



Senate Newsletter

NOTES FROM THE SENATE MEETING

At the December 9, 2015 Senate meeting, President Loh talked about the importance of affirmative action and diversity on campus and provided an overview of the upcoming legislative session in Annapolis in his presidential briefing.

The Senate voted to approve the Nominations Committee slate (Senate Doc. No. 15-16-14). The Nominations Committee is responsible for developing nominations for the Executive Committee, Chair-Elect, the Committee on Committees, and other University committees and councils. The Senate also voted on two proposals from the Programs, Curricula, and Courses (PCC) Committee. The Senate approved a proposal to Rename of the Master of Library Science degree to the Master of Library and Information Science (Senate Doc. No. 15-16-13), as well as a proposal to Establish a Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Digital Studies in the Arts and Humanities (Senate Doc. No. 15-16-12). In addition, the Senate also approved a Revision to the Senate Bylaws to add Visiting Faculty to the existing Part-Time Professional Track Faculty Single-Member Constituency (Senate Doc. No. 15-16-15). Lastly, the Senate discussed the Revision of the Undergraduate Student Grievance Procedure (Senate Doc. No. 14-15-22) and voted to recommit the proposal to the Educational Affairs Committee for further consideration.



The Senate is one of the largest and most influential governing bodies on campus.

University Senate = Shared Governance. Faculty, staff, students, and administrators work together to better our University.

The Senate debates and votes on policy-related issues and other governing aspects of the University. The Senate directly advises the University President.



"Working on Senate committees has afforded me the opportunity to work with a wonderful and diverse group of faculty, staff, and students to strive to make this university the best that it can be. I enjoy having a say in our evolution, and I appreciate the opportunity to voice my opinion and thoughts as we figure out how to best move forward."

- Lee Friedman

Faculty Member and Member of the Campus Affairs Committee

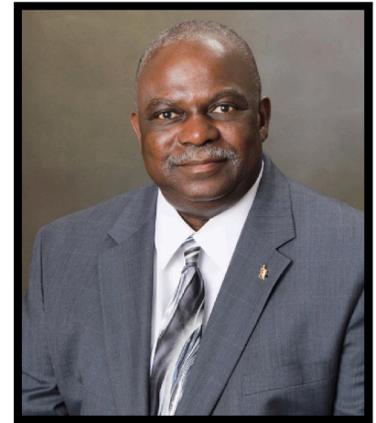
Committee News

The Academic Procedures and Standards (APAS) Committee is continuing its work on the Proposed Policy on Excused Absence. The Elections, Representation, and Governance (ERG) Committee is reviewing a number of College Plans of Organization. The Campus Affairs Committee is considering whether UMD should establish a weapons policy. The Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Committee is reviewing the Interim University of Maryland Non-Discrimination and Disability & Accessibility Policies & Procedures and is continuing its work on a charge related to Policies and Procedures Governing Preferred/Primary Names and Sex/Gender Markers in University Databases. In addition, the Staff Affairs Committee is actively reviewing the campus nominations for the USM Board of Regents Staff Awards.



From the Senate Chair

During the fall 2015 semester, the Senate accomplished many things. The Senate has approved multiple changes to University policies and procedures in our recent meetings, including a revision to the Credit for Prior Learning Policy and establishment of procedures for the University's Automated External Defibrillator Program (AED). The Senate has also given feedback on proposed revisions to the Intellectual Property Policy and the Undergraduate Grievance Procedure so that they can be brought back for final approval in the coming months. Our Senate Committees have been conducting research and engaging in complex discussions to move forward on their many charges. For instance, the ERG Committee developed a new apportionment for the Senate to align with the new constituency guidelines in the revised Plan of Organization and Senate Bylaws. The committee's work is being implemented now, and new Senators will be elected in the spring to fulfill the Senate's new representation structure. Meanwhile, the PCC Committee has reviewed and approved over twenty proposals for curricular changes at its four meetings this semester. In addition, the Faculty Affairs Committee has been meeting with administrators and discussing issues related to its charges on salary equity and faculty leave policies.



