# Senate Newsletter

# NOTES FROM THE SENATE MEETING

At the <u>April 28, 2016 Senate Meeting</u>, Chair Brown reported that this was the last meeting for all outgoing Senators. He thanked them for their work with the Senate and reminded the continuing Senators that the <u>Annual Transition Meeting of the Senate</u> is on May 5th.

The Senate discussed <u>revisions to the sexual misconduct policy</u> and the review of the <u>faculty</u>, <u>staff</u>, and <u>student sexual misconduct procedures</u>.

In addition, the Senate discussed the <u>non-discrimination</u> and <u>disability and accessibility</u> policies. The Senate also reviewed the <u>excused absence policy</u> and the <u>School of Business Plan of Organization</u>.

Senators engaged in robust discussion of these important campus issues. At the conclusion, the Senate voted to approve the non-discrimination policy, the disability and accessibility policy with one amendment, the sexual misconduct policy with one amendment, the faculty sexual misconduct procedures, the staff sexual misconduct procedures with one amendment, and the student sexual misconduct procedures with four amendments.

The Senate also voted to approve the excused absence policy with one amendment and the School of Business Plan of Organization.

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.**
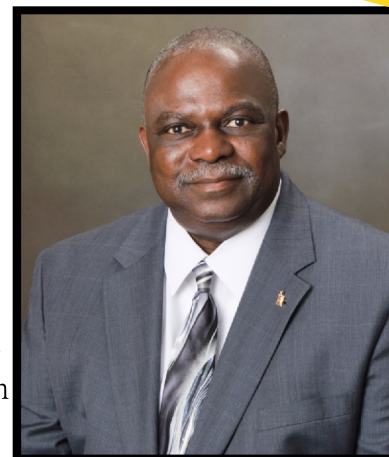
"I enjoy participating in the shared governance process as a graduate student member of the University Senate. Over the 2015-2016 academic year, I have served as a member of the Elections, Representation, and Governance (ERG) Committee. Being on the ERG Committee has allowed me to apply my research interest in communication and elections to help various academic units."

–Kim Hannah

Graduate Student Senator and member of the Elections, Representation, and Governance (ERG) Committee

# From the Senate Chair

This year has been a busy one for the Senate. I would like to thank each and every one of you for your hard work and dedication to the business of the Senate. I am extremely grateful to the members of our standing committees for their diligence in conducting the research and developing the recommendations brought to the full Senate for debate, as well as to our Senators for their thoroughness in discussing and voting on them. As Senate Chair, I have promoted increased communication between Senators and their constituents, openness with the administration, and communication with the campus community on the issues facing the Senate which has helped us to accomplish many things and continue to improve shared governance on our campus. Some accomplishments include the Update to the Strategic Plan for the University of Maryland; the revisions to the Sexual Misconduct Policy and the associated faculty, staff, and student sexual misconduct procedures; the creation of telework guidelines; and the passage of the Faculty Salary Inequities report. In addition, the Senate approved a new undergraduate program in Public Policy, an Area of Concentration in International Relations in the Government and Politics major, a Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Digital Studies in the Arts and Humanities, and a change in the Master of Library Science degree to rename it to the Master of Library and Information Science. All of these provide a variety of academic options for our current and future students and continue to improve the academic standing of UMD.

The Senate reviewed and approved a number of academic policies. These include the Revision to the Academic Clemency Policy, the Policy and Procedures Concerning Credit for Prior Learning, the Proposed Policy on Excused Absence, and the revision to the Undergraduate Student Grievance Procedure. The Senate has also worked to improve the environment for the entire campus community by revising and approving the Non-Discrimination Policy and the Disability and Accessibility Policy and Procedures. The passage of these policies makes the campus a more inclusive community and helps to foster a welcoming working, learning, and living community at Maryland.

The Senate also conducted a reapportionment of its membership based on the new guidelines in the University of Maryland Plan of Organization for Shared Governance. The new membership provides increased representation for full-time professional track faculty on the Senate with over 30 new seats. With these additional voices, we can ensure that everyone's questions, comments, and concerns help shape University policy. In addition, we have taken steps to ensure that the University Councils include appropriate representation through revisions to the Senate Bylaws.

The Senate has made a lot of progress on shared governance this year, but there is still a long way to go. Please take the lessons you learned and bring them back to the Senate next year or to your individual Colleges and Departments. It has been an honor to serve as Senate Chair, and I look forward to staying involved and seeing the great work of the Senate in the future.

Willie Brown

## 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 at: http://www.president.umd.edu/policies

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

5/4/2016: Student Affairs Meeting

5/5/2016: Faculty Affairs Meeting

5/5/2016: Transition Meeting of the Senate

5/6/2016: PCC Meeting

5/9/2016: Educational Affairs Meeting

5/9/2016: ERG Meeting

5/16/2016: SEC Transition Meeting

Photos provided by:
John T. Consoli/University of Maryland and University Senate

## CURRENT SENATE LEGISLATION

Policies and Procedures Governing Preferred/Primary Names and Sex/Gender Markers in University Databases
Senate Document 14-15-03

Clarification and Codification on Declining Honor Pledge.
Senate Document 15-16-31

Senate Candidates Contact Information Requirement
Senate Document 15-16-19

Consideration of a University of Maryland Weapons Policy
Senate Document 15-16-11

Review of Faculty Leave Policies
Senate Document 14-15-31

Click on any legislation item above for more details. To view all Senate Legislation: Click Here