



Senate Newsletter

NOTES FROM THE SENATE MEETING

At the March 9, 2016 Senate meeting, Chair-Elect Goodman reported that the Nominations Committee is still looking for Senators to run for the elected committees and councils.

Robert L. Caret, Chancellor, University System of Maryland (USM) addressed the Senate. He spoke about the importance of higher education, shared governance, and noted the strength of the System. Caret mentioned the University of Maryland Strategic Partnership Act of 2016 (SB1052) and noted that it would be good for the University and the System. He also provided a summary of the current legislative session in Annapolis and the budget.

The Senate considered two proposals regarding the IT Council section of the Senate Bylaws. The two focused on adding a representative from the University Libraries (Senate Doc. No. 15-16-18) and the Chair of the IT Security Advisory Committee to the IT Council. (Senate Doc. No. 15-16-04). Both proposals passed.

The Senate also considered a report on Faculty Salary Inequities (Senate Doc. No. 12-13-50) from the Faculty Affairs Committee. After two amendments and discussion from Senators, the report passed as amended.

Lastly, the Senate passed a resolution in support of SB1052.



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.



Serving on the Senate and its committees has offered me insight into how a university can share governance in an equitable manner. I have gained exposure to university leadership and the great variety of work happening across the Colleges. I encourage all students to reach out to their Senator, volunteer for committees and consider running for Senate.

– Kevin Fitzgerald

Graduate Student Senator, Senate Executive Committee Member, Senate Elections, Representation, & Governance (ERG) Committee Member

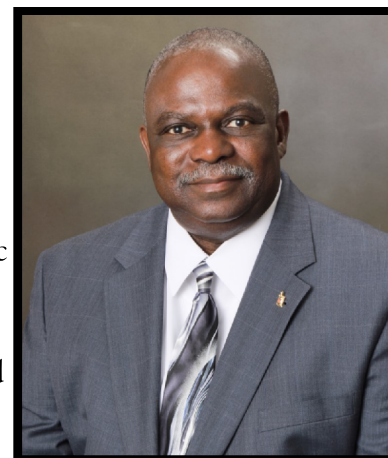
Committee News

The Academic Procedures and Standard (APAS) Committee has just completed its work on the Suggested Revision to the Academic Clemency Policy, and is currently reviewing the Proposed Policy on Excused Absence. The Elections, Representation, and Governance (ERG) Committee is continuing its work on the review of several College and School Plans of Organization. The Nominations Committee is continuing its work for the Spring semester, which includes selecting Senators to be nominated for Senate-elected committees and councils. The Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Committee is continuing to review the Policies and Procedures Governing Preferred/Primary Names and Sex/Gender Markers in University Databases, as well as the Interim Policies and Procedures on Non-Discrimination and Accessibility and Disability. In addition, the Faculty Affairs Committee is working on its charge on a Review of Faculty Leave Policies and the Educational Affairs Committee is continuing to review the Undergraduate Student Grievance Procedure.



From the Senate Chair

One of our goals for improving shared governance this year has been increased engagement between the campus community and the Senate. Recently, the Senate hosted two forums, which provided opportunities for questions and comments on major issues affecting the future of UMD. The first forum was held on February 18, 2016 to discuss the Draft Strategic Plan Update. Provost Rankin provided a brief overview and several members of the campus community commented regarding the importance of the humanities, the need for greater staff recognition and support, and a variety of other concerns. Comments from Senators and campus community members will help shape the final draft of the update, which will return to the Senate for a vote.



The second forum was held on March 3, 2016 regarding the University of Maryland Strategic Partnership Act of 2016 (SB 1052), which codifies into law a stronger partnership between our University and the University of Maryland Baltimore. At the forum, President Loh provided a brief overview, answered questions submitted from the campus community through an online survey, and took additional questions from the audience on what the proposed partnership means for research, education, and employment.

Through these open forums, the Senate has served as a conduit between the campus community and the administration and has provided opportunities for faculty, staff, and students to have a voice in decisions that will shape the future of the University. Open communication and shared perspectives move our institution forward, and it is encouraging to see the administration and the Senate working together in this way.

The Senate discusses a wide variety of topics that affect the entire campus. A number of important issues will be coming to the Senate floor in April. It is our hope that Senators will continue to reach out to their constituents and that all members of the University community see the Senate as a place to directly impact University policy.

Willie Brown

A handwritten signature of Willie Brown in blue ink.

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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>

UPCOMING MEETINGS

3/21/2016: SEC Meeting

3/22/2016: [EDI Meeting](#)

3/22/2016: [Campus Affairs Meeting](#)

3/24/2016: [Staff Affairs Meeting](#)

3/24/2016: [ERG Meeting](#)

3/24/2016: [APAS Meeting](#)

3/24/2016: [Faculty Affairs Meeting](#)

3/25/2016: [SCC Meeting](#)

3/30/2016: [Student Affairs Meeting](#)

4/1/2016: [PCC Meeting](#)

4/7/2016: [Senate Meeting](#)

CURRENT SENATE LEGISLATION

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

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

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

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

[Proposed Policy on Excused Absence](#)

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

[Revision of the University of Maryland Undergraduate Student Grievance Procedure](#)

[Senate Document 14-15-22](#)

[Review of Faculty Leave Policies](#)
[Senate Document 14-15-31](#)

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

Photos provided by:

John T. Consoli/University of Maryland and University Senate

