University Senate

February 14, 2013

Members Present

Members present at the meeting: 112

Call to Order

Senate Chair Smith called the meeting to order at 3:22 p.m.

The Senate observed a moment of silence in honor of University of Maryland students Stephen Alex Rane and Dayvon Maurice Green who died and for Neal M. Oa, who was injured, as a result of the shootings on Tuesday, February 12, 2013.

Approval of the Minutes

Chair Smith asked for additions or corrections to the minutes of the December 5, 2012 meeting. Hearing none she declared the minutes approved as distributed.

Report of the Chair

<u>Senate Elections</u>
The Senate Office just completed the candidacy process for all staff, student, and single-member constituency senators for 2013-2014 on February 8, 2013. Elections will be held February 25-March 8. Smith encouraged everyone to vote for his/her senators. You can find more details about the timeline and process under the "Elections" tab on the Senate website.

<u>Spring Senate Meetings</u>
The remaining meetings for the spring semester are posted on the screen. We are anticipating a significant amount of work coming out of our committees over these meetings. Smith noted that the April 17th meeting will be the last for any outgoing senators and that the May 2nd meeting is the transition meeting where new senators will be seated.

<u>Howard University Senate Representatives</u>
Smith welcomed representatives from the Howard University Student Association's Inaugural Senate, Cortney Robinson and Dean Bryson. She explained that they are student senators from Howard University who are here to learn more about how our Senate operates.

Special Order of the Day
Mary Ann Rankin
Senior Vice President & Provost of the University of Maryland, College Park
Provost's Address

Smith introduced Mary Ann Rankin, Senior Vice President & Provost, to address the Senate.

Provost Rankin thanked the Senate for the opportunity to speak. She welcomed input from the Senate on her presentation and other topics.

Mission
The mission of the administration is to serve the University community in every way possible. This includes raising money, advances in efficiency, and recruiting faculty. We want to create the best possible learning and living environment for our students. We want to attract the best students and create an environment that fosters their success. We want to facilitate and support academic and research achievement of the faculty and our students at the highest level. We should create and support an environment where entrepreneurship and innovation thrive. The Provost's vision supports the President's agenda. We will foster partnerships and fundraising that results in creation of opportunities and connections with the outside world in a variety of ways.

Undergraduate Education & Student Success Initiatives
Provost Rankin commented on the remarkable existing programs at Maryland and the ones that were successful during her tenure at the University of Texas. She would like to bring some programs to the University and integrate them with existing programs to create an exciting set of opportunities for our students and faculty. We are living in a changing world with respect to teaching, learning, and teaching delivery that will be a challenge for all universities.

Provost Rankin introduced Dean Chang, Director of MTECH Ventures, who will lead the new Academy of Innovation and Entrepreneurship. This new academy will partner with each school to help grow their existing programs and fill new needs and opportunities with new initiatives. In a pre-recorded video message, he commented on the upcoming entrepreneurship opportunities.

Provost Rankin commented on the Freshman Discovery and Innovation Initiative, a new initiative in various disciplines for freshmen research. This was started by the faculty at the University of Texas in response to a call to involve undergraduates in research. It is a 3-semester experience that replaces introductory-level lab courses and some other freshmen requirements. This program increased retention rates, major GPA performance, graduation rates, and graduates pursuing higher degrees.

Online Learning Options
Provost Rankin commented on the various options that have developed over the years and the new options being offered. They range from the "traditional" online institutions, blended learning, and adaptive learning platforms to learning management systems and MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses). MOOCs are online courses that are developed using videotaped lectures and some additional learning tools. Students participate voluntarily at no cost and learning may be accomplished via the "flipped classroom" model where students help one another using social networking. We are currently offering one course and plan to offer five more shortly. However, the issues surrounding this option include the business model, intellectual property of the course and course material, identity verification, course credit, certification, and degrees. We also need to consider the impact on the way we structure and deliver courses, how MOOCs fit into our degree programs, how we train faculty to use these new methods, our capacity to deliver MOOCs, where they fit into our e-Learning strategy, and improvement of facilities to support online instruction. She noted that the new St. John Center would incorporate some of these ideals.

She also noted that the University is looking into ways to improve graduation and retention rates. We will replicate programs like the Keystone program. We will use online tools to improve college readiness. The University will improve course scheduling to maximize course availability, counseling and mentoring, tutoring, counseling students into appropriate majors, and will review the effect of limited enrollment programs on graduation.

