

## **University Senate**

October 13, 2010

### **Members Present**

Members present at the meeting: 108

### **Call to Order**

Senate Chair Mabbs called the meeting to order at 3:21 p.m.

### **Approval of the Minutes**

Chair Mabbs asked for additions or corrections to the minutes of the September 16, 2010 meeting. Hearing none she declared the minutes approved as distributed.

### **Report of the Chair**

#### Senator Pin

Mabbs announced that elected senators should have received a “senator pin” when they signed-in. She explained that the pin was created so that campus constituents would be able to identify their Senators. The pins are intended to be a form of recognition for our senators as well as a means to start a conversation about the Senate and its work. She encouraged senators to wear their pins proudly.

#### Family Care Resource Service

Mabbs gave an update on the Family Care Referral service passed by the Senate last year. She explained that the contract for the service was awarded to Carol Ann Rudolph, founder of Family Care Resources. The Family Care Referral service has already begun its work by holding presentations and beginning consultations and seminars. To date, 38 consultations have been held for faculty, staff and students. The service is located in 1116 Cole Student Activities Building. There is a temporary webpage for the service at [http://www.uhr.umd.edu/benefits/family\\_care.cfm](http://www.uhr.umd.edu/benefits/family_care.cfm) and the service has contracted with the campus to construct a full website. Ms. Rudolph and others will also be holding a seminar on “Assessing Health Care and Care-giving Needs of Your Elderly Parents and Relatives,” on October 19<sup>th</sup> from 12-1pm in the Maryland Room of Marie Mount Hall. Mabbs encouraged members of the campus community to take advantage of this important service.

#### Mission Statement

Mabbs announced that the University System of Maryland has asked all system schools to update their mission statements. We have formed a Joint Provost/Senate committee to work on this update. Mahlon Straszheim from the Provost’s Office is chairing the committee. The other members of the committee include Betsy Beise, Associate Provost for Academic Planning & Programs, Ken Holum, Past Senate Chair and Aaron Tobiason, Graduate Student and former Senator and SEC member.

### Nominations Committee

Mabbs announced that outgoing senators should have received a message from the Senate Office requesting volunteers for the Nominations Committee. She explained that there were still openings for graduate student and faculty representatives. She encouraged outgoing senators to volunteer. Mabbs announced that the Senate would vote on the Nominations Committee slate at its December meeting.

### Next Meeting

Mabbs announced that the next senate meeting would be held on Thursday, November 11, 2010. Our new President, Dr. Loh will be presenting his vision for the campus. This meeting will be held in the Colony Ballroom of the Union to accommodate the anticipated larger audience that is anticipated.

### Board Of Regents Staff Awards

Mabbs announced that we have received the Board of Regents Staff Awards announcement. She stated that this was an excellent opportunity for our staff to be recognized for the amazing work that they do. She explained that nomination packets are due to the Senate Office by Monday, November 15, 2010. Information about the nomination process and criteria are listed on the Senate website. Mabbs encouraged senators to nominate a staff member.

## **Committee Reports**

### **Report of the Senate Executive Committee Motion to Approve Guidelines for Clicker Use During Senate Meetings (Senate Doc. No. 10-11-20) (Action)**

Mabbs announced that the next item on the agenda was a motion from the Senate Executive Committee (SEC). She explained that the clicker voting system, introduced by the Senate Office, was intended to be a tool for efficiency. The process of using clickers to vote has been effective particularly when voting results are close. It is clear that the efficiency that the clickers afford is a necessity for the Senate. However, an unintended consequence of the new system is the elimination of the elements of "accountability" and "a sense of the room". The voting card system allowed those in the room to see those elements first-hand. Because the clickers are anonymous by nature they do not allow for these elements to be visible in the room at the time of the vote.

In order to rectify this situation, the SEC motion asks senators to raise their hands and press the button on the clicker corresponding to their vote on each question. The results of each category would be displayed dynamically as the voting continued and the voting would stay open until the Chair announced its completion. Mabbs explained that should the Senate choose to reject the SEC's motion, the Senate would continue with the current voting system.

Mabbs opened the floor to discussion of the motion.

Senator A'Hearn, Faculty, College of Computer, Mathematical, and Natural Sciences (CMNS), stated that he does not understand why the 'sense of the room' is needed because we already see the votes as they happen but does agree that accountability is important.

Senator Delwiche, Faculty, College of Computer, Mathematical, and Natural Sciences (CMNS), stated that currently the dynamic results are not displayed. Results are displayed once the voting is completed. He further explained that the proposed motion is the closest replication of a traditional voice voting system with the use of clickers. He explained that senators can still change their vote but the dynamic display shows any large discrepancies between hands and actual votes cast.

