

University Senate

December 6, 2016

Members Present

Members present at the meeting: 126

Call to Order

Senate Chair Goodman called the meeting to order at 3:17 p.m.

Approval of the Minutes

Chair Goodman asked for additions or corrections to the minutes of the November 2, 2016, meeting. Hearing none, he declared the minutes approved as distributed.

Report of the Chair

Spring 2016 Senate Meetings

The first Senate meeting of the spring semester will be held on February 9, 2017. You can find a complete schedule at 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 candidacy/election process for all staff, student, and single-member constituency senators for 2017-2018 begins on January 18, 2017. 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.

Campus Resources & Upcoming Resolution

The presidential campaign and recent election have shaken many members of our community. In recent weeks, students, faculty, and staff have raised concerns about the potential impact on the University and its community. The Senate, as a body that represents faculty, staff, and students, should address those concerns by reaffirming our core principles and values.

The election has brought issues to the forefront that many of us are not used to talking about. Previously, we thought we could rely on our elected leaders to move our country (albeit slowly) toward the kind of society we wanted. Many of us believed that racism, misogyny, homophobia, xenophobia, and religious prejudice were inexorably fading from our society. Of course, many of us are not members of the marginalized groups who are abused and affected by these prejudices, but people in those groups were always acutely aware that these issues were still lying underground in polite company. It has been easy for many of us to sit back and convince ourselves that we live on a campus, or in a state, or even in a country where we can rely on our leaders alone to keep progress moving, but the reality is that progress can only come if all of us work collectively towards these goals. We need to recognize the importance of our voice and action in the process.

We may strongly support our campus president for his stand on DACA as well as his support of marginalized groups, but the burden of progress is not his alone. We must stand up and we must be prepared to act whether on campus or within the state, or as part of a national movement. When anyone's rights are diminished, all of our rights are threatened.

However, it is also easy to vilify people who voted differently than we did. It is easy for us to say that if someone cast their vote for the "other" candidate that they must believe the worst of everything that candidate or their supporters stand for. Most of us live and work in an environment with a majority of like-minded individuals. We often do not know people with viewpoints and experiences that are vastly different from our own. A university is a place where all points of view should be freely and respectfully debated so it is important for our campus community to uphold that principle. It is critical that we speak out, but it is also essential to listen.

Still we must recognize that the current situation has left some in our community feeling threatened. We should be aware of the campus resources that are available to members of our campus community in need of help so that we can support them. These resources are outlined on the slides. Confidential support services, including counseling, are available through the Counseling Center, the Faculty Staff Assistance Program, and the University Chaplains. In addition, incidents of bias or discrimination should be reported to the Office of Civil Rights and Sexual Misconduct or the University of Maryland Police Department.

It is likely that there will be significant changes in the future that will affect us all. Changes to federal laws and regulations, as well as, major shifts in funding from the federal government may affect us in many ways. While some of these changes may be positive, others may well have devastating consequences, particularly for some members of our community. We, as representatives of the students, faculty and staff should be alert to the impact that these changes may have and be willing to both speak up and speak out. If there is a lesson I see from this election, it is that we all need to step up and get involved. It is imperative that we pay attention to what is going on around us and impacting our institution, our colleagues, our community and even our nation. Maybe it will be alerting your colleagues to the issues affecting your constituencies; maybe it will be going to Washington or Annapolis to talk with your representatives; maybe it will involve you stepping up to support the causes you feel strongly about by volunteering or providing financial support. As a first step, there has been a strong sentiment that the University Senate pass a resolution emphasizing the University's core values and principles. The SEC is planning to put forward such a resolution as a motion, which has been discussed on Slack, under New Business at the end of the meeting. I strongly encourage you to stay until the end of the meeting to discuss that resolution.

Special Order of the Day
Wallace D. Loh
President of the University of Maryland
2016 State of the Campus Address

Senate Chair Goodman introduced Wallace D. Loh, President of the University of Maryland, to provide his 2016 State of the Campus Address.

