



# Senate Newsletter

## NOTES FROM THE SENATE MEETING

At the February 9, 2017, Senate meeting an FAQ on the the Faculty Leave Policies (Senate Doc. 14-15-31) and the report on the Clarification and Codification on Declining Honor Pledge (Senate Doc. No. 15-16-31) were presented as informational items.

Senators reviewed and discussed the PCC Proposal to Establish an Online Offering of the Master of Science in Business Analytics (Senate Doc. No. 16-17-22), Restricted Research (Senate Doc. No. 16-17-06), and the Use of Visiting Faculty Titles for Professional Track Faculty Appointments (Senate Doc. No. 15-16-17). The Senate voted in favor of all three proposals.

The last item on the agenda was a special order of the day by Steven Petkas, Chair of the Joint President/Senate Sexual Assault Prevention Task Force. He spoke about the progress the Task Force has made since it was charged in October and some of the information the Task Force has learned from best practices at peer/Big10 institutions and input from the campus community. After the presentation, Senators had time to ask questions about the Task Force's work.

During New Business, a resolution was passed in support of the Academics Against the Immigration Executive Order petition.



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.



Our strong tradition of shared governance is one of the things that makes the University of Maryland a great place to work and to be a student. I've enjoyed my time serving on the Elections, Governance, and Representation Committee and as a Senator because it has given me a front row seat to faculty, staff, and students taking advantage of their ability to shape the University policies and plans that affect them every day.

–Andrew Horbal, Faculty Senator, University Libraries

# From the Senate Chair

We are less than three weeks into the new administration and many of the fundamental values of our country and our institution are in jeopardy. We may not all agree on policy, but as an academic community we should demand truth and competence and stand strongly against discrimination. The core objective of a research university is the creation of new knowledge. This means searching for truth, discovering new facts and developing new understanding. Universities are all about exploring alternative theories, alternative interpretations, but there is no place for “alternative facts”. Our second president John Adams wrote in 1770 “Facts are stubborn things; and whatever may be our wishes, our inclinations, or the dictates of our passion, they cannot alter the state of facts and evidence.” Threats to restrict climate research or eliminate the National Endowment for the Arts or Humanities presents a threat to everyone.



Public education is a fundamental pillar of our society and charts the course for our country’s future. 90% of US K-12 students attend public schools, and more than 70% of college students attend public colleges and universities, yet our new Secretary of Education, Betsy DeVos, has no experience with public education at any level. We may not all agree on politics, but at a minimum we should demand subject competence – something that she was not able to articulate at her confirmation hearing. We have also recently learned that Jerry Falwell Jr., president of Liberty University (an unaccredited school whose graduates are not accepted to our Graduate School) has been appointed to lead a higher education task force. His proposed agenda includes eliminating regulations from the Education Department, especially those that apply to colleges and universities. While it can be argued that some reduction of regulation might be good, Falwell has been vocal about limiting rules related to Title IX investigations. DeVos has also refused to commit to the continuation of Title IX regulations. This is an issue that our campus and this Senate have been committed to over the last few years.

The outrage many of us are feeling is unique. During the Vietnam War, student protests were met by resistance from substantial parts of the University community and by the “older generation”. But this is different, in that the opposition crosses all boundaries. If you were at the Woman’s March, you saw this. It is clear that this level of activism is an opportunity for us to come together as a community and take a stand.

This leads to the president’s executive order on immigration. Our country is a country of immigrants. Currently about one fourth of the US population is either an immigrant or had one or more foreign-born parents (as in my case both being immigrants). Whether they came in the 19th, 20th, or 21st century and were Chinese, German, Irish, Italian, Mexican, Catholic, or Jewish, they all faced discrimination. People of color were always discriminated against. Women have always been discriminated against. The current discrimination against Muslims is part of a larger pattern of ignorance and fear that unfortunately are part of our American legacy. When the President fails to mention Jews in his Holocaust remembrance statement and responds with “all people were affected by the Holocaust”, it’s no different than responding to Black Lives Matter by saying “All Lives Matter”. It denies the fundamental uniqueness of the impact on the affected group and marginalizes the injustice. Education, especially higher education, is the great equalizer. Our institution is built on the principle that the best idea wins and where you come from, or your immigration status, or your race or religion or sex, or sexual orientation plays no role and presents no boundary in the search for new knowledge or understanding. In fact, the rich tapestry of our differences provides a basis for deeper understanding of complex issues where we are often blinded by our own beliefs. The president’s executive order on immigration strikes at the heart of our community. When one group in our community is attacked, we are all attacked.

The Senate joined many other Big Ten Senates by passing a resolution in support of the Academics Against Immigration Executive Order petition, which states opposition to the travel ban based on its discriminatory nature, its detriment to the national interests of the United States, and the undue burden it places on members of our community.

Jordan Goodman

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. Goodman", written over a light blue horizontal line.



# Committee News



The Elections, Representation, & Governance (ERG) Committee is reviewing the representation of ombuds officers on Senate Committees, as well as the Student Affairs Committee Specifications. The committee is also reviewing several College Plans of Organization. The Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion (EDI) Committee continues to review the Policies and Procedures Governing Preferred/Primary Names and Sex/Gender Markers in University Databases. The Student Conduct Committee is working on the Code of Student Conduct Revision.