Senator Tamari, Undergraduate, Robert H. Smith School of Business, inquired whether other options were discussed like recording all of the votes, demographics etc.

Mabbs responded that it would be difficult to display all of the names and their votes. The technology is not yet available to do that.

Senator Gullickson, Faculty, College of Arts & Humanities, stated that the voting cards used to be color-coded by constituency giving you a sense of where the various groups fell on an issue. She stated that it was good to know when students were unanimous in favor of a particular issue. Now we can only see how individuals near us vote but not how constituencies vote. She does not think that the use of clickers is necessary because most votes are not close.

Senator Fleischmann, Faculty, College of Information Studies, stated that the proposal does not ensure that a person's actions replicate their actual vote. He offered an alternative of using a standard oral vote but when the vote is close, going to a clicker vote.

Senator Holt, Faculty, School of Public Health, stated that the current system is her only experience with clickers. She stated that she is troubled by the visibility of voting in this proposal. She does not feel that senators should feel coerced.

Senator Crisalli, Undergraduate, College of Behavioral & Social Sciences, stated that the undergraduates caucused prior to the meeting. They feel that the key difference from the current system is merely raising one's hand while voting. They feel that it is just a gesture not an actual vote. She further stated that this new proposal does not reflect their concerns about accountability. She proposed an amendment to the SEC's motion whereby all clickers would be registered to specific senators and the results would be posted on the Senate website no later than two weeks after each meeting. Should a specific need arise, the results could also be requested earlier. The amendment was seconded.

Mabbs opened the floor to discussion on the amendment.

Senator Stamm, Graduate Student, College of Engineering, asked for clarification on whether the technology would support registering clickers to specific senators.

Montfort, Executive Secretary & Director, explained that clickers can be registered to senators but the results cannot be displayed after each vote. The technology only allows the data to be collected and exported to a spreadsheet following the meeting.

Dean Harris, College of Arts & Humanities, stated that he does understand why people would prefer a secret ballot. He also does not understand the need for demographics. He believes that this will divide the Senate instead of uniting it.

Senator Nasif, Undergraduate, College of Arts & Humanities, stated that he does not believe that everyone will take part in the hand vote.

Senator Stamm, Graduate Student, College of Engineering, stated that he is against anonymous voting because constituents should understand how their representatives vote. Senators should stand behind their votes and allow constituents to decide whether they are fit to serve in the future.

Senator Kronrod, Graduate Student, College of Arts & Humanities, stated that senators represent their constituents so they should be accountable for their votes. He further stated that there are different numbers of students, faculty and staff on the senate. Ultimately, if all of the graduate students felt strongly about a particular issue, it would help administrators make future informed decisions. He stated that he supported the amendment.

Senator Soares, Faculty, College of Computer, Mathematical, and Natural Sciences (CMNS), stated that there are two issues, anonymity during the vote and general anonymity. She recommended voting with the clickers anonymously but also recording the vote for posting publicly.

Senator Xie, Undergraduate, College of Engineering, stated that the major tenet of the Senate is shared governance. We cannot have shared governance without being accountable for our votes. It would help our constituents decide how to vote in the future. He strongly supported the proposed amendment.

Mabbs asked Senator Crisalli for a clarification on her amendment, who can ask for results earlier?

Senator Crisalli explained that any Senator could request the results.

Montfort asked how an early request would be delivered via website or directly to the requestor?

Senator Crisalli responded that it could be delivered in whatever method is easiest.

Mabbs called for a vote on the amendment.

An unknown Senator asked who owns the information, who can buy it and who gets the information later.

Mabbs opened vote on the amendment.

Mabbs explained that discussion was now closed but that the senator made a valid point.

The result was a majority in favor of the amendment. **The amendment passed.**

Mabbs opened the floor to discussion on the SEC motion as amended.

Senator Fleischmann, Faculty, College of Information Studies, proposed an amendment to remove the hand vote and replace it with an oral vote and a clicker vote if needed. The amendment was seconded.

Senator Crisalli, Undergraduate, College of Behavioral & Social Sciences, asked for a clarification on whether a clicker vote could be called at any point.

Breslow, Parliamentarian, stated that it was possible to call for a clicker vote at any point.

Senator Pound, Research Faculty, College of Computer, Mathematical, and Natural Sciences (CMNS), asked how there could be accountability with just a voice vote.

Mabbs called for a vote of the amendment. The result was a majority opposed of the amendment. **The amendment failed.**

Mabbs called for a vote of the motion as amended. The result was a majority opposed to the amended motion. **The motion to change the clicker voting system failed.**

Mabbs announced that the Senate would continue to use the current clicker voting system.