Shared Governance

President Loh noted that shared governance is an important part of American higher education. He explained that shared governance serves as an academic democracy and thanked the Senators for their service on the University Senate.

Strategy & Vision

President Loh noted that in 2015, a group of faculty, staff, and students worked together to update the University's Strategic Plan. He explained that the update is a vision of transformative excellence and impact in the areas of research, innovation, and economic development and serves as an outline of a strategy on how to achieve the University's goals. He talked about transformative excellence and impact in three areas: students and faculty, research and economic development, and diversity and inclusion.

Excellence of Students and Faculty

President Loh stated that the University must recruit the best students and provide an environment for them to thrive. The University of Maryland freshman class had an average GPA of 4.2 and average SAT scores of 1315 with 70% of the class being in the top 10% of their high school graduating class. Students are coming to UMD extremely well-prepared and the University must provide opportunities for them to grow. This year, UMD had a record 30,000 applications for 4,000 seats. This year's freshman class had about 500 more students than the University was anticipating. The graduation rate is at a record 86%. Our academic excellence is inclusive with 43% students of color and 23% from underrepresented groups. The achievement gap between underrepresented students and the rest of the student body is now at 6% which is down from the 12% that it was at the beginning of President Loh's term.

There is also inclusive excellence within the faculty. The percentage of diverse faculty is relatively low in comparison to the student body. In recent hires, at the assistant professor level, the number of diverse faculty members has increased. The overall number of faculty has also grown. The Provost has committed \$4 million for 20 diverse senior hires over the next 4-5 years. The Provost has also committed an additional \$1 million for the postdoctoral fellowship program which will bring 20 new PhDs to campus.

Last spring, the University announced the Do Good Initiative which encourages students to give back and help others. The Do Good Institute is based in the School of Public Policy but serves the entire campus. It is based on the Do Good Challenge which has been going on for about three to four years. An example of this, is a UMD alum who has created the Food Recovery Network which helps students on campuses across the country take leftover food from campus dining halls and deliver it to nearby homeless shelters.

Research and Economic Development

In order to create transformative excellence and impact, we must focus on advancing breakthrough collaborations. UMD is doing this in the areas of health, poverty, cybersecurity, and innovation. Students and faculty are collaborating across disciplines and even outside the University. President Loh has identified 15 major interdisciplinary centers that exist on this campus.

The Strategic Partnership between UMD and the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) that was implemented last year is the most important collaboration that has been established. President Loh noted the importance of collaboration between disciplines at UMD and the health sciences at UMB. This has resulted in an increase in joint appointments, \$80 million in research funding, and three major interdisciplinary centers.

President Loh stated that UMD had submitted a proposal to the National Science Foundation to get one number for all research funding at the University which would increase the prominence of the University in the research world. He added that this document stated that he and the president of UMB were acting as co-presidents and that a new Associate Vice President for Research has been hired with duties on both campuses.

In partnership with UMB and Johns Hopkins University, UMD is working to establish a cancer research center. The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) is relocating its headquarters and one of the proposed locations is in Greenbelt which would bring 12,000 employees close to campus and would help create partnerships between the University and the FBI.

The transformation of College Park is a vision to make College Park the Silicon Valley of Maryland. It is important to revitalize College Park in order to attract the best faculty and students. There are currently 26 major real estate projects in College Park that are either in progress or completed. In addition, there are various campus projects in progress which will help students and alumni create a number of new companies in areas such as virtual reality and visual media.

Diversity and Inclusion

President Loh noted that the core values and ideals of higher education of diversity, the pursuit of truth, and civility and tolerance are being repudiated by a new populism that is based on ethno-centered nationalism.

UMD is absolutely committed to a safe and supportive educational environment for everyone regardless of immigration status. UMD will not allow immigration officers access to campus buildings and the University of Maryland Police Department will not work with immigration officers without a warrant. President Loh noted the numerous campus resources available to students, faculty, and staff in regards to undocumented students and diversity trainings. We should work together to bring people together instead of tear them apart. The demographics of this country are changing and we must work together to move forward.

