



October 2, 2018

Presidential Briefing

- President Loh reflected on his first eight years at the University of Maryland (UMD), praising shared governance in American higher education as a unique form of academic democracy.
- He announced that \$975 million had been raised thus far in the *Fearless Ideas: The Campaign for Maryland* capital campaign, fulfilling nearly 2/3 of the campaign's \$1.5 billion goal.
- He noted that the position of Chief Diversity Officer is being elevated to the Vice Presidential level, and that Lucy Dalglish and Warren Kelley, co-chairs of the Joint President/Senate Inclusion & Respect Task Force, are also co-chairing the search committee to fill the position. The administration is also seeking to fill the position of Title IX Director. The office is currently being co-directed by Andrea Goodwin and Steve Petkas until a permanent director is identified.
- President Loh commented on the investigation performed by Walters Inc. on the death of UMD football player Jordan McNair. He noted that Walters Inc. began making recommendations on changes to Athletics protocols before the report was finalized and that the University began implementing those recommendations as quickly as possible. He was unable to comment on the impending report on the culture of the football program, as the review has not yet been completed.
- During Q&A, Senators inquired about Maryland Today and its potential to create competition for the Diamondback. President Loh noted that most major universities have an internal communications outlet like Maryland Today, and that different news outlets on campus should be able to report on similar stories without too much overlap.
- When asked how UMD administrators were unaware of a possibly toxic culture in the football program, President Loh stated that he formed a commission to investigate the allegations as soon as he was aware of them, and that the University is seeking the truth before taking action.

Senate Chair's Report

- Chair Walsh announced the winners of last year's Board of Regents' Staff Awards, and notified Senators that nominations for this year's awards are open now. The deadline for submitting nominations is November 16, 2018.
- Walsh reminded outgoing Senators that the Nominations Committee is seeking volunteers for this year and noted that the Senate will vote on the Nominations Committee slate at its December meeting.
- Walsh noted that the Senate Executive Committee (SEC) had been charged with "reviewing the outcomes of the Board of Regents investigations of the Athletics Department and providing recommendations to the Senate and to President Loh as appropriate." He stated that a subcommittee of the SEC, led by Pam Lanford, is being formed to perform the review and make suggestions to the full SEC.
- Walsh announced that the Department of Kinesiology is celebrating its 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary at Homecoming this year, and congratulated the members of the department for their accomplishments.

- Walsh reminded Senators that the next meeting will be held on November 7<sup>th</sup> in the Colony Ballroom and that President Loh will be delivering his annual State of the Campus Address.

Special Order: *Purple Line Update*

- Carlo Colella, Vice President for Administration & Finance, provided an update on the construction of the Purple Line light rail system.
- He presented the Purple Line route on campus and explained the need to relocate the 'M' to an area away from traffic. This will provide safer conditions for students to interact with the landmark.
- He noted that students, staff, and faculty would be able to ride the Purple Line fare-free between the five stops on campus.
- When asked how the Purple Line may affect labs and other similar settings on campus, Colella explained that the train was designed to minimize vibrations and electromagnetic interference, and that possible effects of the train will be a part of the consideration when new facilities are constructed on campus.

Undergraduate Admissions Procedures Related to Criminal Background (Senate Document #16-17-29)

- Thomas Cohen, Chair of the Academic Procedures & Standards (APAS) Committee, presented the committee's final recommendations to the Senate.
- Senators discussed the committee's recommendations extensively, including the balance between accessibility and safety.
- Senators discussed whether the presence of the questions on undergraduate applications acted as a deterrent to potential students, and considered the impact of state law on the University's application questions.
- Senators discussed the feasibility of conducting background checks on all admitted students, and discussed the University's capacity to gather data on current and former applicants.
- The Senate approved one amendment for an additional recommendation that would require the Senate to revisit the issue in five years when more information and data becomes available.

**The University Senate recommends that this issue be reconsidered in five (5) years as the national landscape around criminal justice evolves and more information and data on the questions' effects becomes available.**

- The Senate approved the recommendations as amended.

Relevant Links

- Board of Regents Staff Awards Winners & Nominations Process  
<https://senate.umd.edu/bor-staff-awards>
- Department of Kinesiology 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration  
<https://sph.umd.edu/event/department-kinesiology-125th-anniversary-celebration>
- Purple Line Update  
<https://vpaf.umd.edu/article/purple-line-presentations>
- Purple Line FAQs

[https://www.senate.umd.edu/system/files/resources/MeetingMaterials/10022018/  
Purple Line FAQ.pdf](https://www.senate.umd.edu/system/files/resources/MeetingMaterials/10022018/Purple_Line_FAQ.pdf)

- Additional Purple Line Information  
<https://vpaf.umd.edu/current-projects/purple-line>
- Undergraduate Admissions Procedures Related to Criminal Background (Senate Document #16-17-29)  
[https://senate.umd.edu/system/files/resources/billDocuments/16-17-  
29/stage7/APAS\\_Crim\\_Bckrnd\\_16-17-29\\_Senate\\_Amended.pdf](https://senate.umd.edu/system/files/resources/billDocuments/16-17-29/stage7/APAS_Crim_Bckrnd_16-17-29_Senate_Amended.pdf)