of the college.

#### Process

Should the reassignment proposal be approved, the Senate must review the CMPS Plan of Organization. The constituents of CMPS have already approved a revision to their Plan of Organization and APT Committee membership to include representation from the units in CLFS.

#### Rationale

Farvardin also explained the merits of this integration and the motivation for advancing this proposal. The essential and primary merit is an intellectual one. The integration will facilitate, promote and strengthen collaboration and partnership between the two colleges. There is a strong belief that a large number of interesting scientific challenges that address significant societal problems lie on the boundary between biological sciences and physical, mathematical, and computational sciences. Farvardin also quoted a report generated by the National Research Council (NRC) on a new biology for the twenty-first century. He explained that the essence of a new biology is integration. "Reintegration of the many sub disciplines of biology and the integration into biology of physicists, chemists, computer scientists, engineers and mathematicians to create a research community with the capacity to tackle a broad range of scientific and societal problems." He believes that the essence of this quotation was the driving force behind the proposal.

David Salness, Chair of the Programs, Curricula and Courses Committee, presented the proposal to the Senate and provided background information. Mabbs opened the floor to discussion.

Senator Shaw, Non-Exempt Staff & Chair of the Staff Affairs Committee, made a statement on behalf of her committee. She stated that the committee wanted to make it clear that since the report says, "*no reductions in staff lines are anticipated as a result of the integration, although staff reassignments within the new college may be considered*", there is no guarantee that staff changes will not occur. She also asked Dean Halperin about his plans regarding reduction of staff positions during his interim appointment.

Dean Halperin, College of Computer, Mathematical, and Physical Sciences clarified the statement in the report by saying "absent future budget reductions to the college, no reductions of staff will be made this year as a result of the integration." He further explained that this is a statement that both he and the Provost strongly support.

Senator Tilley, Faculty, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources had concerns that the colleges are muscling their way through the process of getting this through the Senate. There has been no feedback from the other colleges on campus that are involved in science. He provided an example of how the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources went to great lengths to get support from other units on campus when they reorganized the Environmental Science & Technology department. He also stated that he has reservations about voting on this proposal as it stands without further input.

Dean Halperin, one of the conditions from the beginning of this proposal has been that we would this year, make no changes to the academic programs and courses this year. The Environmental Science and Policy Program (ENSP) will not change this year. We will continue to offer these courses as they were without change.

Mabbs called for a vote of the Senate. The result was a majority in favor of the proposal. **The motion to approve the proposal passed.**

**PCC Proposal to Rename the College of Computer, Mathematical, and  
Physical Sciences to the College of Computer, Mathematical, and  
Natural Sciences  
(Senate Doc No. 10-11-09) (Action)**

Mabbs introduced Nariman Farvardin, Acting President. Farvardin gave a brief review of the process by which the final name was selected. He explained that over 300 suggestions were submitted as potential names for the new college. The administrative heads of the units within both colleges narrowed the list down to four finalists. The constituents of each college were asked to vote on the finalists. Input was also sought from the alumni of both colleges, the Senate PCC Committee, the Senate Executive Committee (SEC) and the Senate Chair before a final name was decided upon.

David Salness, Chair of the Programs, Curricula and Courses Committee, presented the proposal to the Senate and provided background information. Mabbs opened the

floor to discussion; hearing none, she called for a vote on the proposal. The result was a majority in favor of the proposal. **The motion to approve the proposal passed.**

**Human Relations Code Changes  
(Senate Doc No. 10-11-03) (Action)**

Terry Owen, Chair of the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Committee, presented the proposal to update nomenclature in the Human Relations Code to the Senate and provided background information. Mabbs opened the floor to discussion; hearing none, she called for a vote of the Senate. The result was a majority in favor of the proposal. **The motion to approve the proposal passed.**

**New Business**

There was no new business.

**Adjournment**

Senate Chair Mabbs adjourned the meeting at 4:16 p.m.