



Senate Newsletter

NOTES FROM THE SENATE MEETING

At the Annual Transition Meeting of the Senate on May 4th, the Senate welcomed all new Senators and conducted special elections for the 2017-2018 Senate Chair-Elect, the Senate Executive Committee (SEC), the Committee on Committees, the Athletic Council, the Council of University System Faculty (CUSF), and the Campus Transportation Advisory Committee (CTAC). Election results have been posted on the Senate website.

After the elections, Senators heard a presentation from Mary Burke, Assistant Vice President, University Relations, on The Importance of Faculty in Donor Relations. She encouraged faculty members to become involved with the development offices in their Colleges and Schools and provided some additional background information on the University's current fundraising campaign, which includes raising \$1.5 billion in support. Burke stated that some of the major goals of this campaign include increasing endowed faculty support to \$200M and creating a culture of giving among all members of the University community.



The Senate is one of the largest and most influential 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 University Senate represents the best of what the University of Maryland has to offer: a nurturing and inspiring environment that encourages individuals to create change and find their own voice. It is the premier place for faculty, staff, and students to come together to discuss the issues that are vital to the advancement of our campus, creating an authentic, shared community that showcases true camaraderie. Working with the Senate and the Student Conduct Committee, I have garnered a great appreciation for those who work tirelessly to ensure that the University continues to grow and advance. I am a proud Terrapin Senator who hopes that others with a passion for UMD will become involved in the Senate and its committees to continue driving UMD into its bright future.

–Andrea Dragan, Exempt Staff Senator and Student Conduct Committee Member

From the Past Chair



I have been very impressed with the work of the Senate and its committees and task forces this year. I would like to thank all of the members of the committees for the time and effort they have put into researching the issues and best practices, consulting with relevant stakeholders, and crafting recommendations. This thoughtful process often leads to focused debate on the Senate floor and recommendations that are rarely overturned or rejected by the President.

The success of our committees and our Senate as a whole is largely because of their inclusive nature. Our Senate is unique because it includes all constituencies and representatives from the administration, which gives all members of the campus community an opportunity to have a positive and lasting impact on University policy and procedures through the entire process. The end result is a recommendation that the administration and the Senate have been engaged in from start to finish, which fosters buy-in and ensures effective implementation. This is a good example of how shared governance works well.

However, there are major ways in which shared governance on this campus has been ineffective but could be improved if the same model was used to set priorities and strategic goals for the University, get feedback on budget-related matters, and define academic priorities. To do this, information must be shared at an early stage in the decision-making process and the administration and the Senate must work together to establish a true dialogue. The Senate should be engaged in substantive discussions about issues related to the budget and given the appropriate context on budget, including allocations and expenditures, to be able to provide meaningful input on budgetary issues. Many of the other Big 10 institutions' faculty senates are given some form of budget input, ranging from advisory roles to standing budget committees. Funding is needed to realize academic priorities. In order to be meaningfully engaged in charting the University's future, we need to be able to provide input when the University is setting budget priorities. This is what shared governance is about.

The Senate should also be included in strategic decisions related to academic affairs. In the past, the Academic Planning Advisory Committee (APAC) provided an opportunity for the Senate to be involved in the process for setting academic priorities by including the Senate Chair-Elect in its membership. APAC was created at the recommendation of the Senate in 1982 to serve as an advisory body to the Provost in order to incorporate faculty input on academic planning, priorities, and issues with significant resource implications and was later expanded to include student and staff representation. The Chair-Elect served as a conduit for information and feedback between APAC and the Senate Executive Committee (SEC). Over the years, APAC was involved in various initiatives, including the creation/elimination of academic units or programs, strategic planning, resource reallocation, and the distribution of enhancement and research initiative funds. The recent removal of a Senate representative from the membership of APAC has resulted in a significant reduction in the engagement of the Senate in academic planning.

From the Past Chair (continued)

Over the last year, we have made efforts to improve communications within the Senate as well as to increase the dialogue between Senators and their constituents. Senators have been using Slack to discuss important issues and ask questions about recommendations before they are voted on at a meeting, which has been a collaborative process that I hope will continue. Senators have also been reaching out to their constituents to get feedback on important issues before the Senate and are providing summaries of what the Senate accomplishes after each meeting. We have also made efforts to improve communication between the administration and the Senate. The President provides briefings at the majority of our Senate meetings, and the Provost has attended our meetings regularly. These are positive steps, but there is still much to be done.

The Senate is an effective forum for members of the campus community to express their perspectives in order to make recommendations to the President. However, the administration has missed an opportunity to use the Senate as a forum for providing valuable perspectives in the decision-making process. Doing so would lead to increased buy-in from the campus community and a broader understanding of those decisions. This is an area where there is still much work to be done.

