



# UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

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## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Kenneth G. Holum  
Chair of the University Senate

**From:** C. D. Mote, Jr.  
President

**Date:** April 21, 2009

**Subject:** Proposal to Discontinue Invocation at Commencement

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After careful reflection, I have decided to continue our current tradition with respect to the invocation at commencement, thus not endorsing the University Senate's April 15<sup>th</sup> recommendation on this issue.

For many people, a prayer, an expression of gratitude, or a moment of reflection is an important part of our commencement tradition. A great many people who participate in our ceremonies either embrace this tradition or are willing to allow others who value it to have it as part of their ceremony.

I thank the Senate Human Relations Committee, the Senate Executive Committee and the University Senate for their thoughtful review and deliberation of this proposal.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. D. Mote, Jr.", written over a horizontal line.

C. D. Mote, Jr.  
President

Date: 4/22/09