

University Senate
September 15, 2008

Members Present

Members present at the meeting: 92

Call to Order

The Senate Chair-Elect Miller-Hooks called the meeting to order at 3:07 p.m. and explained that Chair Holum could not attend the meeting because he was recovering from multiple summer surgeries. She expressed his regret in missing the first meeting of the semester but suggested that he hoped to be back to Senate business for the October meeting. She reminded all Senators to state their name, department and constituency when they speak at the microphone.

Approval of the Minutes

Senate Chair-Elect Miller-Hooks asked for additions or corrections to the minutes of the May 6, 2008 meeting. Hearing none the minutes were approved as distributed.

Senate Chair-Elect Miller-Hooks asked for additions or corrections to the minutes of the May 8, 2008 meeting. Hearing none, the minutes were approved as distributed.

Report of the Chair

Senate Chair-Elect Miller-Hooks gave an update of summer Senate business. She stated that she had been working with Chair Holum and the Provost's office in the implementation phase of the Strategic Plan. They have jointly identified members to serve on the General Education and Post-Tenure Review Task Forces. She stated that the selected members have been invited to serve and once the membership is finalized, the taskforces will be charged and begin their meetings. She further stated that the Provost had also established a Library Task Force to analyze the issues raised in the Strategic Plan. This task force has already been constituted and charged. The membership will be posted on the Senate website. Chair-Elect Miller-Hooks also explained that she was working with Mel Bernstein, VP for Research to revive the Research Council. The council has been dormant for the past few years and has now been re-constituted with a full membership.

Report of the Senate Executive Committee

Chair-Elect Miller-Hooks reported that the Senate Executive Committee (SEC) identified that because of a clerical error, substantive erroneous changes had been inadvertently made to the Bylaws in two sections. These changes were included within the version that was voted on in the May 8th spring 2008 meeting of the Senate. The SEC unanimously approved a motion to revert the Bylaws to their correct state in those two sections. Chair-Elect Miller-Hooks opened the floor to discussion. Hearing none, she called for a vote. The vote was 1 against, 1

abstention and the majority approved the changes to the Bylaws. The amendments to the Bylaws passed.

Chair-Elect Miller-Hooks introduced Reka Montfort, Director of the Senate, to give an update on the new Senate website. Montfort reported that the Senate Office created a new Senate website this past summer. She explained that the new site contains descriptions and information extracted directly from the Bylaws. She also stated that the website now features secure areas for committee working documents, a calendar of various meeting dates and spotlights on past & present senators who have shared their experiences while serving on the Senate.

Approval of the Standing Committee Slates

Chair-Elect Miller-Hooks stated that there have been several changes to the slate since the materials were distributed to the Senate. She noted there were some changes and a few corrections that were noted on a slide at the meeting. She stated that the Committee on Committees made a motion to approve the standing committee slate as presented. She asked if there were any objections. Hearing none, she called for a vote of the Senate. The result was 0 No, 1 abstention and the majority Yes. **The motion to approve the slates as presented passed.**

Approval of the University Library Council

Senate Chair-Elect Miller-Hooks announced the slate of new members to the University Library Council which was submitted by the Committee on Committees. She asked if there were any objections. Hearing none, she called for a vote of the Senate. The result was 0 No, 1 abstention and the majority Yes. **The motion to approve the slate as submitted passed.**

Approval of the University IT Council

Senate Chair-Elect Miller-Hooks announced the slate of new Senate representatives to the University IT Council. She asked if there were any objections. Hearing none, she called for a vote of the Senate. The result was 0 No, 1 abstention and the majority Yes. **The motion to approve the slate as submitted passed.**

She also stated that the membership of the Research Council had just been finalized. The slate will be presented at the next Senate Meeting.

Special Order of the Day President C.D. Mote

Chair-Elect Miller-Hooks introduced President Mote.

President Mote gave his regrets that Chair Holum could not attend the meeting. He also thanked the Senate for its partnership with the administration to advance the University.

President Mote highlighted some of the student accomplishments from the past year including:

- The National Academic Quiz Tournament Championship.
- The American Mock Trial Association's National Championship.
- 1st among U.S. universities & 2nd place worldwide in the Department of Energy's Solar Decathlon.
- 1st Place in the America Helicopter Design Competition.
- 1st Place in the International Autonomous Underwater Vehicle Competition.
- National Title for the Competitive Cheer Team.
- ACC Championship for the Wrestling Team.
- Six athletes were named to the U.S. Olympic Team in Beijing.
- The Mighty Sound of Maryland marching band turns 100 this year.

