

University Senate

November 11, 2010

Members Present

Members present at the meeting: 102

Call to Order

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

Approval of the Minutes

Chair Mabbs asked for additions or corrections to the minutes of the October 13, 2010 meeting. Hearing none, she declared the minutes approved as distributed.

Report of the Chair

Senator Pin

Mabbs announced that elected senators should have received a “senator pin” when they signed-in. The Senate Office will mail pins to any senators who have not yet received one. Mabbs encouraged senators to wear their pins proudly.

Board of Regents Staff Awards

Mabbs announced that the deadline for submitting nominations for the Board of Regents Staff Awards is November 15, 2010. She encouraged senators to nominate members of our hard-working staff.

Facilities Site Review Committee

Mabbs gave an update on the Facilities Site Review Committee, that was instituted by the Senate in the spring 2010 semester. She explained that the Vice President for Administrative Affairs, Ann Wylie, asked the Senate Executive Committee (SEC) to suggest members for the committee. The committee was constituted and has met once this year. They reviewed and approved the site for the new shed for heavy equipment. We expect additional business for the committee later in the year. Vice President Wylie has posted the membership of the committee on the University’s website.

Upcoming Meetings

Mabbs announced that the next meeting of the Senate would be held on December 8, 2010 to discuss the Draft General Education Implementation Plan. The first senate meeting of the spring semester will be held on February 9, 2011 to review and vote on the final General Education Implementation Plan.

Committee Reports

Update of the University of Maryland Mission Statement (Senate Doc. No. 10-11-18) (Information)

Mabbs announced that the next item on the agenda was the Update of the University Mission Statement. She explained that the University System of Maryland (USM) asked all system schools to update their mission statements. A Joint Provost/Senate Committee was formed to work on this update. The membership includes: Mahlon Straszheim as the Chair, Betsy Beise, Associate Provost for Academic Planning & Programs, Ken Holum, Past Senate Chair and Aaron Tobiason, Graduate Student and former Senator and SEC member. This report has been included in the materials as an informational item for the Senate.

PCC Proposal to Establish a BS Degree Program in Middle School Education (Senate Doc. No. 10-11-22)

David Salness, Chair of the Programs, Curricula, & Courses (PCC) 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.**

PCC Proposal to Change the Name of the Department of Public and Community Health to Behavioral and Community Health (Senate Doc. No. 10-11-23) (Action)

David Salness, Chair of the Programs, Curricula, & Courses (PCC) 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.**

Proposal to Amend the Membership of the University APT Committee (Senate Doc. No. 10-11-15) (Action)

Robert Schwab, Chair of the Faculty Affairs 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.**

**Amendment to the Membership of the Research Council to Include a
Representative of the President
(Senate Doc. No. 10-11-16) (Action)**

Devin Ellis, Member of the Elections, Representation, and Governance (ERG) 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.**

**Special Order of the Day
Wallace D. Loh
President of the University of Maryland, College Park
2010 State of the Campus Address**

Overview

Loh stated that he was honored to serve as president of this great University. He thanked his predecessors, Dan Mote and Brit Kirwan, for leading the University to national and global pre-eminence. He also thanked all the members and supporters of the University. Loh also recognized the veterans on our campus, thanking them for their service to our nation.

Background

Loh explained that he spent his initial days as president meeting with constituents and leaders of the community. He held listening sessions with faculty, staff, and students and met with local politicians and institutional and community college presidents. Loh stated that he has begun to cultivate relationships with these groups. He feels it is important to listen before acting because his leadership approach is to listen, consult, and engage stakeholders in an open and transparent process of communication.

Common Themes from Listening Sessions

Theme 1: Pride in the University's Ascension to National and World Standing

Loh stated that we would continue to be guided by the University's strategic plan. We will implement it in creative and resourceful ways. Loh stated that the University must continue to serve "the American Dream: to expand opportunity; to grow the economy; and to strengthen democracy." He also lauded the university as a force for economic vitality. The University of Maryland generates \$3 in external research funding for every \$1 in state-funded faculty salaries. Every \$1 in State funding also generates \$8 in economic activity in the State. The University is a \$3.4 billion economic engine for the State. Loh stated that the success of the University of Maryland is truly the future of the State of Maryland.