Q&A

Senator Stanley, undergraduate student, College of Behavioral and Social Sciences, suggested a future town hall Q & A with administrators. He introduced Cory Johnson, undergraduate student.

Johnson commented on minimum wage and raising student minimum wage to the Prince George's County minimum wage of \$10.75 per hour.

President Loh said he would continue to meet with students regarding the minimum wage.

Senator Spaur, undergraduate student, College of Behavioral and Social Sciences, introduced Andrea Beaty, undergraduate student, College of Behavioral and Social Sciences and President of Cooperative Housing University of Maryland.

Beaty asked what plans the University has to create affordable housing and how students can be engaged in that process.

President Loh acknowledged that there is not an easy solution but the University is working on it. He noted there is extensive development in College Park and as more housing is available the prices will decrease.

Senator Vasquez, undergraduate student, College of Behavioral and Social Sciences, noted the President's use of Spanish does not represent all students.

Senator Douek, undergraduate student, College of Arts and Humanities, asked about President Loh's view on the boycott, divest, and sanction of Israel movement.

President Loh stated that he was one of the first university presidents to state that he opposed the issue.

Senator Stanley introduced James Merrill, undergraduate student, School of Public Policy.

Merrill asked if the President planned to apologize for using Spanish and commented on the pepper spray incident at the Courtyards apartment complex from earlier in 2016.

Goodman thanked President Loh for his address.

Chair-Elect Falvey made a motion to extend the meeting by 10 minutes to complete the agenda.

The motion was seconded.

Goodman called for a vote on the motion to extend. The result was 66 in favor and 23 opposed. **The motion to extend the meeting passed.**

PCC Proposal to Establish a Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Nonprofit Management and Leadership (Senate Doc. No. 16-17-21) (Action)

Andrew Harris, Chair of the Programs, Curricula, & Courses (PCC) Committee, presented the PCC Proposal to Establish a Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Nonprofit Management and Leadership and provided background information.

Goodman opened the floor to discussion of the proposal; hearing none, Goodman called for a vote on the proposal. The result was 81 in favor, 3 opposed, and 3 abstentions. **The motion to approve the proposal passed.**

Nominations Committee Slate 2016-2017 (Senate Doc. No. 16-17-20) (Action)

Daniel Falvey, Chair of the Committee on Committees, presented the Nominations Committee Slate 2016-2017 and provided background information on the committee's selection process.

Goodman opened the floor to additional nominations; hearing none, he called for a vote on the slate. The result was 83 in favor, 1 opposed, and 5 abstentions. **The motion to approve the slate passed.**

New Business

Chair-Elect Falvey made a motion to endorse a resolution reaffirming the values of the Senate as follows:

Whereas the University of Maryland is a public research and land-grant institution that shares its research, educational, cultural, and technological strengths to promote economic development and improve quality of life in the State of Maryland and the nation.

Whereas the University of Maryland is committed to creating and maintaining an educational, working, and living environment that is safe and free from discrimination and harassment of any kind.

Whereas University programs, activities, and facilities are available to all without regard to race, color, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, marital status, age, national origin, immigration status, political affiliation, physical or mental disability, religion, veteran status, genetic information, personal appearance, or any legally protected class.

Whereas the University Senate supports the University's commitment to higher education opportunities for academically-talented students from all backgrounds, supports President Loh's signing of the University President's Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) letter, and calls on State and Federal officials to advocate for students who have DACA or Maryland Dream Act status.

Be it resolved the University of Maryland College Park Senate, which represents faculty, staff, and students of the University, reaffirms our commitment to develop and disseminate knowledge in an environment that fosters intellectual discourse, free speech, diversity, inclusion, freedom from violence, and mutual respect..

Goodman called for a second. The motion was seconded.

Goodman opened the floor to discussion of the resolution; hearing none, he called for a vote on the resolution. The result was 82 in favor, 4 opposed, and 3 abstentions. **The resolution passed.**

Adjournment

Senate Chair Goodman adjourned the meeting at 5:03 p.m.