Senate Newsletter

NOTES FROM THE SENATE MEETING

At the September 7, 2016 Senate Meeting, special elections were conducted for vacancies on the Athletic Council and the Council of University System Faculty (CUSF).

Senators reviewed reports related to Senate Candidates Contact Information Requirement (15−16−19), Consideration of a University of Maryland Weapons Policy (15−16−11), and the 2015−2016 Legislation Log (16−17−01) as informational items.

The Senate discussed the Approval of the 2016−2017 Committee and Council Slates (16−17−02), the Review of Faculty Leave Policies (14−15−31), and the PCC Proposal to Rename the Hearing and Speech Sciences Degree Program (16−17−05). Senators proposed amendments to the Faculty Leave Policies report before the Senate voted in favor of all three items.

In addition, Associate Provost Betsy Beise spoke about the Middle States Association accreditation process, Keith Marzullo informed Senators about the Research Council's work to review issues related to restricted research, and Senate Director Reka Montfort gave a Senator orientation.

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.**

"As an undergraduate, much attention is focused on going to class and extracurricular activities, but we rarely see the bigger picture in all the happenings at a University with tens of thousands of people. With the University Senate, I get to see the bigger picture in the intricacies of running such a large institution. Furthermore, I get to represent the diverse voice of the students to administration and influence policy. It is rewarding to think that we are driving change."

−Adam Berger

Undergraduate Student Senator and Chair of the Student Affairs Committee

From the Senate Chair

At the September meeting, the Senate passed some important legislation including the Review of Faculty Leave Policies. I'd like to thank the Senators for their hard work in advance of the meeting preparing thoughtful and necessary amendments. As we continue the academic year, I encourage Senators to be actively engaged in the current legislation and talk with their constituents as well as other Senators about items coming to the Senate floor. One of the ways to do this is by using a communications tool called Slack. This tool will allow Senators to collaborate with each other and ask questions about Senate documents before the meeting so that discussions on the floor are meaningful and substantive. We are piloting this now with the SEC and hope to roll it to the Senate as a whole soon. In order for us to improve University policy and shared governance on campus, we need everyone to effectively collaborate. I hope that Slack will be a way to efficiently exchange ideas and develop the best possible solutions to critical issues facing our campus community.

Jordan Goodman

Committee News

The Senate's ten standing committees are busy working on a number of issues. Some highlights include the Elections, Representation, & Governance (ERG) Committee's review of several College/School Plans of Organization, the Faculty Affairs Committee's review of the use of visiting faculty titles, and the Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion (EDI) Committee's continued review of the Policies and Procedures Governing Preferred/Primary Names and Sex/Gender Markers in University Databases. For more information about our committees, visit the committee overview page to read the Annual Summaries of Committee Activity and general committee descriptions.

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

Student Conduct Committee- 9/16/16

Senate Executive Committee- 9/27/16

ERG Committee- 9/28/16

Faculty Affairs Committee- 9/29/16

Educational Affairs Committee- 9/30/16

Campus Affairs Committee- 10/5/16

Senate Meeting- 10/6/16

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

Underrepresented and Diverse Faculty Hiring Initiatives
Senate Document 16–17–07

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