Senate E-newsletter

Discover the University Senate

Notes from the December Senate Meeting

At the December 5, 2012 Senate meeting the Senate voted in favor of the **2012–2013 Nominations Committee Slate**. The Nominations Committee will be responsible for soliciting nominations from the membership of the Senate for the 2013-2014 **Executive Committee, Chair-Elect**, **Committee on Committees**, and other University committees and councils. The Senate also voted in a favor of a proposal to merge the Environmental Science and Policy bachelor degree program's areas of concentration in Earth Surface Processes and Environmental Restoration and Management into one new area of **concentration in Environmental Geosciences and Restoration**. Lastly, the Senate voted in favor of **modifying the membership of the Educational Affairs Committee to include a representative of the Division of Information Technology**. The Senate then heard a presentation from Mr. Brian Voss, Vice President & Chief Information Officer, on the **draft University of Maryland Information Technology Strategic Plan**. President Loh also joined the meeting to discuss the **University's move to the Big Ten**.
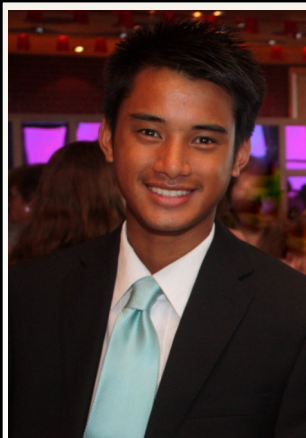
The Senate is one of the **largest and most powerful governing bodies** *on campus.*

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.**

Being a member of the Senate Campus Affairs committee has afforded me the opportunity to voice the students' point of view on policies that greatly impact us. The committee has provided the environment to collaborate with other members of UMD to address and solve communal issues.

–Andrew Do, Undergraduate Student

IT Strategy

To achieve greater synergy between information technology (IT) on campus and the overall success of the University of Maryland in achieving its strategic advancement, University Vice President of Information Technology, Brian D. Voss, commissioned the creation of a strategic plan for IT. The IT strategic plan will complement the objectives, goals, and strategies put forth in the University Strategic Plan: Transforming Maryland and will support the strategic priorities outlined in 2011 by President Loh.

The driving concept behind our strategy development is IT abundance. The vision for IT at Maryland is to provide an environment featuring abundant IT resources not as its own end, but wherein IT is innovative, well supported, and readily available for faculty, staff, and students, facilitating their achievement of the broader goals of the institution, while also adhering to sound fiscal responsibility. The timeframe of the plan will cover at least five years -- through 2017. The premise of the plan is that IT is the great enabler -- of general education, research, efficient and effective operations, and the university's outreach and broader impact.

The Goal for IT@UMD

In *Transforming Maryland (University of Maryland's Strategic Plan)*, it is stated that we must "Embrace the power of technology to ensure the highest quality of instruction, research and scholarship, and outreach to our alumni and the larger community, and indeed to change the way the world works." In 2011 UMD President Wallace Loh illustrated such an embrace when he said, "Information technology is the central nervous system of a major public research institution, and vital to our statewide service mission."

This speaks to the core fundamental principle of *Promoting Innovation: The University of Maryland Information Technology Strategic Plan* – that to be a successful, thriving, and globally–leading university in the coming decades, Maryland must **embrace** information technology (IT) as a strategic asset and *not simply tolerate it as an auxiliary liability*.

To advance IT as a strategic driver of the institution, the underlying philosophy of our IT strategy is to create an environment where IT is abundant – where it is advanced, current, and most effectively and efficiently made available. 'IT abundance' is thus a manifestation of Maryland's embracing the transformative and enabling power of information technology. Thus, Maryland's strategic goals for its IT environment are:

To provide an excellent and highly valued IT environment that enables the goals of *Transforming Maryland* – advancing student opportunity and achievement, enabling innovation, entrepreneurship, and internationalization, and increasing UMD's service to the people of Maryland.

and

To be globally recognized as leader – in absolute terms – in the creative use, application, and provision of information technology.

