



Senate E-newsletter

Discover the University Senate

Notes from the November Senate Meeting

President Loh's annual State of the Campus Address drew a larger than usual crowd to the November 9, 2011 Senate meeting. President Loh spoke at length to Senators and constituents, highlighting accomplishments at the University and acknowledging the challenges we face ahead. Following the State of the Campus Address, the Senate approved proposals to rename the department and degrees in Geography to Geographical Sciences (**Senate Docs. 11-12-13, 11-12-14, 11-12-15**). The Senate also approved proposals to establish

programs in Second Language Acquisition (**Senate Docs. 11-12-16 and 11-12-17**), and Higher Education, Student Affairs, and International Education Policy (**Senate Doc. 11-12-18**). A lively debate ensued on the Proposal to Review the UMD Policies Concerning Academic Transcripts and Calculation of GPA (**Senate Doc. 10-11-11**). While strong arguments were made both for and against the proposal, the Senate ultimately voted in favor of implementing the weighted plus/minus grading system at the University.



Working to improve the College Park experience alongside dedicated representatives from all levels of the University has been a unique and rewarding opportunity that has taught me a great deal about the policy process.

- Alex Chafitz, Undergraduate APAS Committee member



The Senate is one of the largest and most powerful 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.*



There are currently 23 legislative items under review by the Senate committees and 13 that have been completed so far this year. The **Student Affairs Committee** recently received its first official charge of the semester: a proposal from the Presidents of the **Student Government Association (SGA)** and the **Graduate Student Government (GSG)** requesting an examination of the operating procedures of the Committee on the Review of Student Fees (CRSF) (**Senate Doc 11-12-12**). The Senate **Committee on Committees** began its work recruiting volunteers from the outgoing membership of the Senate for the **Nominations Committee** slate. The Nominations Committee will solicit nominations for the **Executive Committee**, Chair-Elect, the 2012-2013 Committee on Committees, and other University committees and councils for election at the Senate transition meeting in May 2012. Both the **Student Conduct Committee (SCC)** and the **Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion (EDI) Committee** are working on charges related to the University's policies on procedures for cases of sexual harassment, assault, and violence. The **Academic Procedures and Standards (APAS) Committee** is continuing its work on the topic of Student Initiated Courses (SICs) (**Senate Doc 10-11-38**). And the **Staff Affairs Committee** will now launch a full review of all nominations submitted for the **BOR Staff Awards**; best wishes to all nominees!



Committee News



From the Senate Chair-Elect

advancing in the twenty-first century. Reminding the campus community that the terrapin only moves forward, he announced a \$10 million reinvestment in educational excellence, financial aid, and innovation. After his address, the Senate turned to several proposals, most notably that to implement the +/- grading policy passed in 2005. After spirited debate, the APAS Committee's proposal was approved. I welcomed the frank discussion and exchange of a variety of opinions, and look forward to working with students, staff, and faculty on other challenging issues. As President Loh noted, major change and transformative excellence is never easy and is always controversial.

Martha Nell Smith

The November University Senate meeting featured President Wallace Loh's State of the Campus address. Focused, determined, and specific, President Loh opened by talking about the excellent work of our students and faculty, citing specifically the creativity and vision of the team that built WaterShed, which won the U.S. Department of Energy's Solar Decathlon 2011. President Loh was clear-eyed about the challenges the University, a Public Benefit Corporation, faces, and laid out practical plans for

Upcoming Meetings

11/29/11: SEC Mtg

12/2/11: PCC Mtg

12/2/11: Ed. Affairs Mtg

12/5/11: Staff Affairs Mtg

12/6/11: ERG Mtg

12/6/11: Student Conduct Mtg

12/8/11: Senate Mtg

For a complete schedule
[Click Here](#)



Submit a Proposal to the Senate

Current Senate Legislation:

Proposal to Change the Committee on the Review of Student Fees (CRSF) Operating Procedure

[Senate Document 11-12-12](#)

Policies on the Employment of Adjunct Faculty

[Senate Document 11-12-06](#)

Reform of the University APT Committee Procedures

[Senate Document 11-12-03](#)

Faculty Satisfaction with Student Academic Dishonesty Honor Review Procedures

[Senate Document 10-11-59](#)

Review of the Policy on Intellectual Property

[Senate Document 10-11-36](#)

Activation of the USM Clinical Titles

[Senate Document 11-12-20](#)

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

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 here: <http://www.president.umd.edu/policies>

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