Senate Newsletter

NOTES FROM THE SENATE MEETING

At the <u>April 6, 2017, Senate meeting</u>, President Loh took questions from Senators on a variety of topics including the future of the Purple Line, the Maryland State Assembly's current legislative session, the importance of voting, and student groups at the University.

Senators discussed the <u>revisions to the IP Policy</u>, the <u>University of Maryland Climate Action Plan 2.0</u>, and the <u>Policies and Procedures Governing Preferred/Primary Names and Sex/Gender Markers in University Databases</u>. After discussion, all three proposals were approved.

William Bowerman, Chair of the <u>IT Council</u>, reported on the <u>activities of the IT Council this year</u> and gave background information on its structure and purpose. He encouraged people to serve on the IT Council in the future.

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.**

Serving on the Staff Affairs Committee and as a University Senator has given me greater institutional knowledge which grants me the opportunity to serve my Department and my community from a different perspective.

−Rosanne Hoaas, Non−Exempt Staff Senator and Staff Affairs Committee Member

From the Senate Chair

There are many challenges facing the University. If state budget challenges were not enough, the proposed federal budget could jeopardize the basic research infrastructure for both the sciences and the humanities. The national endowments for the arts and humanities represent such a small portion of the federal budget that the motivation for their elimination does not appear to be fiscal. The President's proposed cuts in science funding are equally harmful and could have a potentially devastating impact. Starting in the 1940s, huge increases in federal funding for research led to the formation of several federal agencies. Since then, the federal government has funded a majority of the University's Research & Development work, from as high as 73% in the late 1960s to around 60% now. The 1950s brought about the great industrial laboratories like Bell Labs, Westinghouse, and GE. This triad − federal government, universities, and industry − built our prosperity. It gave us the transistor, the computer, integrated circuits, and the Internet. The great industrial labs are now gone, making the partnership between government and universities more important than ever.

Today, the United States has the strongest, largest, and most successful research and development system in the world. We get the majority of Nobel Prizes in physics, chemistry, medicine or physiology, and economics, and we set the world standard for graduate education in nearly every field of science and engineering. But many people still don't understand the critical role of government in research. Many people view R&D as industry's role, but if anything, industry is retreating from research.

The proposed federal budget would cut funding for the NIH by 18% and slash the EPA's budget by 31% while also laying off significant numbers of staff. The EPA's R&D Office would have its funding reduced by half. In addition, DOE's Office of Science is slated for major cuts and the future of other science agencies is still unknown, but cuts will likely be ~10%. It is estimated that the proposed cuts to federal research agencies will result in a significant reduction in federally sponsored research to our campus. Another important factor is overhead, which is the amount that the university charges grants for the services it provides to do research. The overhead rate is negotiated with the federal government based on actual costs of doing research at each institution and by balancing allowable direct costs. Last year, NIH paid $6.4 billion in overhead costs. Many private foundations provide little to no overhead to grantees, meaning the state subsidizes this research. If HHS programs were to eliminate all indirect costs on grants this could result in a significant reduction annually to our campus. If other agencies were to follow, it could impact a substantial fraction of our indirect costs.

The university will try its best to compete for new grants. We are actively working on solutions to enhance the competitiveness of our research programs. The potential financial impact of this proposed budget is truly dire, but it's more than about money or even the campus; it's about our future. We need to make the case for the importance of science and the impact that it has instead of making this a political issue. I urge you to participate in the <u>March for Science</u> on Saturday, April 22, in Washington, DC. UMD is planning to host many scholars and stage a variety of events on campus in the week leading up to the March for Science. Many departments are planning activities and we are planning a <u>Celebration of American Science & Engineering (CASE)</u> on Friday, April 21, on campus. I strongly urge all of you to find a way to participate in the March and the on−campus activities.

Jordan Goodman

Volunteer for a Senate Committee

Do you want to be part of the University's decision-making process? <u>Volunteer to serve on a University Senate committee</u> during the 2017-2018 academic year! The Committee Volunteer Period is open April 3 to May 1, 2017.

Senate committees do most of the work that is reviewed by the Senate each year. Senate committees research and deliberate on campus concerns, and they review existing policies, propose new ones, and craft recommendations that help make the University an even better place to work and learn. You can play an important role in shared governance and shaping University policy by participating in the committee process. Please consider volunteering to serve on a Senate committee for the upcoming 2017-2018 academic year!

All active faculty, staff, and students are eligible to volunteer. Visit the <u>Senate website</u> and click the "Sign Up for Committees" button. You will be asked to log-in using your University directory ID & password and you will then be sent to the committee volunteer form. You will be able to indicate your top three committee choices from a list on the volunteer form (if there are no current vacancies in a particular committee, it will not be included in the list) and you will be asked to submit a statement about why you want to serve as a volunteer. Please note that selected faculty and staff members will serve two-year terms and students will serve one-year terms. **If you are a continuing member of a committee, you do not have to complete this form.**

A list of all Senate committees and information about the work they do can be found on our <u>website</u>. You do not have to be a Senator to serve on a Senate committee. All committee volunteer forms will be reviewed by the Senate-elected <u>Committee on Committees</u> at the end of the spring semester. All volunteers will be notified by July 1, 2017, regarding whether they have received a committee assignment. Terms will begin in fall 2017.

The deadline to submit your committee volunteer form is May 1, 2017.

Please feel free to contact the Senate Office at <u>senate-admin@umd.edu</u> or 301-405-5805 with any questions or technical difficulties. Thank you for your continued interest in shared governance at the University of Maryland!

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

APAS Committee- 4/10/17

Staff Affairs Committee- 4/11/17

Student Affairs Committee- 4/14/17

Senate Meeting- 4/19/17

Senate Executive Committee- 4/20/17

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

CURRENT SENATE LEGISLATION

Providing Gender Inclusive Facilities

Senate Document 16-17-32

Undergraduate Admissions Procedures Related to Criminal Background

Senate Document 16-17-29

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