



## Proposal on Support for Students Dealing with Difficult Life Conditions

**TO** John Bertot, Associate Provost for Faculty Affairs, Office of Faculty Affairs  
William Cohen, Dean, Office of Undergraduate Studies  
Steve Fetter, Dean, Graduate School

**FROM** Christopher Walsh, Chair

**DATE** April 3, 2019

The Senate Executive Committee (SEC) reviewed the attached proposal entitled, ***Proposal on Support for Students Dealing with Difficult Life Conditions (Senate Document #18-19-21)***, at its meeting on November 16, 2018. SEC members discussed the proposal at length. They raised concerns about whether there were policy implications associated with the proposal. Specifically, SEC members suggested that the concerns raised in the proposal may be indicative of a lack of resources and a lack of awareness of existing resources available to students and faculty, rather than a lack of policy protections for students. The SEC determined that developing better awareness of existing policies and resources for students is needed. In addition, the SEC agreed that providing support for faculty who are considering ways to assist and accommodate students may create better outcomes for students who face difficulties.

The SEC formally requests that representatives of the Office of Faculty Affairs, Office of Undergraduate Studies, and the Graduate School develop a comprehensive strategy to help raise awareness of available resources and existing policies for students facing a variety of difficult circumstances. In addition, the SEC requests that representatives from these units compile and/or develop best practices for faculty as a resource to help them better understand how to address a variety of situations involving students. We ask that you inform the SEC of the results of this review and any actions taken as a result. If you have any questions about this request, please contact Ms. Reka Montfort at x55805 or [reka@umd.edu](mailto:reka@umd.edu).