NOTES FROM THE SENATE MEETING

At the October 6, 2016, Senate Meeting, Chair Goodman reported that the President’s State of the Campus Address had been rescheduled to the December 6th Senate Meeting. He encouraged all outgoing Senators to volunteer for the Nominations Committee. He also announced that the Staff Affairs Committee would be accepting nominations for the Board of Regents’ Staff Awards until November 18th.

The Senate reviewed the Underrepresented and Diverse Faculty Hiring Initiatives report (Senate Doc. No. 16-17-07). Senators discussed the President’s Postdoctoral Fellowship Program and the Senior Strategic Faculty Hires initiatives separately. The Senate voted to approve both initiatives.

Robert Dooling, Chair of the IP Policy Subcommittee, gave a brief history of the IP policy and provided an update on how the subcommittee is addressing the concerns raised by the Senate last year. Catherine Carroll, Title IX Officer, spoke about the University’s Title IX framework, the work of the Office of Civil Rights & Sexual Misconduct during the last academic year, and the results of the 2016 UMD Sexual Assault Climate Survey. 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.

"Bringing a controversial policy revision to the Senate gave me a deep appreciation for the diverse perspectives of the various constituencies. Our committee ended the year successfully with the knowledge that we had consulted widely, seen the issues through the eyes of the many constituents, and created broad consensus for our proposed policy revision."

–Madlen Simon
Past Faculty Senator and Committee Chair
Representative for the Council of University System Faculty
From the Senate Chair

From September 28–30th, Senate Director Reka Montfort, Past Chair Willie Brown, and I attended the Big Ten Academic Alliance (BTAA) Governance Leaders Conference at Michigan State University. We had the opportunity to meet with governance leaders from all of the Big Ten institutions and engaged in meaningful discussion on communication methods, the future of the BTAA, the Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics, and current NCAA discussions regarding student–athletes and academic integrity. We participated in breakout sessions on governance structures, the role of governance in campus planning, reward/recognition systems to ensure involvement, and general governance best practices.

At this meeting, I realized just how unique the University Senate is. Most of the Big Ten institutions only have a Faculty Senate. Those that do have a University Senate are spread out over multiple campuses, have very limited staff and student representation, and exclude Deans. We have specific responsibilities under the Plan of Organization for Shared Governance including advising the President, receiving and considering recommendations from the President and consulting with the campus community on all matters of concern, submitting proposals to improve the quality of campus life, and formulating and recommending to the President policies relating to education, research, and administration. It is our responsibility to engage in these matters and you, as Senators, should feel empowered to raise concerns for the betterment of the University.

Jordan Goodman

Committee News

The Elections, Representation, & Governance (ERG) Committee is reviewing the representation of ombuds officers on Senate Committees and several College Plans of Organization. The Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion (EDI) Committee continues to review the Policies and Procedures Governing Preferred/Primary Names and Sex/Gender Markers in University Databases. The Student Conduct Committee was recently charged with the Code of Student Conduct Revision. The Faculty Affairs Committee is reviewing the use of visiting faculty titles and merit pay policy information for professional track faculty. The Educational Affairs Committee continues to review the Clarification and Codification on Declining Honor Pledge. In addition, the Committee on Committees will meet this month to consider candidates for the Nominations Committee. The Nominations Committee slate will be voted on at the December 6th Senate Meeting.
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The most prestigious system-wide recognition for exceptional staff members

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Winners receive a $2,000 stipend

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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/administration/policies

Upcoming Meetings

ERG Committee- 10/18/16
Senate Executive Committee- 10/19/16
Educational Affairs Committee- 10/20/16
Faculty Affairs Committee- 10/24/16
EDI Committee- 10/24/16
Senate Meeting- 11/2/16

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

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John T. Consoli/University of Maryland and University Senate