President Mote also noted that the admission rate of our students to law schools this past year has reached 75% (up from 63% three years ago).

President Mote highlighted several teaching milestones including:

- A top ten ranking by the National Council on Teacher Quality for our teacher-preparation in mathematics.
- A new Ph.D. program initiative in the Business School which will increase doctoral stipends by 45% and provide research and travel support for selected students.
- 700 additional gifted high school students of color were invited to attend the University Honors Portz Summer Program.
- An honor of our Summer Program in Research and Learning by the American Mathematical Society.
- 40 African-American students earned their Ph.D. at Maryland this year, the largest in our history. This ranks us first among AAU members and 8th nationally.

A few of his research highlights included:

- \$400 million raised in external research support this year.
- \$12 million awarded to the START program.
- \$5 million awarded to the National Avian Flu Research Project.
- Recognition by R&D Magazine of two university creations in its "100 most technologically significant products introduced into the marketplace," including a new optical method for detecting individual neutrons by Michael Coplan, IPST and a software tool to manage and track wildfires by Robert Sohlberg, Geography.
- A new Physics Frontier Center from the NSF after a competition of more than 300 applicants.
- A newly created UM Center for Applied Electromagnetics by the Office of Naval Research.

- A new NOAA National Center for Weather and Climate Prediction is under construction in the M Square Research Park.

President Mote also gave an overview of our rankings across various groups, but concluded that we are at the top 0.1% overall.

President Mote addressed how sustainability and climate change issues had captured the campus' attention.

- We have signed onto the American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment to reduce carbon emissions.
- The campus is now officially designated as an arboretum with about 6,600 trees and more than 50 species.
- A renovation of the Washington Quad with new green space with soil produced from composted food.

President Mote also discussed how we will go from the strategic plan to strategic action. He stated that in order to lead, the University "must simply take charge and create its future". He said that we will build a three-way partnership with the campus, the State and our alumni and friends in order to deliver \$1.6 billion of the \$2 billion necessary to implement the Strategic Plan. He believes that our internal commitment is essential in raising the remaining \$400 million from the State. He explained that implementation of the plan had started with a large number of plan recommendations being taken up this first year.

He also explained that a General Education plan would be completed this year by a committee jointly appointed by the Senate and administration and that the plan had been introduced to leadership from the Governor's office, the Maryland House of Delegates, the Maryland Senate and our strongest private supporters. They all endorsed our aspirations for the State.

President Mote stated that the Senate's initiative in setting this course will have a strong impact on the University's history. He believes that "no example of shared governance will stand out as more significant than the Senate's participation in and endorsement of the plan". He said that despite the current financial downturn, we must "have sufficient determination to succeed".

President Mote closed with an allegory of a mountain stream and its relationship to the University. He explained that much like the stream's interaction with its terrain, the University must direct its knowledge through our own created course. We must adjust to fluctuations and prepare for dryer times. He then compared his allegory to the Strategic Plan. He explained that the plan call for increasing flow of knowledge while creating new tributaries from faculty research and feeding existing ones like funding scholarships. He stated that the plan builds reservoirs to main flows during lean years and it works to redirect flow to avoid stagnation. He believes that "the actions of our strategic plan will increase the abundance of our stream as well as move its flow more swiftly, more uniformly, and more effectively.

President Mote opened the floor to questions.

Senator Docherty, Operations Management asked President Mote to comment on his involvement in the Amethyst Initiative and how it will affect the campus.

President Mote explained that the Amethyst Initiative is a recommendation to promote discussion of policies of alcohol consumption in young people. It is intended to have a serious dialogue of all issues, including looking at lowering the drinking age. He explained that there are various issues related to alcohol consumption, including direct and unintended consequences. He supports the discussion of this topic, but in no way was supporting lowering the drinking age. He explained that there will be a day-long campus event this fall (October 30th) to examine all sides of the issue.

Unidentified, asked how a sudden “flash-flood” would impact the plan.

President Mote responded that he would have to think about a situation where a ‘flash-flood’ develops and there is too much money and you end up ruining the infrastructure. He suggested that we can worry about that later.

Senator Tervala, American Studies, asked if President Mote supported a Good Samaritan or Medical Amnesty Policy.

President Mote stated that he believed that this was an issue being discussed by the Senate and did not want to preempt the Senate’s work on it. He said ultimately we have to do the right thing to get help to people that need it.

Chair-Elect Miller-Hooks thanked the President Mote for his time.

New Business

Hearing no further business, Senate Chair-Elect Miller-Hooks adjourned the meeting at 4:18 p.m.