



# Senate Newsletter

## NOTES FROM THE SENATE MEETING

At the May 7, 2019 Senate Transition meeting, the Senate welcomed new Senators and conducted its special elections for the 2019–2020 Senate Chair–Elect, the Senate Executive Committee (SEC), the Committee on Committees, the Athletic Council, the Council of University System of Faculty (CUSF), and the Campus Transportation Advisory Committee (CTAC). Election results have been posted on the Senate website.

Damon Evans, Director of Athletics, provided an update on the State of the Athletics Department. He commented that the mission of the Athletics Department should be to support student athletes in all aspects of their academic, athletic, and professional development and to reinforce the academic mission of the University. He also noted that over half of the student athletes at the University have at least a 3.0 GPA and that 100 student athletes over the past five years have pursued master's degrees after graduation. He shared that the Athletic Department has completed most of the recommendations made by the investigations into the death of Jordan McNair and the alleged toxic culture of the football program. He thanked the Senate Executive Committee for its review of the reports and for its own recommendations.



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.



"Participating on the UMD Senate and on the PCC Committee has given me a wider perspective and appreciation for all of the diverse programs that UMD offers. The shared governance structure makes the University a great place to work and study and makes me proud to be a part of this community."

-Amanda Rockler

Faculty Senator & Member of the PCC Committee

# From the Past Chair

Our first and foremost concern this year was responding to the unfortunate loss of Jordan McNair. To allow many voices to be heard, we called two special Senate meetings in the fall. In these sessions we heard your pain, your frustrations, and your outrage. Following these Senate discussions, then Chair-Elect Pam Lanford was charged with forming an SEC subcommittee to read and digest the investigation reports, and to make recommendations to improve the climate and management of this campus' athletics programs. Pam and the members of the SEC deserve our thanks for their diligence.



Ironically, attending the Big Ten Academic Alliance meetings at the University of Iowa prepared us for this year's existential shared governance crisis. What we learned of the tensions that can develop following board actions on other campuses showed the Senate Leadership how easily things go awry. In response to the crisis, the Senate condemned the Board of Regents for its overreach. At the same time we remained focused on structuring an orderly presidential transition – which just began with a day of campus meetings with the Presidential Search Committee.

Shortly after my election, Past-Chair Mark Leone asked what my one issue would be. That question set me back, but then crystallized my goals as Chair. In this era of declining state support for higher education, rising tuition, and the increasing role of private donors, we have to increase the role of shared governance in the long-term planning and financing of this campus.

As we are the only University in the Big Ten that does not have a formal Senate Budget Committee, I was delighted when Past-Chairs Jordan Goodman and Dan Falvey spoke about the need for such a committee. That suggestion led to countless hours of work by the Elections, Representation, and Governance (ERG) Committee, culminating in Andy Horbal's presentation to the Senate last month. I am pleased the Senate and President Loh have now approved the creation of a Special Committee on University Finance (SCUF), which will begin its work in August. One Senator wrote me recently saying this was a great accomplishment which was long-overdue.

While these steps were pressing and very important, the Senate still made time to conduct its routine business. A recent tally showed this year's Senate approved 17 PCC documents, six policy revisions, and four College Plans of Organization.

This is my 40th year as a faculty member on this campus, but I did not come into this position as a Senate insider. As a result, I was the perfect candidate for the on-the-job training that came from helpful Senate staffers, dedicated members of the Executive Committee, and my favorite

# From the Past Chair (continued)

Parliamentarian, Vin Novara.

In hindsight, one of the most valuable things I've done was to identify good candidates for leadership positions within the Senate and then encourage them to serve. It was not an easy task recruiting this group of already-busy people. I want to personally thank those of you who answered my emails, listened to my pleas, and then selflessly devoted your time to the Senate's business. I never could have done this without the excellent support I received from our Senate staffers, Sarah Hughes, Aaron Tobiason, Marcella Stranieri, and Sarah Feeney. And thankfully, there's our indefatigable Director of the Senate, Reka Montfort, who routinely puts in 16-hour days juggling meetings and committee work, and then keeps us all on track.

As I look back on my term in the Senate, I'm reminded of the grad-school story about camping; the idea that you should leave the campsite cleaner than you found it. My hope is that we've managed to do the same for shared governance. Thank you for your support and for providing me with the opportunity to serve.



Chris Walsh



# Welcome From the Senate Chair

When I was elected Chair-Elect in May of last year, there was no way any of us could have predicted the difficult year we would be setting off into. We have encountered some very serious, indeed, tragic events that have challenged our community and our identity as an institution. The Senate took an active role in reviewing and providing recommendations on the two reports stemming from the death of Jordan McNair, took a strong stand for self-governance and transparency in response to the actions of the Board of Regents, and worked together to provide Chancellor Caret with a clear sense of our priorities for the next President as well as recommendations for a diverse and inclusive presidential search committee. And even as we worked through these critical issues, we continued to do other important work of the Senate, including approving revisions to the Code of Academic Integrity and the Research Misconduct policy, establishing the Special Committee on University Finance, approving numerous new certificate and degree programs, and many other important initiatives.



It has been quite a journey for everyone, and I feel greatly privileged to have traveled this path with the group of dedicated, honest, and compassionate people that comprised our Senate leadership team this year: Chair Chris Walsh, Outgoing Chair Dan Falvey, Parliamentarian Vin Novara, and our Senate Director Reka Montfort and her incredible staff.

And so we come to the closing of the year, but since "every new beginning comes from some other beginning's end," we also start again, with our newly-elected Senators who will travel with us in the year ahead. I welcome all who are new to this body, and gratefully welcome back those who have served before and have chosen to give their time and energy once again. Your hard work, compassion, and willingness to be a part of something bigger has a tremendous impact on the quality of the institution we strive to be.

My hope for us as we work through a significant transition in campus leadership is that, in a prevailing culture of "Us versus Them," we will endeavor to make "Us" ever more encompassing, and that we will continue to strive for inclusion, equity, and diversity in everything we do. The breadth of our campus community has always been our strength, and brings a richness to this big, messy family we call the University of Maryland. As we move into next year, my aim is to build relationships among our constituencies, to encourage us to see the value in myriad opinions and approaches, and thereby achieve excellence in everything we do. Thank you all so much for coming on the journey with me.



Pam Lanford





## 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.

## 2019-2020 Senate Meetings

September 12, 2019 (Thursday)

October 2, 2019 (Wednesday)

November 5, 2019 (Tuesday)

December 4, 2019 (Wednesday)

February 5, 2020 (Wednesday)

March 3, 2020 (Tuesday)

April 8, 2020 (Wednesday)

April 21, 2020 (Tuesday)

May 6, 2020 (Wednesday)

## 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](#)

[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](#)

[Review of the University of Maryland, College Park Policy on Inclusive Language](#)

[Senate Document 18-19-06](#)

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

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