Academic Excellence (recruiting, supporting and retaining leaders at the highest level)
We will start strategic planning with the deans and chairs. We need to understand the barriers, including facilities. She introduced Terence McCann, the new Director of Academic Facilities. In a pre-recorded video message, he noted a few current projects, including the Physical Sciences Complex (Physics, Astronomy and the Institute for Physical Science and Technology), the Edward St. John Learning and Teaching Center (academic building to support collaborative teaching spaces), the Bioengineering Building (Department of Bioengineering and Institute for Biomedical Devices), the Chemistry Building Renovation (wing1 and wing2), the Tawes Hall Renovation (new offices and classrooms for American Studies in the theatre area), the H.J. Patterson Renovation (wing1 for displaced international programs, and Jimenez Hall Renovation (updates to hvac systems and modernization).

We are also improving core facilities, process improvement for promotion and tenure, target of opportunity hires, and diversity initiatives. The University is likewise focusing on quality of life improvements such as implementation of the family leave policy, creating a childcare facility, and a University club.

A verbatim tape of the meeting is on file in the Senate Office.

Fundraising Partnerships
Provost Rankin noted that we to do more and better in terms of fundraising. Vice President Weiler will prepare us for a new capital campaign to raise funds for the University. We have a great location for creating partnerships and connecting with alumni. We are preparing our strategy and messages and working with the Board of Visitors and other partners.

Financial Issues
Provost Rankin also noted the financial issues that the University faces. The University's mean salary has dropped to nearly 15% below our peers over the last five years. We need to look at what we can do with merit raises to try to stretch the pool and make some headway against this deficit. We are also planning on how to deal with sequestration. She noted that the University does have resources to help but it is important to spend funds at a normal rate. Otherwise, unexpended funds will be taken back. The University will work with the campus community to minimize the damage.

Big 10 Move
Provost Rankin noted that Steve Fetter, Associate Provost for Academic Affairs, would lead the effort with the Committee on Institutional Cooperation (CIC). This group regularly convenes peer groups to exchange information and best practices in dozens of areas, including education, international programs, libraries, and information technology. CIC shared study abroad programs will give our undergraduates access to programs at over 70 locations around the world. The CIC course-share program will allow students to have electronic access to language courses not taught at our University. The traveling scholar program will allow PhD students to spend a year at another CIC institution taking courses and doing research in facilities not available here. Faculty can take advantage of the CIC's academic leadership program and the departmental executive officer seminar. The CIC also provides for joint licensing of journals and books at reduced cost, shared access to libraries, and a project with Google to scan books. Technology initiatives include a high-speed fiber optic network and shared storage services. The CIC purchasing consortium will reduce costs of computer equipment, software licensing, and other items and services through joint purchasing and service agreements. Current institutions save up to $2M per year through these purchasing agreements. These are savings that we can invest into academic programs.

Provost Rankin stated that we would like to become leaders in the CIC. She encouraged senators to submit ideas that we can take to the CIC.

Smith thanked Provost Rankin for the comprehensive and capacious presentation and opened the floor to questions.

David Colon-Cabrera, GSG President, stated that the research and mentorship program is a good idea. He asked how graduate students fit into this mission,

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especially students in the humanities and the social sciences. How can recruitment and retention efforts of graduate students of color improve on this?

Provost Rankin stated that the freshman research initiative allows undergraduates to work with graduate students on research. It is an expansion of the research endeavor and a different and effective teaching paradigm. Students of color are less likely to seek these types of experiences. That is why there appears to be a greater boost in this population. We all need to realize that students coming in with non-traditional backgrounds need more mentoring at any level. They need to be comfortable and understand the environment. They need empowerment in their fields through engagement in research.

PCC Proposal to Establish a Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Achievement Motivation & Adolescent Self and Social Processes (Senate Doc. No. 12-13-31) (Action)

Elizabeth Beise, Member of the Programs Curricula and Courses (PCC) Committee, presented the PCC Proposal to Establish a Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Achievement Motivation & Adolescent Self and Social Processes and provided background information.

Smith opened the floor to discussion of the proposal; hearing none, she called for a vote on the proposal. The result was 87 in favor, 2 opposed, and 1 abstention. **The motion to approve the proposal passed.**

PCC Proposal to Establish a Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Adolescent Cognitive Development and Motivation to Read (Senate Doc. No. 12-13-32) (Action)

Elizabeth Beise, Member of the Programs Curricula and Courses (PCC) Committee, presented the PCC Proposal to Establish a Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Adolescent Cognitive Development and Motivation to Read and provided background information.

Smith opened the floor to discussion of the proposal; hearing none, she called for a vote on the proposal. The result was 88 in favor, 1 opposed, and 0 abstentions. **The motion to approve the proposal passed.**

Promoting Innovation: The University of Maryland Information Technology Strategic Plan (Senate Doc. No. 12-13-35) (Action)

Senate Chair Smith presented the final Information Technology Strategic Plan and explained that the draft plan, presented to the Senate on December 5, 2013, had been revised and put forward for final approval.

