



# Senate Newsletter

## NOTES FROM THE SENATE MEETING

At the April 24, 2019 Senate meeting, Chair Walsh recognized all outgoing Senators and thanked them for their service. He explained that the May 7, 2019 Senate meeting will begin the new term for all continuing and incoming Senators, and the elections for Senate-elected committees and councils will take place at that meeting.

Walsh also stated that Chancellor Caret has announced the membership of the presidential search committee, noting that Regent Gary Attman would be chairing, and Dean Ball from the College of Behavioral & Social Sciences would be Vice-Chair. The membership of the committee also includes several faculty, staff, and students suggested by the Senate.

Senators reviewed and voted to approve Enhancing Senate Input on University Planning and Resources (Senate Document #17-18-20) and the Proposal to Establish a University Policy on Repeating Undergraduate Courses (Senate Document #18-19-09).

Senators also reviewed and discussed the Student Course Evaluation Improvement Project (Senate Document # 16-17-24). The Senate discussed and rejected an amendment to remove a recommendation regarding the release of grade distributions to students. However, due to time constraints, the Senate was unable to conclude its discussion and vote on the proposal. The proposal will be discussed at a future Senate meeting during the 2019-2020 academic year.



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.



"Over the years I have had the honor to work with extraordinary people as a Senator as well as serve on numerous Senate committees. Being able to work on difficult topics and explore new ideas to help our campus community engenders in me a sense of pride as an alum and staff member. "

—Gene Ferrick

Staff Senator & Chair of the Campus Affairs Committee

# From the Senate Chair

May is the month for ending one academic year and beginning another in the Senate. Not only will one-third of our membership change at the transition meeting, our ten committees will begin the renewal process. We also expect the presidential search committee to hold a campus-wide open forum on May 8th.

Looking back over my time as chair, I've realized one of the most valuable things the chair does is to identify and encourage good candidates to serve. As Chair-Elect, I worked on the Committee on Committees and the Nominations Committee. Then as Chair, I selected this year's committee chairs. It was not easy recruiting this group of already busy people. I want to personally thank those of you who answered my emails, agreed to serve, and selflessly devoted time to the Senate.



Every year in the Senate is different. This year, one of our greatest concerns has been ensuring an orderly presidential transition. The opportunity afforded to the Senate Leadership to attend the Big Ten Academic Alliance meetings prepared us to deal with this year's leadership crisis. Learning about Regents' overreach and disorderly presidential searches at other land-grant universities allowed us to chart a measured course for our campus. We allowed many voices to be heard while focusing on the long game, to help structure and participate in an orderly presidential transition.

Two years ago, Past Senate Chair Mark Leone asked me what my one issue would be. I was taken aback when he asked, but then realized a Chair can only accomplish so much just in a year. Since I have been concerned with planning, budgeting, selecting, and funding campus priorities, I hoped to increase the role of shared governance in the long-term planning on campus. We are the only University in the Big Ten that doesn't have a Senate Budget Committee, so I was pleased when the Past Senate Chairs introduced a proposal to create a finance committee. That proposal led to countless hours of work for the ERG Committee. I was pleased the Senate approved a new Special Committee on University Finance. Hopefully, it will be approved by President Loh and the committee will begin its work in August. As one Senator wrote me recently, "This was a big, long-overdue step for the Senate."

**Chris Walsh**





## 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 COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Staff Affairs Committee-5/1/19

Student Conduct Committee-5/2/19

PCC Committee-5/3/19

ERG Committee-5/6/19

Senate Transition Meeting-5/7/19

Educational Affairs Committee-5/8/19

Campus Affairs Committee-5/9/19

APAS Committee-5/10/19

## CURRENT SENATE LEGISLATION

[Proposal to Establish a Consensual Relationships Policy](#)

[Senate Document 18-19-37](#)

[Policy on Criminal Background Checks for Faculty and Staff Employees](#)

[Senate Document 18-19-36](#)

[Proposal to Review Policy and Practice Surrounding PTK Non-Renewals](#)

[Senate Document 18-19-33](#)

[Review of the Interim Policy on the Use of University of Maryland Facilities by Non-University Users for Research-Related Activities](#)

[Senate Document 18-19-32](#)

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

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