



March 6, 2019

Senate Chair's Report

- Chair-Elect Lanford noted that Chair Walsh asked her to lead the meeting because he had to attend to an urgent family issue.
- Lanford reminded Senators that the Nominations Committee is in the process of generating slates of candidates to run for open positions on Senate-elected committees and councils, and that the committee is still seeking candidates. Additional information is available on the [Senate website](#).
- Lanford stated that Chancellor Caret would be on campus on March 7th to launch the presidential search process and to meet with and hear from key constituent groups.
- She also noted that the Chancellor and Chair of the Board of Regents met with members of the Senate Executive Committee (SEC) several weeks ago, and that the Chancellor would be meeting with additional SEC members and Senate committee chairs during his visit to campus.

[Resolution to Emphasize the University's Principal Missions During the Search for a New President \(Senate Document #18-19-30\)](#)

- The Senate voted to move consideration of the resolution towards the end of the agenda. Because the Senate did not have enough time to conduct all of its business, the resolution will be considered at the next Senate meeting.

[PCC Proposal to Rename the Ph.D. in "Health Services" to "Health Services Research" \(Senate Document #18-19-23\)](#)

- The Senate voted to approve the renaming of the program.

[PCC Proposal to Rename the Department of "Health Services Administration" to "Health Policy and Management" \(Senate Document #18-19-24\)](#)

- The Senate voted to approve the renaming of the department.

[Revisions to the A. James Clark School of Engineering Plan of Organization \(Senate Document #16-17-14\)](#)

- The Senate voted to approve the revised Plan of Organization.

[Review of the Interim University of Maryland Procedures Related to Family and Medical Leave for Faculty \(Senate Document #18-19-03\)](#)

- The Senate voted to approve the revised faculty procedures.

[Review of the Interim University of Maryland Procedures Related to Family and Medical Leave for Nonexempt and Exempt Staff Employees \(Senate Document #18-19-04\)](#)

- The Senate voted to approve the revised staff procedures.

[Interim University of Maryland Policy and Procedures Concerning Research Misconduct \(Senate Document #17-18-07\)](#)

- The Senate voted to approve the revised policy.

Special Order: *Student Course Evaluations at the University of Maryland*

- Philip Evers, Chair of the Course Evaluation Subcommittee of the Academic Procedures & Standards (APAS) Committee, presented an overview of the subcommittee's preliminary directions on student course evaluations.
- He noted that the subcommittee identified fifteen constructs to inform the development of a new set of questions to determine student perceptions of courses.
- Senators discussed low survey response rates and possible recommendations to help encourage more students to complete the survey. Evers suggested that if students are made aware that they will have access to some survey results, they may be more likely to submit feedback.
- Senators emphasized the importance of reviewing survey data within the context of each course and department. They noted that some courses are historically rated high or low regardless of the instructor, and that some course tracks may benefit from being considered within a full departmental distribution.
- Senators expressed concern regarding the evaluation of courses that are designed to include new, paradigm-shifting, or otherwise controversial content.
- Senators expressed concern that some students review courses based on personal bias or a difference of opinion on the factual material presented by the instructor. Evers noted that the subcommittee strongly recommends that survey results not be used as the sole source for personnel decisions or instructor evaluations, and that it was not recommending that responses to open-ended items be visible to students.
- Senators expressed concern over the inability to compare historical results with new survey data. Evers suggested that implementing a survey that can better measure student perceptions could be worth the transition time required to interpret the new data. A representative from Institutional Research, Planning, and Assessment (IRPA) noted that they are in the process of designing new structures in the University data warehouse to allow for more complex statistical analysis to be done on survey data.

Special Order: *Proposed Changes to the University Honors Living-Learning Program*

- Because the Senate did not have enough time for all of its business, the presentation will be provided at the next Senate meeting.

Relevant Links

- Senate-Elected Committees and Councils
https://senate.umd.edu/2019_senate_elected_coms
- Resolution to Emphasize the University's Principal Missions During the Search for a New President (Senate Document #18-19-30)
https://senate.umd.edu/system/files/resources/MeetingMaterials/03062019/Revised_Senate_Resolution.pdf
- PCC Proposal to Rename the Ph.D. in "Health Services" to "Health Services Research" (Senate Document #18-19-23)
https://senate.umd.edu/system/files/resources/MeetingMaterials/03062019/PCC_Proposal_Rename_PhD_Health_Services_18-19-23.pdf

- PCC Proposal to Rename the Department of “Health Services Administration” to “Health Policy and Management” (Senate Document #18-19-24)
https://senate.umd.edu/system/files/resources/MeetingMaterials/03062019/PCC_Proposal_Rename_Department_Health_Services_Administration_18-19-24.pdf
- Revisions to the A. James Clark School of Engineering Plan of Organization (Senate Document #16-17-14)
https://senate.umd.edu/system/files/resources/MeetingMaterials/03062019/ERG_ENGR_Plan_16-17-14.pdf
- Review of the Interim University of Maryland Procedures Related to Family and Medical Leave for Faculty (Senate Document #18-19-03)
https://senate.umd.edu/system/files/resources/MeetingMaterials/03062019/FAC FMLA_18-19-03.pdf
- Review of the Interim University of Maryland Procedures Related to Family and Medical Leave for Nonexempt and Exempt Staff Employees (Senate Document #18-19-04)
https://senate.umd.edu/system/files/resources/MeetingMaterials/03062019/Staff FMLA_18-19-04.pdf
- Interim University of Maryland Policy and Procedures Concerning Research Misconduct (Senate Document #17-18-07)
https://senate.umd.edu/system/files/resources/MeetingMaterials/03062019/FAC_Research_Misconduct_17-18-07.pdf
- Special Order: *Student Course Evaluations at the University of Maryland*
https://senate.umd.edu/system/files/resources/MeetingMaterials/03062019/APAS_Overview_of_Preliminary_Directions_Course_Evals.pdf
- Special Order: Proposed Changes to the University Honors Living-Learning Program
https://senate.umd.edu/system/files/resources/MeetingMaterials/03062019/Proposed_Changes_to_University_Honors_LL.Pdf