The Faculty Affairs Committee is reviewing the merit pay policy information for professional track faculty. The Educational Affairs Committee has recently been charged with the Review of the Interim University of Maryland Policy on Student Social Media Privacy while the Academic Procedures and Standards (APAS) Committee is working on the Student Course Evaluation Improvement Project.



**Clint Bucco** | *Philip Merrill College of Journalism*  
Effectiveness and Efficiency in Academic Transformation



**Jenna Beckwith** | *University Health Center*  
Outstanding Service to Students in an Academic or Residential Environment (exempt)



**Sara Lopez** | *Dining Services*  
Outstanding Service to Students in an Academic or Residential Environment (non-exempt)



**Daniel Ramia** | *College of Agriculture & Natural Resources*  
Exceptional Contribution to the Institution and/or Unit to which the Person Belongs (exempt)

## BOARD OF REGENTS' STAFF AWARDS FINALISTS



**Audrey Stewart** | *Facilities Management*  
Exceptional Contribution to the Institution and/or Unit to which the Person Belongs (non-exempt)



**Daniel Wilson** | *Institute for Bioscience & Biotechnology Research*  
Effectiveness and Efficiency in Administrative Transformation



**Terry Zacker** | *Stamp Student Union*  
Extraordinary Public Service to the University or Greater Community (exempt)



# Nominees Needed!

The Nominations Committee is seeking candidates to run for open positions on Senate-elected committees and councils for the 2017–2018 academic year. Specific information about the process, available positions, and deadlines is listed below. We hope that you might be interested in nominating yourself or someone you know for these important positions.

Please send your nominations to the Senate Office at [senate-admin@umd.edu](mailto:senate-admin@umd.edu).

## General Information:

All incoming and continuing Senators who will be part of the 2017–2018 Senate are eligible to run for positions on the committees and councils listed below, unless otherwise noted. Nominees will be considered by the Senate Nominations Committee for placement on the slate(s) for election, but are not guaranteed a spot. All candidates will be asked to submit a short candidacy statement via email. Candidacy statements will be due by Friday, April 7, 2017. The elections will take place at the Senate meeting on May 4, 2017.

## Available Positions:

**Senate Executive Committee (SEC):** The SEC supports the work of the Senate, acts on the Senate's behalf when required, and meets monthly to coordinate the Senate's operations. Seven faculty members (with no more than two from any College/School), one exempt staff member, one non-exempt staff member, two graduate student members, and two undergraduate student members of the 2017–2018 Senate will be elected. The term for all SEC members is one year.

**Senate Committee on Committees:** The Committee on Committees' primary responsibility is to identify individuals for service on Senate standing committees and to recommend committee membership for Senate approval. This year, there are three seats available for faculty, one seat for an exempt staff member, one seat for a graduate student, and one seat for an undergraduate student. Nominees for open positions must be members of the 2017–2018 Senate. Faculty and staff members serve a two-year term while students serve a one-year term on the Committee on Committees.

**University Athletic Council:** The Athletic Council was established to help the University develop and maintain the best possible intercollegiate athletic program consistent with the academic integrity of the institution and the academic and social development of student athletes. There are currently three open positions for tenured/tenure-track faculty members and one open position for a staff member. Faculty and staff members serve a three-year term on the council. Candidates do not need to be Senators.

**Campus Transportation Advisory Committee (CTAC):** The purpose of CTAC is to advise the Vice President for Student Affairs on parking and transportation issues, including topics such as the review of fee proposals, policies regarding metered parking, and Shuttle UM routes. There are currently three open positions: one faculty, one exempt staff, and one undergraduate student member. The faculty and staff candidates do not have to be Senators and will serve three-year terms. The undergraduate student member must be a Senator and will serve for one year.

**Council of University System Faculty (CUSF):** CUSF advises the Chancellor of the University System of Maryland (USM) and reports regularly to the Board of Regents (BOR). CUSF is responsible for considering and making recommendations on matters of System-wide professional and educational concern to the faculty and matters to which faculty bring special expertise. CUSF meets once a month during the academic year at the various USM campuses. There are currently two openings for full-time tenured/tenure-track faculty members and one opening for an alternate faculty member (who attends meetings when the full-time representatives are not available). Members serve three-year terms and do not need to be Senators.





## 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/administration/policies>

## Upcoming Meetings

**Senate Executive Committee- 2/20/17**

**Educational Affairs Committee- 2/20/17**

**Staff Affairs Committee- 2/23/17**

**APAS Committee- 3/1/17**

**Campus Affairs Committee- 3/2/17**

**PCC Committee 3/3/17**

**Student Conduct Committee- 3/6/17**

## CURRENT SENATE LEGISLATION

[Policies and Procedures Governing Preferred/Primary Names and Sex/Gender Markers in University Databases](#)

[Senate Document 14-15-03](#)

[Review of the Senate Student Affairs Committee Specifications](#)

[Senate Document 16-17-15](#)

[Review of the Interim University of Maryland Policy on Student Social Media Privacy](#)

[Senate Document 16-17-23](#)

[Student Course Evaluation Improvement Project](#)

[Senate Document 16-17-24](#)

[Code of Student Conduct Revision](#)

[Senate Document 16-17-08](#)

Click on any legislation item above for more details. To view all Senate Legislation: [Click Here](#)

Photos provided by:

John T. Consoli/University of Maryland and University Senate

