Senate Newsletter

NOTES FROM THE SENATE MEETING

At the September 10, 2015 Senate meeting, President Loh gave welcoming remarks and reflected on the importance of shared governance. The Senate reviewed the 2014–2015 Legislation Log as an informational item and approved the 2015–2016 Committee and Council Slates. Willie Brown, Chair of the Senate, outlined 17 procedures of shared governance, which include President Loh providing a briefing at every Senate meeting, providing summary slides after each meeting, increased participation with the Deans, more effective interaction between the Senate, the Student Government Association, and the Graduate Student Government, and encouraging Senators to act as conduits to the campus community. Reka Montfort, Executive Secretary and Director, gave an orientation on Senator responsibilities and our principles of shared governance. Provost Rankin provided an overview of the Strategic Plan update process. She informed the Senate that a survey is available to collect feedback from the campus community, a draft update to the Strategic Plan will be available soon, and the Senate will consider the Strategic Plan Update at the February 2016 meeting.

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.
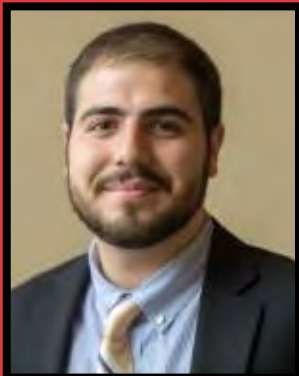
"In my first year serving on the Senate and Student Affairs Committee, I had an amazing opportunity to learn and weigh in on extremely important aspects of our campus policy. Now in my second term serving on the Senate and first term as a member of the Senate Executive Committee, I have had the fortune of working with high ranking officials, including President Loh and Provost Rankin, where the thoughts of my constituents are directly heard and taken into consideration. This is a testament to our effective system of shared governance and this is just one small reason why being active in the Senate has been an extremely rewarding experience for me."

– Ian Chambers

Graduate Student Senator and Member of the Senate Executive Committee

From the Senate Chair

In August of this year, I and several governance leaders received an email from the President of the Faculty Senate at Northwestern University asking about Shared Governance. One specific question was: "What advice might you have for one to advocate for it/advance it at his/her University?" I sent the following response:

1. Always keep in mind and practice the fact that administrators are human also.

   a. They have fears about having their hands tied if they share too much power/influence:

      i. They fear the above may impair their ability to rapidly respond to urgent issues

      ii. They fear having to always get approval and/or consensus will undermine the ability to take advantage of opportunities and improvements in operations

      iii. They fear faculty does not always look at the larger, holistic picture of running an enterprise

   b. They have an entire institution to administer which includes:

      i. Faculty, staff, students, parents, visitor safety, etc.

      ii. Facilities – buildings, roads, network, technology, ongoing maintenance and enhancements, etc.

      iii. External stakeholders – federal, state, local government, local community (laws, policies, and POLITICS), alumni

      iv. Competing budget priorities

      v. Reputation

      vi. Global competition

2. Make your Senate a partner with the administration. Most senates have traditionally fallen into the trap of "us vs. them". That is a lose-lose proposition

   a. Work with the administration to address problems, not just complain about them

   b. Become a partner they look forward to discussing important long term strategic issues with

   c. Have a protocol in place to allow the administration to discuss more urgent immediate issues that are sensitive in nature with the Senate Leadership

Administrators are humans that care deeply for the institution, but are often demonized and talked about versus talked to and worked with. Work to reduce their fears of having their authority and ability to respond rapidly to changing climates tied to an overly bureaucratic process. Work to ensure they feel you are a partner and not an obstacle. Work to make them want to work with you.

At the first Senate meeting of this fall, we highlighted some of the procedures and processes we will utilize moving forward. The President presented welcoming remarks, and we acknowledged the faculty and staff Board of Regents Awardees. We received 8 of the possible 25 awards. The meeting ended with Provost Rankin, who gave an overview of the process for updating the 2008 Strategic Plan.

On the Senate website, you will find summary slides from the meeting. We need you to distribute the slides to your constituents.

On September 16, 2015, there was a retreat with the Senate Executive Committee and the President's Cabinet. I would like to thank the Past Senate Chairs for their attendance and active, supportive, and candid engagement – Donald Webster (2014–2015), Vincent Novara (2013–2014), Martha Nell Smith (2012–2013), Linda Mabbs (2010–2011) and Elise Miller-Hooks (2009–2010). Past Chair Eric Kasischke (2011–2012) could not attend due to other commitments, but sent his full support via email. In addition, I want to thank President Loh, Provost Rankin, the President's Cabinet, and the representative from Intercollegiate Athletics for their attendance and engagement at the retreat.

We are on the right path to improving shared governance. We have great members on our Senate, and it is now up to us to ensure that we will be at the table and involved in the decision making process through effective shared governance. We must make sure that we offer informed advice to the administration that represents the opinion, cares, concerns, and suggestions of our constituents. We rely on senators to read the materials before coming to the meeting and be prepared to actively participate and discuss items on the floor of the Senate.

With your active participation, we will provide the administration with the collective input of the campus community that will help them make the most balanced and informed decisions possible. With your support, we will continue moving forward as one of the best universities in the nation.

Communication, Inclusiveness, Transparency, Engagement, Awareness, (building towards) Trust!

Be Fearless

Willie Brown

Committee News

The Senate standing committees will start the 2015–2016 academic year with multiple active charges, many of which will be finalized and sent forward to the full Senate this year.

- The Academic Procedures & Standards (APAS) Committee is conducting a Review of the Interim University of Maryland Policy and Procedures Concerning Credit for Prior Learning and is considering a Proposed Policy on Excused Absence.
- The Campus Affairs Committee is working on a charge related to the University's Public Access Automated External Defibrillator Program.
- The Educational Affairs Committee is revising expectations of faculty as noted in the University of Maryland Undergraduate Student Grievance Procedure and will be reviewing its new responsibilities related to the General Education Program.
- The Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion (EDI) Committee is considering changes to Policies and Procedures Governing Preferred/Primary Names and Sex/Gender Markers in University Databases.
- The Elections, Representation, & Governance Committee is working on calculating a new Apportionment of the University Senate and will be reviewing various Plans of Organization from Colleges and Schools this year.
- The Faculty Affairs Committee is reviewing the Interim Sexual Misconduct Faculty Procedures and is conducting a Review of Faculty Leave Policies.
- The Programs, Curricula, & Courses (PCC) Committee reviews proposals for changes to academic programs, and for creating or discontinuing courses or programs at the University. The committee will meet to discuss proposals once a month.
- The Staff Affairs Committee is reviewing the Interim Sexual Misconduct Policy Staff Procedures and will be facilitating the 2015–2016 Board of Regents (BOR) Staff Awards process
- The Student Affairs Committee is consulting with the Educational Affairs Committee on its charge related to the Undergraduate Student Grievance Procedure and will make recommendations to the APAS Committee on the Proposed Policy on Excused Absence.
- The Student Conduct Committee is conducting a Review of the Interim Sexual Misconduct Policy Student Procedures.

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

09/21/2015: Faculty Affairs Meeting

09/22/2015: APAS Meeting

09/25/2015: SCC Meeting

09/25/2015: Campus Affairs Meeting

09/28/2015: EDI Meeting

09/30/2015: ERG Meeting

10/02/2015: PCC Meeting

10/02/2015: Student Affairs Meeting

10/07/2015: Senate 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

Public Access Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Program
Senate Document 14-15-05

Review of Interim University of Maryland Policy and Procedures Concerning Credit for Prior Learning
Senate Document 14-15-18

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