



Senate E-newsletter

Discover the University Senate

The 2012-2013 University Senate

Welcome to the 2012-2013 academic year at the University of Maryland! The first fall semester Senate meeting is scheduled for today, September 20th at 3:15 p.m. in the Stamp Student Union Atrium. To see a complete schedule of Senate meetings, visit the **Senate website** and click on “**Senate Meetings**.” There will be a number of special order presentations during the 2012-2013 academic year. This afternoon Kumea Shorter-Gooden, Chief Diversity Officer and Associate Vice President, will present on diversity initiatives at UMD. In October, Patricia Steele, Dean of Libraries, will update the community on the work of the Open Access Task Force. President Wallace D. Loh will present the State of the Campus Address at the November meeting. After that, Brian Voss, Vice President of Information Technology and Chief

Information Officer, will provide an overview of the Division of Information Technology’s Strategic Plan and its implementation. The new Provost Mary Ann Rankin will address the Senate at the first spring semester Senate meeting in February. Other special orders will include one on non-tenure track faculty and another about the work of our Center for Teaching Excellence. Senate meetings are open to the public and members of the campus community are encouraged to attend. Follow the Senate on **Twitter** and “like” the Senate on **Facebook** to receive meeting reminders and other Senate updates and news. And don’t forget that the Senate Staff members are available during business hours to answer any questions or offer assistance. Send an email to **senate-admin@umd.edu**, call the office at 301-405-5805, or stop by 1100 Marie Mount Hall.



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.*

From the Senate Chair

Martha Nell Smith



Shared governance—what does that mean? I found myself asking this when first elected to the Senate several years back. Shared governance means that faculty, staff, and students have the opportunity to come together to discuss, evaluate, suggest change, and recommend new policies and procedures. The University of Maryland University Senate is unusual in being a body inclusive of all constituencies—students, staff, faculty—rather than being faculty-only. Our primary role is to advise the President on any matter that concerns the University and its constituents, whether those be budgetary, educational, research-oriented, or about personnel, facilities, long-range planning, or anything of concern to the campus community. Check out our **legislation**—this year we’re working on everything from Salary Step Systems for faculty to issues regarding non-tenure-track faculty to parental leave for faculty and graduate students to promoting responsible action in medical emergencies. We’re reviewing Coursera and what impact such a change in course delivery might have for not only our educational mission but also our research goals. If you have an issue, **submit** it for our consideration. The strength of shared governance is directly proportional to constituent involvement.

Our meetings are public, so please join us to learn how policies are being developed and to learn more about our campus community. This year we will be hearing from our Chief Diversity Officer, the Dean of the Libraries, the Chief Information Officer, and our new Provost. These are exciting times at UMD with many opportunities unfolding before us. Let’s “dwell in those Possibilities” (Emily Dickinson), as actors and agents. Each and every one of us is needed in order to make the dream of shared governance a reality of mutual decision-making. Here’s to a fabulous new year for all of us.

Martha Nell Smith

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MNS'.



The Senate committees will begin the academic year with fifteen pending legislation items from 2011-2012. The **Faculty Affairs** and **Staff Affairs** Committees will continue their work on a UMD **parental leave policy**. The **Student Conduct** Committee will deliberate on the **Expansion of Promoting Responsible Action in Medical Emergencies** legislation, while the **Student Affairs** Committee will return to work on the **Proposal to Change the Committee on the Review of Student Fees (CRSF) Operating Procedure**.



Committee News



There were over 30 items of legislation completed during the 2011-2012 year, and several new proposals have already been submitted to the Senate Office to add to this year's legislation docket. To see a complete list of active and current Senate legislation items, visit the Senate website **legislation page**.

From the Senate Chair-Elect

As the vision for the University is broadened to embrace globalization, innovation, and entrepreneurship, with expanded attention to STEM programs, the Senate will continue to serve as the vital representative body for the entire campus community.

-Vincent Novara

2012-2013 Senate Meeting Schedule *Stamp Student Union*

Thursday, September 20, 2012
Wednesday, October 10, 2012
Thursday, November 1, 2012*
Wednesday, December 5, 2012

Thursday, February 14, 2013
Wednesday, March 6, 2013
Thursday, April 4, 2013
Thursday, April 17, 2013
Thursday, May 2, 2013

*State of the Campus Address

Submit a Proposal to the Senate

Current Senate Legislation:

Revisions to the School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation Plan of Organization

Senate Document 11-12-41

Proposed Policy for Parental Leave for Staff

Senate Document 11-12-35

Proposal to Implement a Retroactive Withdrawal Policy

Senate Document 11-12-30

Expansion of Promoting Responsible action in Medical Emergencies

Senate Document 11-12-22

Proposal to Change the Committee on the Review of Student Fees (CRSF) Operating Procedure

Senate Document 11-12-12

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](#)**

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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