This fall, we initiated a new framework for engagement amongst the Senate, the President, the Senior Vice President and Provost, and the administration, and we are moving forward on a path towards improving shared governance at the University. This semester, we initiated a new Presidential Briefing at each Senate meeting that allows the President to provide his perspective on specific topics suggested by Senators. In addition, the SEC has been engaging more directly with the administration including holding a retreat with the President's Cabinet and meetings with the Provost and the chair of the Flagship 2020 Commission. I am pleased by the progress we have already made in building our new framework for shared governance this semester, and I look forward to continuing our work in the spring.

I wish you all a wonderful and happy holiday season!

Willie Brown

A handwritten signature of Willie Brown in blue ink, written in a cursive style.

Senate Elections

The University Senate Office holds elections through the [Senate website](#) each year to fill staff, student, and single-member constituency vacancies on the Senate. Staff Senators will serve a three-year term, and student Senators and Senators representing single-member constituencies will serve a one-year term. Senators representing full-time tenured/tenure-track (T/TT) faculty and professional track (PTK) faculty also serve three-year terms and are elected by each College or School.

This year, the Senate is adding new seats to the Senate to align with recent changes to the [University of Maryland Plan of Organization for Shared Governance](#) approved by the Senate and the President in spring 2015. The revisions to the Plan made a number of changes to Senate constituencies including the establishment of professional track faculty representation at the College/School level. These changes required the [ERG Committee](#) to conduct a reapportionment of the Senate, which was completed in November 2015.

This year, ten graduate student Senators will be elected at-large, and undergraduate students will elect one Senator for every 1,000 eligible students in each College or School. Exempt and Non-Exempt staff will elect new Senators according to the new representation structure, which provides separate representation for exempt and non-exempt staff from Divisions and exempt and non-exempt staff from the Colleges and Schools. New Senators to represent single-member constituencies will also be elected in the following categories:

- part-time research, part-time teaching, adjunct, and all visiting faculty
- emeritus faculty
- head coaches
- post-doctoral scholars, post-doctoral associates, junior lecturers, and faculty assistants
- contingent II staff
- part-time undergraduate students
- part-time graduate students

The Senate elections are your opportunity to choose who you want to represent you on the largest governing body at the University of Maryland. Eligible campus community members will receive information via email on the candidacy and elections processes, and we invite you to run for the Senate and vote in the Senate elections! Please visit the [Senate website](#) for more information on how to run for the Senate or vote in Senate elections. Thank you for your continued interest in shared governance at the University of Maryland!

Senate Election Schedule

January 19 – February 5, 2016: Sign Up to Run for the Senate

February 22 – March 4, 2016: Vote for Senators to Represent You



SUBMIT A PROPOSAL TO THE SENATE

Any member of the campus community may submit a proposal to the University Senate to review University policies* and procedures or to suggest the creation and establishment of new ones. To submit an idea or proposal to the Senate, click on a link below to download a blank proposal form in Word or as a PDF.

[Proposal Form \(Word Version\)](#)

[Proposal Form \(PDF Version\)](#)

[Sample Proposal](#)

* A manual of current University policies can be found at:
<http://www.president.umd.edu/policies>

SPRING 2016 SENATE MEETINGS

Thursday, February 11, 2016

Wednesday, March 9, 2016

Thursday, April 7, 2016

Wednesday, April 20, 2016

Thursday, May 5, 2016 – Transition Meeting

Photos provided by:

John T. Consoli/University of Maryland and University Senate



CURRENT SENATE LEGISLATION

[Policies and Procedures Governing Preferred/Primary Names and Sex/Gender Markers in University Databases](#)

[Senate Document 14-15-03](#)

[Proposed Policy on Excused Absence](#)

[Senate Document 14-15-21](#)

[Suggested Revision to the Academic Clemency Policy](#)

[Senate Document 14-15-29](#)

[Review of Faculty Leave Policies](#)

[Senate Document 14-15-31](#)

[Review of Interim University of Maryland Non-Discrimination and Disability & Accessibility Policies & Procedures](#)

[Senate Document 15-16-08](#)

Click on any legislation item above for more details. To view all Senate Legislation: [Click Here](#)