



# Senate Newsletter

## NOTES FROM THE SENATE MEETING

At the April 19, 2017, Senate meeting, Chair Goodman noted that this was the last meeting for all outgoing Senators. The May 4, 2017, Senate meeting will be for all continuing and incoming Senators. The elections for Senate-elected committees and councils will take place at the May meeting.

Steve Petkas presented the report of the Joint President/Senate Sexual Assault Prevention Task Force. Senators discussed the Task Force's recommendations and proposed several amendments. The Task Force report was approved with two amendments regarding the membership of the Sexual Assault Prevention Committee and clarified the role of the Office of Planning and Evaluation in the School of Public Health in data analysis.

Senators also voted in favor of the Revisions to the School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation's Plan of Organization.

Senators heard a presentation from Jennifer Golbeck about the Celebration of American Science & Engineering (CASE) on April 21st and from Pamela Abshire about the March for Science in Washington, DC, on April 22nd.

During new business, Senators voted in favor of a resolution in support of the mission of the March for Science.



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.



The University of Maryland is rare in that we have a University Senate with representation from all parts of the University community. In my experience, even the most challenging conflicts can usually be resolved when the parties involved are willing to sit down and talk with each other. The Senate is our premier venue for that kind of dialogue, and thoughtful participation can lead us to an ever-improving University.

-Chuck Delwiche, Faculty Senator and Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) Committee Chair

# From the Senate Chair



If we found that many of our talented students were dropping out of the University because they did not have information they needed to succeed, we would take action. If we found that a disease was attacking our students and scarring them both emotionally and physically, we would take action. Sexual assault is such a disease – it causes emotional and physical scars and it causes students to drop out of the University. Our students are not getting the training they need to protect themselves and our community from sexual assault. As Joe Biden pointed out this week “the major reason why women drop out of college when they’re a freshman is because of sexual assault. Not their grades, sexual assault.” I am proud of many of the things that we have done together in my year as Senate Chair, but I’m really proud that we are addressing this issue through the work of the Sexual Assault Prevention Task Force. This was a joint task force formed by the President and the Senate. However, this issue has been evolving over the last 5 years starting with the Sexual Harassment Task Force chaired by Cindi Hale, which reported in Fall 2013 and led to the creation of the Title IX office and Title IX Officer position. Following several changes in federal guidance, the EDI, Faculty Affairs, Staff Affairs, and Student Conduct committees worked from fall 2014 to develop the sexual misconduct policies and procedures for faculty, staff, and students that were approved by the Senate last year. At that meeting, a number of students raised concerns and wanted to incorporate an amendment on sexual assault prevention training into the policy. While the Senate decided that was not the appropriate way to deal with this issue, we heard them. Over the past several years, students have conveyed the importance of sexual assault prevention. We recognized that while there were substantial efforts going on, through CARE, OCRSM, and other offices, these efforts needed to be better coordinated. We created this task force to address those concerns and move towards a more comprehensive program. Putting a plan like this together is a balancing act that takes a fine touch and can’t be worked out on the Senate floor. Fortunately, we tapped Steve Petkas to chair this task force and we put together an exceptionally talented and committed group of students, faculty, and staff who worked amazingly hard together, to do research on best practices, look at scientific data on what is actually effective, and gather input from students, faculty, and staff from across the campus. They put together a plan that addresses this serious problem within the constraints of what is possible and what is practical.

One thing I’ve learned about academic leadership both from being a department chair and Senate chair is that the people in charge do not always have the best ideas. We are fortunate to work at a university with extremely talented students, faculty, and staff looking to contribute to the solutions to difficult problems. Chairs, presidents, even faculty do not always have the best ideas, but by working together, we can come up with a solution to difficult problems. This is one of the strengths of our Senate, which engages all of the constituencies.

Much of the work of the Senate is done by standing committees and ad-hoc task forces. I want to thank the committees, task forces, and subcommittees and their chairs for the amazing job they have done this year and the huge workload that they have shouldered. They brought forward significant policies and recommendations that will help chart the course for the University on issues such as restricted research, diverse faculty hiring initiatives, intellectual property, and sexual assault prevention. The chairs of these bodies have done a remarkable job of tackling these issues head on and bringing forward recommendations that are forward-thinking and practical. I also want to thank the Senate staff. Much of their work is in the background supporting all of these committees and task forces so it is likely not as visible, but they work tirelessly to keep the Senate moving forward. I think we all owe them a debt of gratitude for their work.

Jordan Goodman

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jordan Goodman".

# Volunteer for a Senate Committee

Do you want to be part of the University's decision-making process? Volunteer to serve on a University Senate committee 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!

The volunteer application will be open through May 1, 2017, and all active faculty, staff, and students are eligible to volunteer. Visit the Senate website 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'll 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'll 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 website. You do not have to be a Senator to serve on a Senate committee. All committee preference forms will be reviewed by the Senate-elected Committee on Committees 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 senate-admin@umd.edu 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

**Faculty Affairs Committee- 4/24/17**

**EDI Committee- 4/26/17**

**ERG Committee- 4/26/17**

**Educational Affairs Committee- 4/28/17**

**Student Conduct Committee- 4/28/17**

## 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](#)

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