

University Senate Meeting

April 24, 2025



Senators and Deans

- Use the designated credentials sent to you via email.
- Log in to **Top Hat** on your mobile device or web browser (<https://app.tophat.com/e/>).
- Locate the University Senate Course.
- Enter the **Course Password: terps25**



Go to **Top Hat** on a mobile device or at <https://app.tophat.com/e/>

COURSE PASSWORD: terps25

Quorum: 97

Senators & Deans: Press **A** in **Top Hat** to indicate that you are present for quorum purposes.

The meeting will start once we reach the Quorum number above.

A. Yes, present



Agenda

1. Call to Order

Agenda

2. Approval of the April 2, 2025
Senate Minutes (Action)

Agenda

3. Report of the Chair

Report of the Chair- Committee & Council Volunteer Period

- There is still time to sign up to serve on one of our 10 Senate standing committees and councils for the upcoming academic year.
- You do not need to be a Senator to be a member of one of these committees or councils.



Report of the Chair- Committee & Council Volunteer Period

- Volunteers interested in contributing to the development of the university's policy-making, expanding their campus network, adding to their service portfolio for promotions, and impacting real change in important policies are welcome to apply!
- The University Senate offers a wide range of committees covering varying topics that will appeal to anyone interested in getting involved.



Report of the Chair- Committee & Council Volunteer Period

- We appreciate all those who have already volunteered, but we are still in need of graduate students, staff, and faculty volunteers. We also appreciate your encouragement of your constituency members to apply for committee membership.



Report of the Chair- Committee & Council Volunteer Period

- **The deadline to volunteer is May 2nd.**
- If you're interested in volunteering or able to encourage others to volunteer, please go to the Senate website to submit a volunteer statement for the committees and councils you're interested in joining.



Report of the Chair- Committee & Council Volunteer Period

- Applicants should provide a brief description of their interest and what they can contribute.
- The Senate's Committee on Committees will select volunteers to serve on each committee and will notify selected volunteers over the summer.



Report of the Chair- Remaining Senate Meetings

- This meeting is the final meeting for our outgoing Senators.
- I would like to thank all of the outgoing Senators for their work in the Senate and their commitment to shared governance.
- Your engagement in the Senate has provided valuable perspective for President Pines and the creation of and revisions to policies that will help shape the future of the University.



Report of the Chair- Remaining Senate Meetings

- Can all of the Outgoing Senators with a term of 2025 who are here, please use the Raise Hand feature under the Reactions option at the bottom of your Zoom window, so we can see all of you?
- Let's all give them a "virtual" round of applause for their service on the University Senate.



Report of the Chair – Update on Remaining Senate Meetings

2025 Outgoing Senators

Diako Abbasi	Kuishuang Feng	Antonieta Jennings	Thomas Moser	Campbell Scribner
Asabea Agyemang	Jonathan Fernandes	Amy Karlsson	Tin Nguyen	Yasmeen Shah
Julia Babula	Gene Ferrick	James Key	Laiba Nisar	Richard Shin
Autumn Ballard	Shulamit Frenkel	Timothy Koeth	Brynne Norton	Abhiram Sreeramaneni
Rachelle Beasley	Alka Gandhi	Daniel Kunitz	Peter Osorio	James Stillwell
Rustam Biswas	Datta Gannavarapu	Byoung-Suk Kweon	Daniel Ostick	Matthew Suriano
Conell Brandner	Joshua Goldberg	Chris Lewis	Matt Parker	Gurpal Toor
Sara Carter	Romel Gomez	Adam Lloyd	Deven Patel	Karoline Trovato
Tamara Clegg	Ian Gould	Ivy Lyons	Dylan Patel	Ethan Vinodh
Sophia Conrad	Lauren Grove	Keira Martone	M Pease	Michael Werre
Andrew Cullen	Mohammad Hajiaghayi	Adrienne Mayo-Brown	Igor Puchtel	Jemma Wood
Sarah Dammeyer	Addison Hanrattie	Abigail McEwen	Amrina Rangar	Shytance Wren
Denise Demontagnac	Jeffrey Herf	Uchenna Mike-Olisa	Mary Ann Rankin	Brooke Wunderler
Karen Denny	Larry Herman	Megan Miller	Smrithan Ravichandran	Zeena Zakharia
Rachel Ellis	Kelly Hovland	Ross Miller	Jonathan Resop	Anil Zenginoglu
Anahi Espindola	Cherise Hunter	Aria Mohebi	Andrew Ristvey	Lei Zhou
Leah Falk	Christopher Jarzynski	Isaac Moradi	Bryant Rivera Cortez	

Report of the Chair- Senate Transition Meeting

- The May 7th Senate Transition Meeting will include all continuing and incoming Senators and Deans. It will also be my last meeting as your Chair.
- On April 30th, continuing and incoming Senators, and Deans will receive the Zoom panelist invitations and the materials for the May 7th Transition Meeting. At that meeting, Sarah Dammeyer will take over as your Senate Chair and the Senate will elect a new Chair-Elect.



