At the September 2011 Senate meeting, Senators reviewed the 2010-2011 Senate Legislation Log (Senate Doc. 11-12-01) and voted to approve the 2011-2012 Standing Committee and Council Slates (Senate Doc. 11-12-02). Senators voted in favor of amending the University’s smoking policy to extend the ‘no smoking’ area around buildings from 15 feet to 25 feet (Senate Doc. 08-09-15). Senators also voted to approve an amendment to the recently created Policy for a Student’s Medically Necessitated Absence From Class (Senate Doc. 11-12-07); this linguistic amendment clarifies the policy’s requirement that, “For a medically necessitated absence from a single lecture, recitation, or lab, students may submit a self-signed note to their instructor.” Lastly, the Senate endorsed a draft of the 2011-2030 Facilities Master Plan. This 123-page document includes an overview of UMD’s mission, current and future characteristics, a land and facilities assessment, a plan foundation and framework, major recommendations, and implementation strategies.

The Senate is a great place to learn about how the University runs and work with members of the entire campus community to improve it.

– Dror Yuravlivker
Graduate Student Senator, BSOS

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.
The Campus Affairs Committee has completed its report on a campus-wide helmet policy and submitted it to the Senate Executive Committee (SEC) for review; the Senate will vote on the recommendations at the October 20, 2011 Senate meeting. Three proposals regarding the University’s sexual harassment policy have been submitted to the Senate Office and will be charged to committees for review. APAS will send a final recommendation on weighted plus/minus grading for GPA calculation to the SEC in November. The President of the Student Government Association (SGA) submitted a proposal to clarify and improve the student class selection process; the Educational Affairs Committee will be charged with reviewing this proposal. The Student Conduct Committee is creating an online academic integrity tutorial for students at UMD. The Faculty Affairs Committee will begin its review of policies for Adjunct Faculty in October, while the ERG Committee will continue to review several Plans of Organization. Also, be on the lookout for outreach from the Staff Affairs Committee about nominating outstanding non-exempt and exempt staff members for a Board of Regents’ Staff Award!

Greetings fellow citizens. I have served the University of Maryland as a Professor of English specializing in American poetry, feminist and queer theory, and digital humanities, and for the last several years as a Senator. I am deeply honored to serve our constituencies as Chair-Elect and then Chair of the Senate next year. This is a very exciting time for us, as we consider the possibilities presented by the possible merger of UMCP-UMB, and address issues of lecturers and research faculty. I am enjoying working with faculty, staff, and students on these large local issues that intersect with national concerns. Please contact me, the Senate Chair Eric Kasischke, or the Senate Office with any matter you wish us to consider.

Martha Nell Smith

Upcoming Meetings
10/3/11: ERG Mtg
10/4/11: General Ed. Mtg
10/5/11: EDI Mtg
10/6/11: Student Affairs Mtg
10/6/11: Faculty Affairs Mtg
10/7/11: PCC Mtg
10/7/11: Ed. Affairs Mtg
10/20/11: Senate Mtg

For a complete schedule Click Here
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

Contact Us

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1100 Marie Mount Hall
College Park, Maryland 20742-7541

301-405-5805 (Tel)
301-405-5749 (Fax)
senate-admin@umd.edu

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Current Senate Legislation:

Review of Domestic Partner Benefits
Senate Document 10-11-34

Student-Initiated Courses
Senate Document 10-11-38

Making UMD a Great Place to Work Initiative
Senate Document 10-11-55

Faculty Satisfaction with Student Academic Dishonesty Honor Review Procedures
Senate Document 10-11-59

Reform of the University APT Committee Procedures
Senate Document 11-12-03

Review of the UM Policy & Procedures on Sexual Harassment
Senate Document 11-12-05

Proposal to Clarify and Improve Student Class Selection
Senate Document 11-12-11

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