The Senate Committees completed and sent forward eight reports for Senate consideration during the **Fall 2012 semester**; the Spring 2013 semester is shaping up to be even busier! In early 2013 the **Senate Executive Committee (SEC)** will likely review a report from the **Student Conduct Committee** on the **Expansion of Promoting Responsible Action in Medical Emergencies**, as well as a report from the **Academic Procedures & Standards (APAS) Committee** in response to a **Proposal to Implement a Retroactive Withdrawal Policy**. The APAS Committee is also completing its report on the **Calculation of Commencement Honors**, while the **Elections, Representation, and Governance (ERG) Committee** is working on a **Mechanism for Replacing Senator and Committee Member Seats if Current Members are no Longer Eligible**. There are many more legislation items currently under review by the Senate committees – visit the **Senate website** to see them all!

Committee News

From the Senate Chair

Our December meeting opened with a special order of the day by President Loh—"Discussion of the University's Move to the Big Ten." In this President Loh made himself available to the campus community to describe reasons for and the process of enacting our move. He then took questions from the floor. Those focused on what the consequences might be for leaving the ACC and then quickly moved to what he sees as the opportunities the move to the Big Ten provides. The academic possibilities provided by joining the Committee on Institutional Cooperation (CIC; http://www.cic.net) were of keen interest to all Senators, and President Loh noted that Provost Mary Ann Rankin had filed the formal request to join the CIC and that it had already been accepted, giving, in her words, a "terrific holiday gift for the entire campus — a major leap forward for our students, faculty, researchers and staff." Through the CIC, researchers can more effectively collaborate cross-institutionally, library resources can be shared, students will have more opportunities through study abroad programs and course sharing, and, as Brian Voss pointed out, IT resources will be shared. Through regular Faculty Governance Leaders Conferences, the CIC also provides opportunities to enhance our shared governance.

Our Senate meetings are open, and we hope to see you on Valentine's Day 2013 when our new Provost Mary Ann Rankin will address the campus community. Happy holidays!

Martha Nell Smith

Spring 2013
Senate Meetings

February 14, 2013
(Thursday)

March 6, 2013
(Wednesday)

April 4, 2013
(Thursday)

April 17, 2013
(Wednesday)

May 2, 2013
(Thursday)

For a complete schedule of Senate and Committee meetings **Click Here**

Senate Elections!

The University Senate Office holds elections each year to fill Senator vacancies that arise in the following constituencies: staff (exempt/non-exempt), full-time and part-time lecturers, emeritus faculty, research faculty, adjunct faculty/professors of the practice, athletic head coaches, and undergraduate and graduate students. These elections take place online on the Senate website. Faculty Senators are elected through their academic units (not via the Senate website) for a three-year-term. Each college may elect one representative for every 17 faculty or majority fraction thereof (any school or college with fewer than 11 faculty members may elect one representative). Each staff category elects one representative for every 200 full-time employees for three-year-terms (those with fewer than 200 may send one representative). Undergraduate students are elected by their colleges, with one representative for every 1000 full-time undergraduate majors, for a one-year-term. Graduate students elect 10 representatives at large for one-year-terms. Full-time and part-time lecturers, contingent staff, emeritus faculty, research faculty, adjunct faculty/professors of the practice, and athletic head coaches each elect one representative from among their ranks for a one-year-term. Deans are voting ex-officio members, and the President and Vice Presidents are non-voting ex-officio members.

January 22, 2013: *Candidacy Period Opens*

February 8, 2013: *Candidacy Period Closes*

February 25, 2013: *Election Period Opens*

March 8, 2013: *Election Period Closes*

Visit the Senate Elections Webpage for More Information!

Submit a Proposal to the Senate

Current Senate Legislation:

Alignment of Procurement Contracts with UMD Non-Discrimination Values
Senate Document 12-13-29

Code of Student Conduct Expansion of Jurisdiction
Senate Document 12-13-26

A Proposal for the University of Maryland to join the Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics (COIA)
Senate Document 12-13-14

Implementation of the Policy on Smoking at USM Institutions
12-13-07

Review of the Coursera Program
Senate Document 12-13-06

Proposal to Implement a Retroactive Withdrawal Policy at the University of Maryland
Senate Document 11-12-30

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

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