

## SENATE MEETING SUMMARY December 9, 2015

- Presidential Briefing
  - *The importance of affirmative action and diversity at universities*
    - President Loh noted the importance of the *Fisher v. University of Texas* before the Supreme Court and its impact on race-based affirmative action at universities across the country. He stated that affirmative action is not about erasing past wrongs but rather to understand different viewpoints. He commented that the recommendation to rename Byrd Stadium is important but symbolic. President Loh noted that the upcoming campus dialogues would help advance our commitment to diversity and inclusion.
  - *Overview of the upcoming legislative session*
    - President Loh stated that the upcoming legislative session begins in less than a month. He explained that the priorities of the Governor were focused on job creation and economic development, efficiency and effectiveness, and fiscal stewardship. He noted that the State has agreed to absorb the cost of Obamacare but that there would be no salary increases for any state employees because of the State's structural budget cut.
- Senate Chair's Report
  - Spring 2015 Senate Meetings: The first Senate meeting of the spring semester will be on February 11, 2016. The complete schedule at [www.senate.umd.edu/meetings/](http://www.senate.umd.edu/meetings/). We expect to have a very busy semester with much of the work that is currently in our various committees coming forward for a vote. We expect senators to be actively engaged in the discussion of these important issues.
  - Senate Elections: The Senate Office will begin the candidacy/election process for all staff, student, and single-member constituency senators for 2016-2017 on January 19, 2016. This will include implementation of the new senate structure approved in the Plan of Organization for Shared Governance last year. This new structure includes the apportionment of professional track faculty at the college level, changes to the staff constituencies to exempt and nonexempt staff in Colleges and Divisions, and new groupings for the single member constituencies. Colleges and Schools have been contacted about their specific apportionment and guidelines for conducting elections for tenured/tenure track and professional track faculty senators. We encourage you and your colleagues to run to be senators. You can find more details about the timeline and process under the "Elections" tab on the Senate website.
  - SEC Update: Over the last several weeks, the Senate Executive Committee met a couple times to discuss the racial climate crisis on

campuses nationwide and here at College Park. One of my takeaways from these discussions is as follows: As elected and appointed members of the University Senate, we represent all faculty, staff, students, administrators, and those who visit our campus. It is our responsibility and duty to ensure that each interaction we have with anyone, regardless of race, creed, religion, gender, political affiliation, or any other label we humans put on one another, that we will treat each other in a civil manner. It is our responsibility to promote inclusiveness and an atmosphere that we are all members of the University of Maryland, and equal members of the human race. As an institution of higher learning, this is the place to have discussions about the problems in our society, and feel safe to do so. We may not always agree, but that too is part of our rights as members of society and of this university. Our conversations also included discussion regarding the renaming of Byrd Stadium. After some discussion of the different perspectives related to the issue and without any knowledge of what the President would recommend, on Friday, December 4<sup>th</sup> 2015, the Senate Executive Committee voted on a motion to support the renaming of Byrd Stadium.

- [Nominations Committee Slate 2015-2016 \(Senate Doc. No. 15-16-14\)](#)
  - The Senate voted to approve the slate.
- [PCC Proposal to Rename the "Master of Library Science" to the "Master of Library and Information Science" \(Senate Doc. No. 15-16-13\)](#)
  - The Senate voted to approve the proposal.
- [PCC Proposal to Establish a Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Digital Studies in the Arts and Humanities \(Senate Doc. No. 15-16-12\)](#)
  - The Senate voted to approve the proposal.
- [Revision to the Senate Bylaws to add Visiting Faculty to the Part-Time Professional Track Faculty Single Member Constituency \(Senate Doc. No. 15-16-15\)](#)
  - The Senate voted to approve the revision to the Senate Bylaws.
- [Revision of the University of Maryland Undergraduate Student Grievance Procedure \(Senate Doc. No. 14-15-22\)](#)
  - Senators raised concerns about the language regarding Reading Day and the impact on faculty and courses.
  - Senators raised concerns about language related to privacy and its relationship to intellectual property rights.
  - Following extensive discussion, the Senate voted to recommit the report back to the Educational Affairs Committee for further consideration of the concerns raised at the meeting.
  - Senators were encouraged to send their comments for the committee to [senate-admin@umd.edu](mailto:senate-admin@umd.edu).
- New Business
  - Senator Stanley, undergraduate student, College of Behavioral & Social Sciences noted that he planned to submit a proposal

regarding in-person training for sexual assault for Senate consideration.

- Relevant Links
  - Nominations Committee Slate 2015-2016 (Senate Doc. No. 15-16-14)  
[http://www.senate.umd.edu/meetings/materials/2015to2016/120915/NomComm\\_Slate\\_15-16-14.pdf](http://www.senate.umd.edu/meetings/materials/2015to2016/120915/NomComm_Slate_15-16-14.pdf)
  - PCC Proposal to Rename the "Master of Library Science" to the "Master of Library and Information Science" (Senate Doc. No. 15-16-13)  
[http://www.senate.umd.edu/meetings/materials/2015to2016/120915/PCC\\_Rename\\_Master\\_Library\\_Science\\_15-16-13.pdf](http://www.senate.umd.edu/meetings/materials/2015to2016/120915/PCC_Rename_Master_Library_Science_15-16-13.pdf)
  - PCC Proposal to Establish a Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Digital Studies in the Arts and Humanities (Senate Doc. No. 15-16-12)  
[http://www.senate.umd.edu/meetings/materials/2015to2016/120915/PCC\\_Establish\\_PostBac\\_Certificate\\_Digital\\_Studies\\_Arts\\_Humanities\\_15-16-12.pdf](http://www.senate.umd.edu/meetings/materials/2015to2016/120915/PCC_Establish_PostBac_Certificate_Digital_Studies_Arts_Humanities_15-16-12.pdf)
  - Revision to the Senate Bylaws to add Visiting Faculty to the Part-Time Professional Track Faculty Single Member Constituency (Senate Doc. No. 15-16-15)  
[http://www.senate.umd.edu/meetings/materials/2015to2016/120915/ERG\\_Visiting\\_Faculty\\_15-16-15.pdf](http://www.senate.umd.edu/meetings/materials/2015to2016/120915/ERG_Visiting_Faculty_15-16-15.pdf)
  - Revision of the University of Maryland Undergraduate Student Grievance Procedure (Senate Doc. No. 14-15-22)  
[http://www.senate.umd.edu/meetings/materials/2015to2016/120915/Ed\\_Affairs\\_Undergrad\\_Grievance\\_Procedure\\_14-15-22.pdf](http://www.senate.umd.edu/meetings/materials/2015to2016/120915/Ed_Affairs_Undergrad_Grievance_Procedure_14-15-22.pdf)