Senate Newsletter

NOTES FROM THE SENATE MEETING

At the <u>December 6, 2016 Senate Meeting</u>, President Loh gave his annual State of the Campus address. He acknowledged the importance of shared governance and thanked Senators for their service in the Senate. He spoke about transformative excellence and impact in three areas: excellence of students and faculty, research and economic innovation, and diversity and inclusion. President Loh noted that UMD has received record applications, students are coming to UMD extremely well-prepared, and faculty diversity is increasing. There are numerous interdisciplinary centers on campus and an increase in research funding and joint appointments. The revitalization of College Park is continuing to thrive and contribute to economic development. President Loh also discussed how UMD is committed to a safe and supportive environment for all students.

The Senate voted to approve the <u>PCC Proposal to Create a Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Nonprofit Management and Leadership</u> and the <u>2016–2017 Nominations Committee Slate</u>.

The Senate also voted to approve <u>a resolution</u> reaffirming the University's core principles and values.

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.**

Growing up in Laurel, it was always a dream to go to University of Maryland. Instead of taking the traditional route and going to college directly after high school, I decided to join the U.S Navy. After serving for nine and a half years, I decided that it was time to go back to school. As a veteran, I felt that just being an undergraduate student at University of Maryland was not enough, and was very thankful and excited to be chosen to serve as a member of the Student Conduct Committee. While working with the SCC for the last year and a half, I have helped to update the school's sexual misconduct policy and look forward to continue working on charges of the committee.

–Christopher Rand, Student Conduct Committee Member

From the Senate Chair

The presidential campaign and recent election have shaken many members of our community. In recent weeks, students, faculty, and staff have raised concerns about the potential impact on the University and its community. The Senate, as a body that represents faculty, staff, and students, should address those concerns by reaffirming our core principles and values. The election has brought issues to the forefront that many of us are not used to talking about. Previously, we thought we could rely on our elected leaders to move our country (albeit slowly) toward the kind of society we wanted. Many of us believed that racism, misogyny, homophobia, xenophobia, and religious prejudice were inexorably fading from our society. Of course, many of us are not members of the marginalized groups who are abused and affected by these prejudices, but people in those groups were always acutely aware that these issues were still lying underground in polite company. It has been easy for many of us to sit back and convince ourselves that we live on a campus, or in a state, or even in a country where we can rely on our leaders alone to keep progress moving, but the reality is that progress can only come if all of us work collectively towards these goals. We need to recognize the importance of our voice and action in the process.

We may strongly support our campus president for his stand on DACA as well as his support of marginalized groups, but the burden of progress is not his alone. We must stand up and we must be prepared to act whether on campus or within the state or as part of a national movement. When anyone's rights are diminished, all of our rights are threatened.

However, it is also easy to vilify people who voted differently than we did. It is easy for us to say that if someone cast their vote for the "other" candidate that they must believe the worst of everything that candidate or their supporters stand for. Most of us live and work in an environment with a majority of like-minded individuals. We often do not know people with viewpoints and experiences that are vastly different from our own. A university is a place where all points of view should be freely and respectfully debated so it is important for our campus community to uphold that principle. It is critical that we speak out, but it is also essential to listen.

Still we must recognize that the current situation has left some in our community feeling threatened. We should be aware of the campus resources that are available to members of our campus community in need of help so that we can support them. The university provides confidential support services, including counseling, through the Counseling Center, the Faculty Staff Assistance Program, and the University Chaplains. In addition, incidents of bias or discrimination can be reported to the Office of Civil Rights and Sexual Misconduct or the University of Maryland Police Department.

It is likely that there will be significant changes in the future that will affect us all. Changes to federal laws and regulations, as well as, major shifts in funding from the federal government may affect us in many ways. While some of these changes may be positive, others may well have devastating consequences, particularly for some members of our community. We, as representatives of the students, faculty and staff should be alert to the impact that these changes may have and be willing to both speak up and speak out. If there is a lesson I see from this election, it is that we all need to step up and get involved. It is imperative that we pay attention to what is going on around us and impacting our institution, our colleagues, our community, and even our nation. Maybe it will be alerting your colleagues to the issues affecting your constituencies; maybe it will be going to Washington or Annapolis to talk with your representatives; maybe it will involve you stepping up to support the causes you feel strongly about by volunteering or providing financial support. As a first step, the University Senate passed a resolution emphasizing the University's core values and principles, which is <u>available on the Senate website</u>.

Jordan Goodman

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. New 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, 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. Staff members will elect new Senators to replace those with terms ending in April 2017 in the categories of 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!
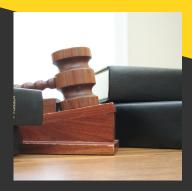
Senate Election Schedule

January 17 – February 3, 2017: Sign Up to Run for the Senate

February 20 – March 3, 2017: 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/administration/policies

Spring Senate Meetings

Thursday, February 9, 2017- PG Room

Wednesday, March 8, 2017- Atrium

Thursday, April 6, 2017- Colony Ballroom

Wednesday, April 19, 2017- Atrium

Thursday, May 4, 2017- Colony Ballroom

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

Clarification and Codification on Declining Honor Pledge

Senate Document 15-16-31

Restricted Research

Senate Document 16-17-06

Use of Visiting Faculty Titles for Professional Track Faculty Appointments

Senate Document 15-16-17

Code of Student Conduct Revision

Senate Document 16-17-08

Click on any legislation item above for more details. To view all Senate Legislation: Click Here