Notes from the March Senate Meeting

At the March 6, 2014 Senate meeting Marilee Lindemann, Chair of the Programs, Curricula, and Courses (PCC) Committee presented the PCC Proposal to Establish a Post-Master’s Certificate in the Curation and Management of Digital Assets. The Senate approved the proposal, which would create a twelve credit certificate in the College of Information Studies (INFO). The Senate also approved the report on Academic Integrity, which was presented by Nan Ratner and David Freund, members and past chairs of the Student Conduct Committee (SCC). They provided a brief history of the six-year development of the Academic Integrity Tutorial. The Office of Student Conduct conducted a pilot of the tutorial, which has been well received. In the future the tutorial may become a mandatory part if the academic experience for all students on campus, but at the moment the tutorial will be available to instructors to assign to their students at their discretion.

“Our University is brimming with brilliant people who passionately pursue problems and spawn scintillating solutions. Nowhere is this more apparent than at a Senate meeting, where inspiring ideas are far from fleeting.”

-Mark Stewart, Exempt Staff Senator
The SEC charged the Student Conduct Committee (SCC) with reviewing a proposal related to Code of Academic Integrity Changes, which was submitted by the Director of the Office of Student Conduct. The Elections, Representation, & Governance (ERG) Committee is reviewing the Plans of Organization for the College of Computer, Mathematical, and Natural Sciences (CMNS) and the School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation (ARCH). The Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion (EDI) Committee is working on the Review of Civility in the UMD Workplace Environment. Finally, the Nominations Committee is currently soliciting nominations for Senate-elected committees and councils; for more information, click here!

From the Senate Chair

As we all returned from Spring Break, the news was announced that Catherine Carroll was appointed Title IX Coordinator at UMD and would lead the new Title IX Office. Her appointment constitutes the culmination of a major effort of shared governance at the university. Soon after President Loh arrived in 2010, he made it no secret that he felt updating our sexual harassment policies and protocols were overdue, and that broader attention was needed on the topic. To rectify this oversight, he requested the formation of a joint Sexual Harassment Task Force between his office and the University Senate. The group was officially charged in June 2012 and consisted of administrators, faculty, staff, students, and various members of the Senate leadership, past and present. It was my honor to serve on this task force as a past chair of the Senate’s Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee (EDI), and it was timely that my term as Chair-Elect, and then Chair, coincided with our work.

When the time came this past winter to interview candidates for Title IX Coordinator, as recommended by the task force’s report, the members were brought in as stakeholders to meet with the candidates. I was very gratified by the multiple roles I brought to my participation on behalf of EDI and the Senate. The joint nature of the task force demonstrated to the candidates the gravity that shared governance possesses at UMD, as well as the administration’s commitment to an active and healthy partnership with the Senate. I still feel pride that the task force not only completed our charge in due course – largely thanks to the leadership of Cindi Hale – but that the policy recommendations faced no obstacle on the floor of the Senate on the way to President Loh’s desk. Ms. Carroll’s resultant appointment serves as a clear example of shared governance at UMD at its best, and I eagerly look forward to seeing the important work of the office she leads.

-Vincent Novara
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 here: http://www.president.umd.edu/policies

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