



Senate E-newsletter

Discover the University Senate

Notes from the October Senate Meeting

At the October 10, 2012 Senate meeting, the Senate voted in favor of a **University of Maryland Policy on Faculty Parental Leave and Other Family Supports**. The policy would guarantee eight weeks of paid leave, available beginning six months before, and up to twelve months after, the birth of a newborn or the placement of a child (under the age of six) for adoption or foster care. The policy would apply to both full-time and part-time instructional and non-instructional faculty who have been employed by the University for at least six months.

Additionally, each eligible faculty member would have the opportunity to request reduced or modified duties during this period of time. The Senate also heard a presentation from Patricia Steele, Dean of the Libraries and Chair of the **Open Access Task Force**, on open access at the University of Maryland (see page 2 for more information). Finally, the Senate voted in favor of a resolution to support marriage equality and to encourage voters to vote yes on Question 6 (to uphold the Civil Marriage Protection Act) in the upcoming election.



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.*



I am keenly interested in the inner workings of colleges and universities. Participating in the Senate has afforded me many valuable opportunities to gain insight into how institutions of higher education operate.

-Carl Morrow, Graduate Student Senator



Open Access at Maryland

Is it Time?

A campus-wide task force of the University Senate, chaired by Dean of Libraries Patricia Steele, hopes to engage the campus in a discussion about open access, the worldwide movement to re-examine publishing models and make scholarship freely available. “This is a complex issue, and many models will emerge,” says Steele, “but we want to help influence how scholarship is disseminated.” The bottom line, she says, is that it’s important for the academy to own its scholarly output. The University must recognize that open access is a significant factor in the future of academic publishing and define strategies to shape its development. Library budgets have long been squeezed by the current model in which university researchers give their rights as authors to a publisher, only for the university to purchase them back in the form of journal subscriptions. This unsustainable model has motivated libraries to seek solutions and to help address concerns. Libraries can also play a key role by providing the infrastructure and educational resources to amplify the impact of faculty work, among them: by supporting open publishing; by providing a permanent home for research through an institutional repository (DRUM, the Digital Repository at the University of Maryland); and by paying for author fees for open access publishing. One common reference point for institutions that have examined these issues is the 2003 document known as the **Berlin Declaration**, signed by 391 institutions worldwide. Generally, it supports the transition to electronic open access and encourages researchers and grant recipients to publish their work according to the open access principles. Barriers exist. Peer review, preservation, disciplinary differences, and the current publishing models and professional societies all have an impact. The goal of the task force is to take the pulse of the University. Do we recognize this as the future? Do we agree we can’t ignore this? Where is Maryland now, and where should we be?

Eric Bartheld

Director of Communications

University of Maryland Libraries

The **Libraries** are celebrating International Open Access Week October 22-28! Information about open access and upcoming events are posted at <http://www.lib.umd.edu/openaccessweek>.

For a general overview of open access, watch this short video from the Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition (SPARC), "**What is Open Access?**"



Committee News

The **Senate Executive Committee (SEC)** reviewed a number of new proposals at its October meeting, voting to charge one to a Senate Committee for further review, and referring two to the **Campus Transportation Advisory Council (CTAC)**. The **Staff Affairs Committee** is currently accepting nominations for the **Board of Regents' Staff Awards** (see page 4 for more info), as well as reviewing a proposed policy for **parental leave for staff**. The **Elections, Representation, and Governance (ERG) Committee** is working with four colleges on updating their plans of organization for compliance with the **University Plan of Organization**: the **College of Behavioral and Social Sciences**, the **Philip Merrill College**

of Journalism, the **School of Public Policy**, and the **Maryland Fire & Rescue Institute**. Additionally, the **ERG Committee** is reviewing a proposal for a **Mechanism for Replacing Senator and Committee Member Seats if Current Members are No Longer Eligible**.



From the Senate Chair

We are witnessing powerful reconfigurations of the ways in which we conduct and share our research, and Dean Patricia Steele and the Libraries' efforts to

educate the campus community on the multiple issues, challenges, and opportunities presented to us by open access and new forms of scholarly communications and publishing could not be more timely nor more welcome. The questions and discussion of the implications of open access issues showed just how much the world has changed since these were last entertained by the Senate. Besides voting to amend our Interim Faculty Parental Leave Policy so that it better coheres with our values of establishing an environment more conducive to enabling the best working conditions, the Senate entertained a motion from the floor to recognize the social justice issues that are central to the opportunity to affirm the State's Civil Marriage Protection Act on this November's ballot.

After a healthy, spirited discussion, the Senate voted overwhelmingly to support the resolution.

Martha Nell Smith

Upcoming Meetings

- 10/22/12: ERG Mtg
- 10/22/12: Staff Affairs Mtg
- 10/24/12: SHTF Mtg
- 10/25/12: Library Council Mtg.
- 10/25/12: Campus Aff. Mtg
- 10/29/12: Student Aff. Mtg
- 11/1/12: Senate Mtg**

For a complete schedule [Click Here](#)



Board of Regents' Staff Awards



A Council of University System Staff (CUSS) initiative, the University System of Maryland (USM) Board of Regents' Staff Awards represent the highest honor bestowed by the Board of Regents (BOR) for the achievements of Exempt and Non-Exempt Staff employees at institutions within USM. The awards are presented to Staff members who have demonstrated excellence in one of four distinct areas.

Regular and Contingent-II Staff with five years of service may be nominated or may self-nominate for these prestigious awards on the basis of demonstrated excellence in one of the following categories:

1. Exceptional Contribution to the Institution and/or Unit to Which the Person Belongs
2. Outstanding Service to Students in an Academic or Residential Environment
3. Extraordinary Public Service to the University or Greater Community
4. Effectiveness and Efficiency (Academic Transformation & Administrative Transformation)

There are two awards given in each category - one Exempt Staff award and one Non-Exempt Staff award - for a total of eight recipients. Each recipient will receive a \$1,000.00 stipend and formal recognition by the BOR. Award recipients will be announced in June 2013 and presented at a BOR reception in Fall 2013.

The nomination process is detailed on the Senate website (www.senate.umd.edu). Nomination packages must include a cover sheet, nomination letter, a resume or position description, and three letters of recommendation. Supporting materials may also be submitted with the packet (3 to 5 pages). Nomination packages should be submitted to senate-admin@umd.edu. The website also provides a list of resources, including Nominator Coaches who are available to answer questions and provide assistance.

DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF NOMINATIONS:

Friday, November 9, 2012

**To: Carolyn Trimble, Chair
Senate Staff Affairs Committee**

The Senate Staff Affairs Committee is the body designated to coordinate the BOR Staff Awards Nominations Process at the University of Maryland College Park. The Staff Affairs Committee will fully consider all nominees and make recommendations to President Loh shortly thereafter. He will select and forward the final campus nominees to CUSS by the end of the Fall 2012 semester.



Submit a Proposal to the Senate

Current Senate Legislation:

BOR Staff Awards 2012-2013
Senate Document 12-13-22

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
Senate Document 12-13-07

Consideration of a Faculty Salary Step-System
Senate Document 12-13-05

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

Expansion of Promoting Responsible Action in Medical Emergencies
Senate Document 11-12-22

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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