The University has always emphasized academic excellence as the top priority. While not everyone agreed on the best way to achieve that excellence, there has always been broad consensus on this overall goal. The reputation of our institution is strong, but unless we keep our focus on maintaining and expanding academic excellence, our strength cannot be ensured into the future. This is critical during difficult economic times. The University must ensure that our pursuit of funding aligns with our academic priorities and does not adversely affect our core programs. This requires a robust interaction with the constituents of the Senate as the elected representatives of the entire campus community.

Our Senate is made up of faculty who are leaders in their academic disciplines; dedicated, creative, and engaged staff; graduate students who will be tomorrow's academic leaders; and top undergraduates who are both passionate and committed. This is a body that should be looked at as a unique resource and a strong partner in helping the University move forward, not as an obstacle to progress. It is your job as members of the Senate to make sure shared governance thrives on this campus. I urge you to continue to strongly and clearly voice your opinions and work to engage your constituents. It has been my honor to be your chair, and a true pleasure to work with all of you.

Jordan Goodman



Welcome From the Senate Chair

It's an honor to serve as Chair of the University Senate. I look forward to getting to know our incoming Senators and becoming better acquainted with those who are continuing to serve in the coming academic year. These are certainly interesting and challenging times for higher education. All across the country, public institutions like ours are dealing with flat or declining support from their states, political pressure to not increase tuition, and flat or declining federal support in the form of research grants. In response to these pressures, academic administrators are scrambling to find creative ways of maintaining or expanding revenues. Many of these ideas are long overdue and will make us stronger.



However, it is important that the institution avoid falling into the trap of enhancing short-term revenues at the cost of undermining the University's long-term reputation. In my view, one of the most important functions of the University Senate is to jealously guard the long-term interests of the University, including our reputation for academic excellence. This means giving our vigorous support to new ideas that will improve the University, but also counseling against superficially attractive schemes that risk creating future problems.

To be effective advocates for the continued excellence of our institution will require all of us to work hard at understanding the issues from a campus-level perspective. Senators can do this in several ways. First, please set aside a few minutes before each committee and full Senate meeting to read the agenda and the text of any proposals that are being considered. Second, make use of our online discussion tool, Slack, to raise concerns or ask questions about any upcoming legislation. Third, if there is a proposal or issue that you are passionate about, attend the relevant committee meetings, even if you are not a member of that committee. With a few exceptions, all Senate committee meetings are open and the times and venues are announced ahead of time. Most of the real work of the Senate occurs in committee meetings, where there is time to consider issues in depth and discuss possible solutions with the relevant administrators.

One practice I found particularly effective was having committees and task forces provide a preview or update to the Senate prior to the meeting where the final report was presented. For example, the IP Policy Subcommittee presented their preliminary findings at our October Meeting, and the final policy was presented and voted on at the April 6th meeting. These updates allow committees to obtain feedback from the entire Senate while the policies are still in their formative stages. It also gives the rest of the Senate time to think about the issues and discuss them with constituents before the final discussion and vote is taken. I feel that this leads to more informed debates and produces more sound policies. Where practical, I hope to continue and expand the practice of previewing any complex and/or controversial proposals as we did this year. By working to stay informed and better understand the challenges facing this campus, the Senate will continue to be an effective voice for the campus community. I look forward to a productive year.

Daniel E. Falvey

A handwritten signature of Daniel E. Falvey in black ink, enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.



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 at:
<http://www.president.umd.edu/administration/policies>

2017-2018 Senate Meetings

September 6, 2017 (Wednesday)

October 5, 2017 (Thursday)

November 1, 2017 (Wednesday)

December 7, 2017 (Thursday)

February 7, 2018 (Wednesday)

March 8, 2018 (Thursday)

April 4, 2018 (Wednesday)

April 24, 2018 (Tuesday)

May 9, 2018 (Wednesday)

CURRENT SENATE LEGISLATION

[Providing Gender Inclusive Facilities](#)

[Senate Document 16-17-32](#)

[Undergraduate Admissions Procedures Related to Criminal Background](#)

[Senate Document 16-17-29](#)

[Review of the Interim University of Maryland Policy on Student Social Media Privacy](#)

[Senate Document 16-17-23](#)

[Student Course Evaluation Improvement Project](#)

[Senate Document 16-17-24](#)

[Code of Student Conduct Revision](#)

[Senate Document 16-17-08](#)

Click on any legislation item above for more details. To view all Senate Legislation: [Click Here](#)

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John T. Consoli/University of Maryland and University Senate