Loh commented that our university is a holistic institution. The arts, humanities and social sciences, as well as the sciences, engineering, and other professional fields are integral components to the excellence of a university. He explained that the

challenges that we will face in the future require our students to have a diverse understanding of science, technology, ethics, social justice, cultures, economics, history, languages, and politics.

Theme 2: Enhance the Quality of Life of the Surrounding Neighborhoods

Loh stated, "A vibrant University needs a vibrant local community". Graduate students have expressed concern about safety and affordable housing. Others have expressed the desire for expanded partnerships between the University and local schools.

Loh stated that we would continue with our efforts with the East Campus redevelopment project by working with local residents and elected officials. We will also continue to support the proposed new Purple Line for its positive impact on our university and the surrounding region. Loh stated that he would carefully study any reports on the issue and listen to the multiple perspectives on this issue. While he plans to work closely with campus stakeholders and government officials, the Governor will ultimately make the final decision on the alignment.

Theme 3: Faculty and Staff Morale

Loh stated that the past several years of furloughs, layoffs, and salary freezes have taken their toll on the University community. Because of this, we are losing some of our best people to other universities and to federal agencies. He promised to fight against further furloughs and to advocate for institutional flexibility.

Impact of Higher Education

Loh explained that we are in a time of great economic distress with significant budget challenges. He stated that the demography of the country is rapidly changing to one without minorities. It is anticipated that 60% of Maryland's post-secondary education students will be minorities by 2020, up from 40% currently.

Loh stated that higher education is the key to our country's ability to compete on a global stage. "Our quality of life and our standard of living depend more than ever on innovation, creativity, and entrepreneurial initiatives that are nurtured in research universities and in university partnerships with the public and private sectors." Our nation's success is strongly driven by the number of college graduates that we are able to produce. President Obama has challenged us to attain the high goal of 55% graduates of two-year and four-year institutions by 2020 and Governor O'Malley supports this goal for the State of Maryland. Presently, 44% of Marylanders have college degrees.

The University's Role in our Nation's Future

Loh stated that the University must rise to respond to the challenge of serving the State, the nation, and the world. We must lead the way for the State of Maryland to reach the 55% goal. We must help our nation regain global leadership in educational and economic competitiveness. The public research university is our best hope for the future.

In order to achieve these goals, we will work harder and smarter and draw on our strengths of innovation, creativity, and entrepreneurial spirit. We will also diversify and expand our partnerships and collaborations with industry, government, and non-profits and take advantage of our strategic location. And we will work with the University System of Maryland and the State of Maryland so that the flagship university has the resources to realize this excellence.

Loh closed his address by stating that the University will be better and stronger than it is today.

Mabbs thanked President Loh and opened the floor to questions.

Q & A

Senator Stromquist, Faculty, College of Education, stated her support for recognizing the University as both a land grant institution and the flagship institution for the University System of Maryland.

Senator Xie, Undergraduate, Clark College of Engineering, introduced Ira Richman. Richman asked President Loh to give his thoughts on improving the quality of life for residents on campus.

President Loh responded that we could not have a great university unless we improved the quality of the circumstances in which we live. He gave the East Campus Redevelopment Project as an example.

Senator Gulick, Faculty, College of Computer, Mathematical, and Natural Sciences, introduced Steven Thomas. Thomas asked what role the University plays in ensuring that people have what they need to achieve the "American Dream".

President Loh responded that the role of a university is research, education, and service. He believes that the concept of the land grant, a university in service of the people of the state, is very important. He suggested that we should start discussing and imagining the mission of the land grant mission in the twenty-first century. It may not be agricultural-based but rather urban-based mission that reaches out to urban neighborhoods. We could work collaboratively with the larger community to address issues of education, health, employment, and to provide hope to our fellow citizens.

Senator Alexander, Undergraduate, College of Behavioral & Social Sciences, asked the President to comment on the importance of transparency and accountability in the Senate voting process.

President Loh responded that academic democracy could not thrive without openness, transparency, and accountability. In practice, that means that we share all of the information that we base our decisions on. However, this does not mean that we should share all of our internal deliberations. We should share information that we rely on so that everyone can reach his or her own conclusion. If our opinions differ, we should have a healthy debate on the issue.

