Senate Newsletter

NOTES FROM THE SENATE MEETING

At the November 1, 2017, Senate meeting, President Loh gave his annual State of the Campus address and spoke about the University's strengths as well as its challenges. President Loh emphasized the growth in relationships with the University of Maryland Baltimore, the continued revitalization of College Park, and the many efforts underway to further the University's progress towards becoming a hub for innovation and entrepreneurship in the region. The President also acknowledged the great challenges facing the University and the country, due to the increase in polarization and division and the rise of bigotry. He challenged the University to consider new ways to foster learning and communication in this difficult environment. He highlighted steps the University is taking to increase diversity and inclusion, and noted that he looks forward to receiving the recommendations of the Joint President/Senate Task Force on Inclusion & Respect and considering changes to University policy and procedures to provide a more inclusive campus environment.

After the address, the Senate voted to approve revisions to the Senate Bylaws to revise the structure of the IT Council and incorporate the IT Council Bylaws into the Senate's governing documents.

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.**

"Being a UMD Senator has provided opportunities to meet and interact with Senators from other schools and departments. This has helped me gain knowledge and perspectives on various issues that I did not have, and also share my views and opinions at a common platform. I feel privileged to be a part of a community that shapes our University policies and procedures, and have a voice in making important decisions that affect our faculty, staff, and students."

−Progyan Basu
Faculty Senator & member of the Committee on Committees

From the Senate Chair

In late October, 2017, Senate Director Reka Montfort, Chair-Elect Chris Walsh, and I attended the Big Ten Academic Alliance (BTAA) Governance Leaders Conference at Penn State University. At the conference, it became clear that many of our peers in higher education are facing the same issues we struggle with at UMD. Senate Chairs at other institutions shared their experiences in forming positive and productive relationships with their administrations to work together on important issues facing their campuses. We shared examples of how our institutions are writing new policies related to professional track (PTK) faculty and what best practices we've found in our work to incorporate PTK faculty into the life of each institution. We also had an in-depth discussion on the tensions between free speech and academic freedom, which is one issue currently under consideration by the Joint President/Senate Inclusion & Respect Task Force. Many of our peers have been wrestling with this issue as well, and Senate Chairs across the Big Ten shared steps their institutions have taken to balance the fundamental rights of free expression with serious concerns regarding campus safety and the preservation of academic operations. Peers also shared information on how they discuss the intersection of free speech, academic freedom, and the mission of higher education with their students, faculty, and staff.

The proposed merger of Purdue with Kaplan University was another major discussion point. Governance leaders at all of the Big Ten institutions are considering ways in which we can collectively emphasize the importance of shared governance in decisions of this nature. I plan to continue this discussion and others from the conference at upcoming meetings with the SEC.

Daniel Falvey

Committee News

The Senate's ten standing committees are working on many charges this year. The Committee on Committees is developing the slate for the Nominations Committee. The EDI Committee is reviewing a proposal on gender-inclusive facilities on campus. The ERG Committee is working on reviewing multiple College Plans of Organization. The Faculty Affairs Committee is revising the faculty grievance policy and the policy on appointment, promotion, & permanent status of library faculty. The Student Conduct Committee is revising the Code of Student Conduct. The Staff Affairs Committee is coordinating the Board of Regents Staff Awards process, and is considering issues related to staff leave policies.

Find out more about Committee Work on each committee's page or search current legislation online!

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.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

EDI Committee - 11/17/17

Senate Executive Committee - 11/28/17

Campus Affairs Committee - 11/28/17

Faculty Affairs Committee - 11/29/17

PCC Committee - 12/1/17

Student Affairs Committee - 12/4/17

Educational Affairs Committee - 12/4/17

ERG Committee - 12/7/17

Senate Meeting - 12/7/17

CURRENT SENATE LEGISLATION

Providing Gender Inclusive Facilities

Senate Document 16-17-32

University Expectations for Limited Enrollment Programs

Senate Document 16-17-36

Revisions to the UMD Policy on Appointment, Promotion, and Permanent Status of Library Faculty

Senate Document 16-17-28

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