



Senate E-newsletter

Discover the University Senate

Notes from the February Senate Meeting

At the February 14, 2013 Senate meeting the Senate voted in favor of two proposals to create post-baccalaureate certificate programs in the College of Education: a **Certificate in Achievement Motivation & Adolescent Self and Social Processes** and a **Certificate in Adolescent Cognitive Development and Motivation to Read**. The Senate also voted in favor of the final draft of **The University of Maryland Information Technology (IT) Strategic Plan**; the Plan features a set of recommendations and action items developed through direct input from University community members to address issues affecting the state of University-wide IT

now and for the next five to seven years. A number of Senators spoke out in support of the **Expansion of the Promoting Responsible Action in Medical Emergencies legislation** which the Senate voted almost unanimously in favor of. The Senate also voted in favor of the report from the joint **Provost/Senate Open Access Task Force**; one of the Task Force's primary recommendations was that the University sign the **Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities**. Finally, the Senate voted in favor of updating the Undergraduate Catalog with procedures for **Retroactive Withdrawal** from a semester at the University.



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.*



As a University Senator since 2010, I've had the opportunity to serve on two committees: APAS and, most recently, EDI. It is an honor to serve on the Senate, as it provides me an avenue to collaborate with other individuals on campus who share my interests and concerns. It also allows me the opportunity to represent my constituents and be the "voice of the voices."

-Sharon Epps, Librarian

The Senate Committees are working hard to complete their charges that have spring 2013 semester deadlines. The **Academic Procedures and Standards (APAS) Committee** is finishing its work on its **Calculation of Commencement Honors** charge and recently met with the Registrar to discuss questions and concerns. The **Student Conduct Committee** is reviewing a possible **expansion of jurisdiction for the Code of Student Conduct** and is in consultation with the **Department of Public Safety**, as well as the **Student Affairs Committee**. The **Campus Affairs Committee** is planning this year's annual Safety Forum which will focus on personal safety; the Forum will take place on Tuesday, March 12th, from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. The **Educational Affairs Committee** is completing its review of **Coursera** and will address the pros and cons of participating in this type of instructional platform. Finally, the **Nominations Committee** is currently soliciting nominations for Senate-elected committees and councils – for more information, [click here!](#)



From the Senate Chair

Our February meeting opened with a moment of silence for the students we tragically lost earlier this month, Stephen Rane and Dayvon Green. Immediately

following we enjoyed a special order of the day by our new Provost Mary Ann Rankin, who articulated her vision for the campus. Doing so, she emphasized involving undergraduates in research; online learning initiatives, including MOOCs; recruiting, supporting, and retaining academic leaders of the highest order; fundraising partnerships; and our move to the Big Ten. Provost Rankin was frank about our financial issues, and highlighted the fact that our mean salaries have dropped to nearly 15% below that of our peers as an issue that must be addressed.

Our February meeting also saw the passage of two important items of legislation—the first was the expansion of promoting responsible action in medical emergencies so that students are more likely to put safety first rather than fear sanctions. The Senate also approved recommendations from the Academic Procedures and Standards Committee regarding retroactive withdrawals. Of key concern to all faculty, staff, and students was the Senate's approval and acceptance of the report from the Task Force on Open Access chaired by Dean Patricia Steele.

Our Senate meetings are open, and we hope to see you at our next one when we take up implementation of the USM smoking policy, hear from the APT Guidelines Task Force, and also from the Task Force on Non-Tenure-Track Faculty on March 6th (a.k.a. Texas Independence Day ;).

Martha Nell Smith



Committee News

Upcoming Meetings

3/1/13: PCC Mtg

3/5/13: ERG Mtg

3/5/13: Staff Affairs Mtg

3/6/13: SCC Mtg

3/6/13: Senate Mtg

3/8/13: EDI Mtg

3/8/13: Ed. Affairs Mtg

3/11/13: Faculty Affairs Mtg

For a complete schedule of Senate and Committee meetings [Click Here](#)



Senate Elections!

Choose who you want to represent YOU on the largest governing body on the University of Maryland campus. This is your opportunity to participate in the shared governance of our University and vote for your Senators! 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, and undergraduate and graduate students. These elections take place online on the Senate website. Tenured/Tenure-track faculty elections are held within their units and the Senate Office is notified of elected Faculty Senators –faculty should contact their Dean or unit head for more information.

To vote for your Senators, log-in on the Senate website with your Directory ID and password. You will be automatically routed to the appropriate ballot. Instructions for how to vote will be included on the ballot. You will only be able to view the ballot and vote for Senators in your same constituency category (e.g. full-time undergraduates in ARHU vote for full-time undergraduates in ARHU).

Election results are announced via email to candidates and the campus community the day after the voting deadline. All results will also be posted on the Senate website at: <http://www.senate.umd.edu/elections/results/>

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:

An Assessment of Shared Governance at UMD

Senate Document 12-13-39

Review of the Evidentiary Standards in the Code of Student Conduct

Senate Document 12-13-30

Review of the UMD Guidelines for Appointment, Promotion, and Tenure

Senate Document 12-13-24

Mechanism for Replacing Senator and Committee Member Seats if Current Members are No Longer Eligible

Senate Document 12-13-17

Proposal to Establish a Policy of Mandatory Parental Leave for Graduate Assistants

Senate Document 12-13-11

Review of the Coursera Program

Senate Document 11-12-06

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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