**Revisions to the Plan of Organization of the College of Computer,  
Mathematical, and Natural Sciences (CMNS) (Senate Doc. No. 10-11-14)  
(Action)**

Marc Pound, Chair of the Elections, Representation, and Governance (ERG) Committee, presented the proposal to the Senate and provided background information. He explained that the committee approved the minimal changes with the understanding that a thorough review would be conducted once a new Dean was selected.

Mabbs opened the floor to discussion on the proposal.

Senator Gullickson, Faculty, inquired about the name of the new college and whether it excluded any sciences that were not 'natural'.

Chair Mabbs explained that the name was already approved at the last Senate meeting.

Dean Halperin, College of Computer, Mathematical, and Natural Sciences (CMNS), proposed an amendment to change the deadline for a thorough review of the college's Plan of Organization by the new Dean from October 1, 2011 to December 1, 2011.

Mabbs opened the floor to discussion of the amendment; hearing none, she called for a vote on the amendment. The result was a majority in favor of the amendment. **The amendment passed.**

Mabbs opened the floor to discussion of the proposal as amended; hearing none, she called for a vote on the proposal as amended. The result was a majority in favor of the proposal. **The motion to approve the amended proposal passed.**

**Special Order of the Day  
Ann Wylie  
Vice President for Administrative Affairs  
*Sustainability Update***

Mabbs introduced Ann Wylie, Vice President for Administrative Affairs, to give an update on the progress of the sustainability initiatives on campus.

Wylie gave an overview of the recent awards and recognition that the university has received as a result of its sustainability efforts. These include the 2011 Princeton Review's Green College Honor Roll, Campus Sustainability Leader on the 2010 College Sustainability Report Card, and the America's Greenest Campus Contest in 2009.

Wylie explained that the university's sustainability strategy includes focusing on infrastructure and operations, promoting sustainable behaviors, enhancing

sustainability education and research, overseeing the University Sustainability Council and Office of Sustainability, and managing the Student Sustainability Fund. The university has also made policy changes to promote sustainability. We have moved to an environmentally preferable procurement policy. We have also revised the policy on building temperature mandating that they maintain a range of 68-78 degrees and that space heaters be prohibited. We have also updated the policy on lighting levels, establishing standards recommended by IESNA and discouraging supplemental lighting.

The campus has also reduced its carbon emissions by 8.5% with a net-zero goal by 2050. In addition, we are looking into renewable energy options and storm water management and water conservation. Recycling and composting are also being promoted. Our recycling rate has already increased from 18% in 2003 to 57.4% in 2009. The campus has also made strides in its transportation efforts. Shuttle UM ridership has increased by one million "rides" between 2005 and 2009. They have also established Zimride, carpool matching, cyclists have increased and the Transportation Master Planning is now underway.

Wylie also gave an overview of the Chesapeake Project: Integrating Sustainability across the Curriculum. This is a two-day workshop that teaches faculty how to integrate sustainability into existing, non-environmental courses. 50 faculty have already participated in the May 2009 and May 2010 workshops. 56 courses have been revised to include sustainability.

Wylie encouraged the campus community to learn more about sustainability efforts at [www.sustainability.umd.edu](http://www.sustainability.umd.edu).

Mabbs opened the floor to questions.

Senator Lauer, Exempt Staff, College of Computer, Mathematical, and Natural Sciences (CMNS), stated that the Council of University System Staff (CUSS) had a proposal for tele-working. He asked where that proposal and the Purple Line stand?

Wylie responded that tele-working is handled on a case-by-case basis. It is possible and there are guidelines and forms to assist with making arrangements. There is no policy but there is recognition that it is important. She also stated that the University is supportive of the Purple Line but there is a disagreement on where the line would run. The University has commissioned an engineering evaluation of the Purple Line, which should be available in a few weeks. She will post the evaluation after it is received and offered to discuss it with the Senate.

Senator Delwiche, Faculty, College of Computer, Mathematical, and Natural Sciences (CMNS), inquired whether concrete plans have been made to change physical plant vehicles to electric vehicles.

Wylie stated that we are hoping to move to that, but it is not yet available to us. The facilities staff must go on highways from the facility at the Washington Post building so it is not possible to use electric vehicles for that trip.

Senator Celi, Faculty, College of Engineering, inquired about whether the University was considering charging stations for hybrid vehicles.

Wylie responded that they are willing to do that but will need to consider it further.

Senator Stamm, Graduate Student, College of Engineering, inquired about what happened to the recycling center in Lot 5.

Wylie responded that it was moved to a site off Metzerott Rd where construction materials are stored. It had been a public recycling site, but now that Prince Georges County handles recycling, there is not a strong need for our facility. It was used infrequently.

Mabbs thanked Wylie for her overview.