Senator Glickman, Non-Voting Ex-Officio, Student Government Association (SGA) President, inquired about the discrepancy between our strategic plan that calls for a decrease in enrollment and the recent change in the University System of Maryland (USM) strategic plan that calls for an increase in undergraduate enrollment.

President Loh commented that our university's strategic plan is an excellent one. He agrees with its fundamental thrust of transformative excellence. Plans are not engraved in concrete and may be subject to minor adjustments and modifications in light of changing circumstances. He also commented that as the university has transformed, we have also grown in size, despite diminished funding. We estimate that if the State is to achieve its target of a 40,000-enrollment increase, we will be in the range of a 4,000 increase. This increase is not focused entirely on traditional freshman students. Many of the new enrollees may be community college transfers or career professionals. He clearly stated his commitment to only move towards this increase if full funding was provided.

Senator Miletich, Undergraduate, College of Arts & Humanities, asked the President to elaborate on the importance of the arts and humanities.

President Loh responded that he felt the arts and humanities are very important. He is working to raise the visibility for public funding for the arts and humanities. He noted that over the past 15-20 years, the budgets of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the National Science Foundation (NSF) have doubled but the budget for the National Endowments for the Humanities and Arts have declined by one third. It is not all about sciences and technology; it is also about who we are as people. Trying to understand our past, illuminate the present, and shape the future. We have to bring in the insights and perspectives of history, economics, literature, and the arts to that endeavor. All of these disciplines are part of the university family.

Senator Marinelli, Staff, College of Behavioral and Social Sciences, asked the President about his thoughts on our commitment to retaining and graduating our students.

President Loh responded that President Obama and Governor O'Malley have framed the issue in terms of college of completion, attainment, and producing graduates. Our country lags behind many others in terms of educational attainment. We need to do more to keep our top students within the state. Expanding access does not have to mean diminishing quality. Our goal should never be to lower our standards but to enable students to reach those standards. We need to provide increased opportunity without reducing quality.

Senator Bedford, Non-Voting Ex-Officio, President of the Graduate Student Government (GSG), stated that graduate students feel like a disposable labor force because of a lack of commitment to long-term funding. We have a less than fifty percent completion rate for students attaining their PhD within ten years. She asked the President if he has plans to address that and a way to support graduate students.

President Loh responded that proper support for our graduate students is absolutely important. The University is already taking steps towards that. We are ensuring that programs are right-sized so that we can ensure appropriate funding. We need to prepare our graduate students to become future leaders, researchers, and teachers. The prolonged period to PhD is an issue being debated across the country. He stated that it is not just an issue of funding but also the curriculum and demands that we make on our students. It is a complex issue but one that we are all addressing.

Senator Mar, Faculty, College of Arts & Humanities, asked what the President thought about making the bridge between community college and our University more special for transfer students.

President Loh responded that the key for our students is to shrink the psychological size of our University. The literature suggests that creating a small college experience in the context of a big research university is a key to retention and graduation. For those in their late twenties to mid thirties with families, it is a different situation. The challenge for us is to consider new ways of educating them, possibly through a hybrid curriculum of online and face-to-face interaction. It is just not about numbers but rather transforming how we deliver education to a different demographic.

Senator Xie, Undergraduate, Clark College of Engineering, introduced Matthew Popkin, Director of Sustainability for the SGA. Popkin asked if the President had any comments about the Climate Action Plan and his level of commitment to that plan.

President Loh stated that environmental sustainability is one of the grand challenges of the twenty-first century. Our current use of oil is unsustainable. We need to consider all aspects of environmental neutrality because we will run out of clean water before oil. How we address these issues is central to the mission of a research university. We are at the forefront of research on energy. This challenge must be approached not only by engineering and science perspectives but they also implicate issues of values, culture, and social justice.

Chair Mabbs thanked President Loh for addressing the Senate. She stated that we all look forward to working with him on our journey of transforming this institution to a higher level of excellence.

New Business

There was no new business.

Adjournment

Senate Chair Mabbs adjourned the meeting at 4:43 p.m.