



# Senate E-newsletter

*Discover the University Senate*

## Notes from the October Senate Meeting

At the October 10, 2013 Senate meeting, the Senate voted in favor of the **Joint President/Senate Sexual Harassment Policies & Procedures Task Force's** report on the **Review of the University of Maryland Policies and Procedures on Sexual Harassment**. The report recommended changes in the areas of policy, procedures, communication, and training pertaining to sexual misconduct at the University. The Senate added an amendment to page 14 of the report, regarding required training for all students. More information about the Task Force's process is

available on page 2 of this e-newsletter. The Senate is currently beginning the review process for the University's Plan of Organization, and held elections for the **Plan of Organization Review Committee (PORC)** at the Senate meeting. More details about the review process and the membership of the committee can be found **here**. The Senate also heard a special order presentation from Peter Weiler, Vice President of University Relations, on the Capital Campaign and new fundraising initiatives (additional information available on page 2).



*The Senate is one of the largest and most powerful 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.*



"The Senate is a diverse shared governance body representing OUR Maryland.

In my first year, I was blown away at how open and uninhibited the sessions were. We are an intellectual community built on hard work and opportunity with a contagious urge to be innovative."

**-Missy Meharg, Head Coach Senator**

*Photo courtesy of Maryland Athletics*



**Peter Weiler**  
Vice President,  
University Relations

***“There are good Universities with resources, but there are no great Universities without resources.” – Peter Weiler***

**A**t the October 10, 2013 Senate meeting Peter Weiler, Vice President for University Relations, discussed the recently completed Capital Campaign and announced the upcoming Fearless Ideas Initiative, a two-year campaign highlighting the inspiration, curiosity, boldness, and passion of the Terrapin spirit. The University raised over one billion dollars during the recently completed seven-year Capital Campaign, with over 90 percent of donations given by individuals. By developing strong relationships with individuals and encouraging donor involvement in the University community, the Division of University Relations plans to increase donations to two hundred million dollars per year. Vice President Weiler noted that aligning the fundraising agenda with the University Strategic Plan is a key to success in University giving. After working with deans to identify what makes the University of Maryland an excellent research institution, Vice President Weiler plans to highlight the University’s unique contributions to research and innovation in the upcoming Fearless Ideas Initiative.

## **The Review of the University of Maryland Policies and Procedures on Sexual Harassment**

**T**he **Joint President/Senate Sexual Harassment Policies & Procedures Task Force** was charged with reviewing the University’s policies and procedures on sexual misconduct and determining whether and how they could be improved to comport with prevailing best practices.

The Task Force consulted with key representatives on campus about the procedures for handling cases. The Task Force spoke with numerous departments and units in order to gather input and outlook on current practices, including how complaints of sexual misconduct are received and addressed. The Task Force also engaged two consultants to assist in the review of existing policies and to advise on best practices. The Task Force reviewed sexual misconduct policies at other universities, and particularly looked at training programs and communication methods at peer institutions.

In July, the Task Force issued interim recommendations to President Loh. In August, the Task Force approved its final recommendations. The Task Force recommended change in four areas: policy, procedures, communication, and training. Over the summer, the University’s existing policies and procedures on sexual harassment and sexual assault were substantially revised by University legal counsel in consultation with the Task Force. The University Senate approved the Task Force’s recommendations, including the interim policy on sexual misconduct, on October 10, 2013.



The **Campus Affairs Committee** is discussing how to address its annual charge to gather community input on campus safety and security issues. The **ERG Committee** is reviewing revisions to the **Plans of Organization for the College of Computer, Natural, & Mathematical Sciences (CMNS)** and the **College of Education (EDUC)**. The **Student Conduct Committee** will be discussing the **Academic Integrity Tutorial** with James Bond, Assistant Director of the Office of Student Conduct, at its next meeting. The **Committee**



## Committee News



**on Committees** is currently creating a slate of candidates for the incoming **Nominations Committee**, which will solicit nominees for next year's **Senate Executive Committee (SEC)**, and other important positions, during the spring semester.

## From the Senate Chair

At our last Senate meeting we witnessed the completion of one of the more important cooperative endeavors between the President's Office and the Senate in recent memory: the report of the joint task force that examined the policies pertaining to sexual harassment and sexual assault. Now consolidated under the new Sexual Misconduct Policy, this collaboration represents shared governance at its finest. From the onset, the President's Office engaged the Senate in contributing to the review of the university's policies, procedures, and training programs. The result is a strong endorsement by the Senate membership of a new policy, refined procedures, and an all-encompassing training program that the administration can implement expeditiously.

The campus community owes a considerable debt of gratitude to Cindi Hale, Associate Vice President for Personnel and Budget, who led the task force with great determination for over a year and shepherded its recommendations through the Senate process. Absent her leadership, it is hard to imagine these efforts coming to a timely and successful conclusion. I would also like to personally applaud the efforts of the entire task force, the administration, and the Senate for creating and approving a policy that appropriately reflects the needs of our entire campus community. –Senate Chair, Vincent Novara

### Upcoming Meetings

10/18/13: SCC Mtg

10/21/13: Staff Affairs Mtg

10/28/13: Gen. Ed. Mtg

10/30/13: SEC Mtg

11/01/13: PCC Mtg

11/05/13: EDI Mtg

11/6/13: Campus Affairs Mtg

For a complete schedule  
[Click Here](#)

# Submit a Proposal to the Senate

## ***Current Senate Legislation:***

### **Revisions to the College of Education (EDUC) Plan of Organization**

Senate Document 13-14-05

### **Consideration of an Overall Title for Non-Tenure Track Faculty**

Senate Document 12-13-56

### **Providing a Unified Framework for Non-Tenure Track Faculty**

Senate Document 12-13-55

### **Review of Civility in the UMD Workplace Environment**

Senate Document 12-13-54

### **Review of Faculty Salary Inequities**

Senate Document 12-13-50

### **An Assessment of Shared Governance at the University of Maryland**

Senate Document 12-13-39

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

**A**ny member of the campus community may submit a proposal to the University Senate to review University policies<sup>★</sup> 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 here: <http://www.president.umd.edu/policies>

## **Contact Us**

### **Senate Office**

1100 Marie Mount Hall  
College Park, Maryland 20742-7541

301-405-5805 (Tel)  
301-405-5749 (Fax)  
[senate-admin@umd.edu](mailto:senate-admin@umd.edu)