**Special Order of the Day**  
**Donna Hamilton**  
**Associate Provost and Dean for Undergraduate Studies**  
***The New General Education Program: An Update on Implementation Planning***

Mabbs introduced, Donna Hamilton, Associate Provost and Dean for Undergraduate Studies to give an update on the General Education Program implementation process.

Overview

Hamilton gave a brief overview of the key elements of the new general education plan. She explained that the new plan raises the requirements in fundamental studies, eliminates SAT exemptions in mathematics and academic writing, requires professional writing, and adds courses in analytical reasoning and oral communication. The program has four distributive studies categories, humanities, history & social sciences, natural sciences, and scholarship in practice. It also has three additional categories that may be taken on their own or double-counted including the diversity requirement (cultural competence and understanding plural societies) and the I-Series courses. Hamilton encouraged the Senate to review up-to-date information about the implementation process on the undergraduate studies website, [www.ugst.umd.edu](http://www.ugst.umd.edu).

Implementation Progress

In late May 2010, eleven implementation committees were formed with 67 people. They were charged with drafting the learning outcomes for the various categories of the new plan. These learning outcomes are posted on the undergraduate studies website. Workshops have also been scheduled for faculty this fall to review the new



areas of the plan. There has also been a request for expressions of interest for oral communication and scholarship in practice courses. Proposed offerings of classes in these categories will be heard on Friday, October 15, 2010.

A general education implementation committee has been appointed and begun its work. It is composed of three senate representatives and several associate deans who are also faculty members. They have developed a document on the faculty boards, faculty groups that will implement the general education program on a semester-by-semester basis. The I-series board has also been appointed and will start its work soon. Faculty boards for distributive studies and diversity are being appointed this week. They will all be tasked with reviewing and approving course submissions.

The Implementation Committee will also review a draft guide for faculty that lists the criteria for each course category. This document will be circulated to deans and posted. It will include basic reminders (how many courses are required in each category) and recommend that faculty consider the development of I-series courses that double-count for scholarship in practice courses. It will also clarify that approved courses will also get a CORE designation because both systems will run concurrently for a number of years.

#### Machinery

Hamilton noted that many people have raised concerns about the speed at which the implementation is moving. The Provost advised the deans that we would move forward with the current timeline until it becomes clear that we need a different schedule. On October 1, 2010, it was decided that the plan could not be implemented in Fall 2011 so the date has been changed to Fall 2012. This is largely because we have not finished finalizing some implementation details and also because faculty need more time to do the intellectual work of implementation. The Office of Information Technology (OIT) has also concluded that they cannot update the current computer systems to accommodate the new plan in time for the fall 2011 registration process. The delay provides an opportunity to focus appropriate attention on the intellectual work of curriculum development. The course submission process will open on September 1<sup>st</sup> and will continue until April 15<sup>th</sup>. Colleges will inform units of deadlines for prior college review. Course submissions can be made across this period. Faculty boards will review continuously on a rolling basis. Submissions must include all courses for general education including fundamental studies (writing, math, and analytic reasoning), distributive studies and diversity. There will be a slightly different submission process for oral communication that will be communicated separately.

#### Resources

Hamilton stated that there are concerns by faculty about resources. Professional schools are concerned about what their instructional contribution will need to be. Other colleges are concerned that they will lose funding as the professional schools take on more instructional responsibilities. We do not yet have answers for these concerns.

It is important to note that we are not adding 40 additional credits to the curriculum. Over time, the new courses will substitute for old courses. We are still assessing what instruction is needed for the new plan. It is still too early to tell without receiving all of the final proposals. For now, we need to prepare for the upcoming year with CORE. We will continue to work on the implementation.

#### Future Work

The new plan should provide more flexibility, reduce credit requirements and focus time on areas that need more attention. Hamilton encouraged everyone to have members from the implementation committee speak with their units. She looks forward to continued feedback from the campus community. The first faculty I-series seminars started this week. In addition, the CORE committee has been charged with developing a charge for the new Senate General Education Committee.

Mabbs opened the floor to questions; hearing none, she thanked Hamilton for her overview.

Mabbs explained that in light of Dr. Hamilton's update on the delay of the general education implementation until 2012, we will postpone Senate review of the committee's draft plan until the December 8, 2010 Senate meeting. Therefore, the November 17, 2010 meeting has now been canceled. The Senate will vote on the final plan at the first meeting of the spring 2011 semester.

#### **New Business**

Senator Bernstein, Undergraduate, Robert H. Smith School of Business, stated that he was working on a project to implement locking devices on classrooms and lecture halls. He stated that he was in discussions with the Facilities Master Planning Committee about this issue. He invited anyone who was interested in the issue to speak with him after the meeting.

#### **Adjournment**

Senate Chair Mabbs adjourned the meeting at 4:53 p.m.