



Senate E-newsletter

Discover the University Senate

Notes from the April Senate Meeting

At the April 17, 2013 Senate meeting the Senate reviewed the **2013 Campus Safety Report** from the **Campus Affairs Committee's** March 12, 2013 Safety Forum. The Safety Forum and Report focused on personal safety at the University of Maryland (UMD) and safety resources available on campus. The Senate then voted to **Modify the Membership of the Academic Procedures and Standards (APAS) Committee to Include a Representative of the Office of the Registrar**; the **APAS Committee** had relied on information and advice from the Office of the Registrar on an ad-hoc basis in considering its charges in the past, and welcomed the addition of a permanent representative. Next, the Senate voted in favor of the

Educational Affairs Committee's Review of the Coursera Program.

The Educational Affairs Committee recommended a number of actions as a result of its review, including that UMD continue to participate in the national discussion of Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs), and that UMD continue to offer MOOCs through Coursera and/or other appropriate platforms as a means of serving the educational mission of the University. The Educational Affairs Committee also recommended that a MOOC committee be formed to establish procedures and guidelines for developing, delivering, and evaluating MOOCs, and that the Office of the Provost regularly report to the Senate on the implementation of the MOOC Committee's recommendations.



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.*



In my first year serving on the Senate and Student Affairs Committee, I have had the fortune of learning a great deal about all aspects of campus policy from different officials, including President Loh and Provost Rankin. Being able to state my opinions and listen to the diverse views of different influential people on campus has been an extremely rewarding experience for me.

-Nima Farshchi, Undergraduate Senator

While the deadline has passed for the Senate committees to submit reports for Senate review during the 2012-2013 academic year, there are still a number of active committee charges that will be pursued into the 2013-2014 year. The **Faculty Affairs Committee** continues its **Review of Faculty Salary Inequities**, as well as its review of a **Clarification of University APT Policy Regarding Emeritus Status for Research Faculty**. The **Elections, Representation, and Governance (ERG) Committee** will continue its **Assessment of Shared Governance at the University of Maryland**, in addition to its review of the Plans of Organization of several colleges and schools. The **Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Committee** recently met with a representative from the Department of Dining Services to discuss its charge on **Alignment of Procurement Contracts with UM Non-Discrimination Values**, while the **Campus Affairs Committee** continues to investigate a **Proposal for UMD to join the Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics (COIA)**.



From the Senate Chair

Our second April meeting was one in which mighty Terrapin Senators tended to several important agenda items and began to look toward an even more productive next year. We began by giving a hearty round of applause to our outgoing

Senators—thank you again, wonderful dedicated citizens!

The Senate began the last meeting by voting to modify the membership of the Academic Procedures and Standards (APAS) Committee to include a representative of the University Registrar. Many thanks to the Elections, Representation, and Governance (ERG) committee for their good work on this. We then discussed at some length the Educational Affairs Committee (EAC) report on Coursera, hearing arguments both pros and cons about Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) and also quite a few questions for this new pedagogical resource. After detailed consideration, the Senate voted to adopt EAC's recommendation for UM to continue to review MOOCs and their impacts on students, faculty, and knowledge dissemination. One thing I'd like to see is more attention to the pedagogical models that MOOCs currently employ and some rigorous exploration of DOCCs (Distributed Online Collaborative Courses). This is something the Committee on Institutional Cooperation (CIC) has very high on their agenda.

Our Senate meetings are open, and we hope to see you at our transition meeting on Thursday, May 2nd. Then I will pass the Chairship off to the very able and extraordinarily talented Vincent Novara (Libraries) and the Senators whose terms are ending will officially cycle off and the new Senators will officially cycle on to vote on the important business of the expansion of the jurisdiction for the *Code of Student Conduct* and to hear an update on the work of the Sexual Harassment Policies and Procedures Task Force. Hope to see you on the 2nd, mighty Terrapin Senators!

Martha Nell Smith



Committee News

Upcoming Meetings

5/1/13: ERG Mtg

5/2/13: Senate Transition Mtg

5/3/13: PCC Mtg

5/3/13: EDI Mtg

5/6/13: SEC Mtg

5/7/13: Ed. Affairs Mtg

5/7/13: Staff Affairs Mtg

5/8/13: SCC Mtg

For a complete schedule of Senate and Committee meetings [click here](#)

Submit a Proposal to the Senate

Current Senate Legislation:

IT Council Structure

Senate Document 12-13-45

Clarification of University APT Policy Regarding Emeritus Status for Research Faculty

Senate Document 12-13-42

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

Review of the Evidentiary Standards in the Code of Student Conduct

Senate Document 12-13-30

Alignment of Procurement Contracts with UMD Non-Discrimination Values

Senate Document 12-13-29

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

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 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