Smith opened the floor to discussion of the proposal; hearing none, she called for a vote on the proposal. The result was 74 in favor, 5 opposed, and 8 abstentions. **The motion to approve the final plan passed.**

Expansion of Promoting Responsible Action in Medical Emergencies (Senate Doc. No. 11-12-22) (Action)

Jason Speck, Chair of the Student Conduct Committee, presented the Expansion of Promoting Responsible Action in Medical Emergencies and provided background information.

Smith opened the floor to discussion of the committee's recommendations.

Senator Popkin, Undergraduate, College of Behavioral & Social Sciences, thanked the committee for its hard work to develop the revised policy. He provided a story about a student who was in need of medical care but was hesitant to call for help because he was using marijuana. He believes that this example shows the necessity of having an inclusive policy. He encouraged senators to support the committee's recommendations.

Senator Varkalis, Undergraduate, College of Agriculture & Natural Resources, stated that in medical emergencies there is reluctance about what to do, largely due to fear of university sanctions. There should be no barrier preventing students from seeking medical assistance when needed. Many other universities already have similar policies. She asked senators to vote in favor of the recommendation. The policy does not condone drug use but seeks to ameliorate concerns that may result in hesitation for seeking medical assistance.

Senator Varkalis introduced Brandon Levey, author of the expansion proposal. He thanked the various committees and student organizations that helped review and promote this expansion.   If the Senate approves the recommendations, it is important to educate students about the policy so that they are aware. The policy is only effective if students are aware of it.

Samantha Zwerling, SGA President, stated that the SGA passed a resolution unanimously supporting the policy. She submitted the resolution for the record. Student leaders are discussing this issue throughout the country and in the Big

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10. We should be leaders on student safety in the Big 10 by voting to approve the recommendations.

Senator Robinson, Undergraduate, College of Behavioral & Social Sciences, stated that the policy is ultimately about student safety. Students know about the consequences of drug use but need to prevent further injury. As a community we want our members to use our resources rather than fear them. We need to promote this policy and so that there is not further tragedy in our community.

Senator Lieb, Undergraduate, College of Computer, Mathematical & Natural Sciences, stated that he is in full support of the policy. He stated that there are no legal issues because the Attorney General has already stated that legality is not an issue. He further stated that enacting the policy would not encourage drug use. The policy is a common sense safety measure. He encouraged senators to vote in favor.

Speck clarified that the Attorney General's Office has never provided an opinion on this issue. It is a misconception that the committee has tried to correct several times. However, that does not detract from the committee's unanimous support of the recommendations.

Senator Fagan, Undergraduate, Robert H. Smith School of Business, stated that the interfraternity council is supportive of this policy.

Senator Novara, Chair-Elect, Faculty, Libraries, made a motion to extend the meeting by 30 minutes. The motion was seconded. Smith opened the floor to discussion of the motion; hearing none, she called for a vote to extend the meeting and noted that it required a 2/3 majority to pass. The result was 32 in favor, 49 opposed, and 2 abstentions. **The motion failed.**

Senator Farshchi, Undergraduate, Robert H. Smith School of Business, stated that as a residence assistant, the responsible action protocol has been very beneficial and expanding it would make it more so.

Hearing no further discussion, Smith called for a vote on the proposal. The result was 81 in favor, 2 opposed, and 1 abstention. **The motion to approve the recommendations passed.**

Report of the Joint Provost/Senate Open Access Task Force (Senate Doc. No. 12-13-36) (Action)

Patricia Steele, Chair of the Joint Provost/Senate Open Access Task Force, presented the report of the task force and provided background information.

Smith opened the floor to discussion of the task force's recommendations; hearing none, she called for a vote on the recommendations. The result was 65 in favor, 0 opposed, and 5 abstentions. **The motion to approve the recommendations passed.**

Senator Popkin, Undergraduate, College of Behavioral & Social Sciences, stated that we still had five minutes left in the meeting so we should continue on to the next agenda item.

Proposal to Implement a Retroactive Withdrawal Policy at the University of Maryland (Senate Doc. No. 11-12-30) (Action)

Christopher Davis, Chair of the Academic, Procedures & Standards (APAS) Committee, presented the committee's recommendations and provided background information.

Smith opened the floor to discussion of the committee's recommendations.

Senator Popkin, Undergraduate, College of Behavioral & Social Sciences, thanked the committee and stated that this recommendation would make a difference.

Davis thanked the proposer for her well-documented proposal. While it focused on mental health issues, the committee felt that the policy should cover broader issues by providing flexibility.

Hearing no further discussion, Smith called for a vote on the recommendations. The result was 68 in favor, 2 opposed, and 0 abstentions. **The motion to approve the recommendations passed.**

Senate Chair Smith adjourned the meeting at 5:00 p.m. and announced that any remaining agenda items would automatically be placed on the agenda of the next Senate Meeting.

A verbatim tape of the meeting is on file in the Senate Office.