Report of the Chair- Nominations Committee Slates

- All continuing and incoming Senators have received the 2025 Nominations Committee Slates.
- Please note, slates were only distributed to incoming and continuing members, outgoing Senators will not receive the slates.



Report of the Chair- Nominations Committee Slates

- All continuing Senators, please review the slates before our next Senate meeting on May 7th. As I mentioned before, we will be holding elections for the next Chair-elect and afterwards distributing a survey for elections of the Senate's elected committees and councils.



Report of the Chair- Higher Education Shared Values Resolutions

- Across the nation, higher education institutions are confronting escalating political pressures that threaten academic freedom, institutional autonomy, and the foundational principles of our educational system. Recent developments have made it clear that academic communities must actively reaffirm their core values.



Report of the Chair- Higher Education Shared Values Resolutions

- In response to these challenges, the Senate Executive Committee voted on April 9, 2025, to convene a subcommittee to review public statements issued by peer institutions, including Rutgers University, and to consider whether the University of Maryland should vote to adopt a formal resolution of its own.



Report of the Chair- Higher Education Shared Values Resolutions

- Members agreed to vote on the subcommittee slate via email. The Senate Office solicited votes and members elected the following SEC members to serve on the subcommittee:
 - Jordan Sly, Committee Chair, LIBR-Libraries
 - Patrick Wohlfarth, TTK, BSOS
 - Vikrant Aute, PTK, ENGR
 - Antonietta "Toni" Jennings, Non-Exempt Staff, VPR
 - Addison Hanrattie, Undergraduate Student, CMNS



Report of the Chair- Higher Education Shared Values Resolutions

- The subcommittee held its first meeting yesterday, April 23rd.
- The subcommittee voted to move forward with presenting the Statement in Support of the Core Mission and Shared Values of Higher Education in the United States of America for consideration by the full Senate. Materials were shared yesterday, and this will be brought up in New Business later in the meeting.



Report of the Chair- In Memoriam – Gerald “Jerry” Miller, Former Senate Chair

- An ‘In memoriam’ slide will be shared now to honor the former University Senate Chair.





Past Senate Chair

*Gerald "Jerry"
Miller*

1936-2025

Agenda

4. PCC Proposal to Establish a Bachelor of Arts in Global Cultures (Senate Document #24-25-30) (Action)

PCC Proposal to Establish a Bachelor of Arts in Global Cultures (Senate Document #24-25-30) (Action)

- The College of Arts and Humanities' School of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures proposes to establish a Bachelor of Arts in Global Cultures.
- This undergraduate major will foster the multilingual study of the cultures of the globalized world through classroom and experiential learning.



PCC Proposal to Establish a Bachelor of Arts in Global Cultures (Senate Document #24-25-30)

- Unlike traditional language bachelor's programs, which separate language acquisition from cultural study, this BA program allows students to explore culture alongside or prior to language study and engage in the advanced study of more than one language.



PCC Proposal to Establish a Bachelor of Arts in Global Cultures (Senate Document #24-25-30)

- The 39-credit major includes two core courses in global humanities, 12 credits in language study, 6 credits in experiential learning, and 15 credits of upper-division electives.
- The program may be paired with another language major or any other major.



PCC Proposal to Establish a Bachelor of Arts in Global Cultures (Senate Document #24-25-30)

- The Global Cultures program aligns with the university's strategic goals by reimagining learning through interdisciplinary, experiential, and globally focused education that prepares students to address humanity's grand challenges.



PCC Proposal to Establish a Bachelor of Arts in Global Cultures (Senate Document #24-25-30)

- The program will draw on the physical facilities, administrative infrastructure and instructional resources already available within the School of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures and the College of Arts and Humanities.



PCC Proposal to Establish a Bachelor of Arts in Global Cultures (Senate Document #24-25-30)

- The proposal was approved by the Senate Programs, Curricula, and Courses Committee at its meeting on March 7, 2025.
- The Program, Curricula, and Courses Committee moves that the proposal to establish a Bachelor of Arts in Global Cultures be approved.



Discussion

**PCC Proposal to Establish a Bachelor of Arts
in Global Cultures (Senate Document #24-25-
30) (Action)**



PCC Proposal to Establish a Bachelor of Arts in Global Cultures (Senate Document #24-25-30) (Action)

- A. In Favor
- B. Opposed
- C. Abstain



Agenda

5. PCC Proposal to Establish a Bachelor of Arts in Global and Foreign Policy (Senate Document #24-25-31) (Action)

PCC Proposal to Establish a Bachelor of Arts in Global and Foreign Policy (Senate Document #24- 25-31) (Action)

- The School of Public Policy, in conjunction with its campus partners, proposes to establish a Bachelor of Arts in Global and Foreign Policy.



PCC Proposal to Establish a Bachelor of Arts in Global and Foreign Policy (Senate Document #24-25-31)

- This program is designed to address the growing demand for interdisciplinary education that equips students to navigate the complex challenges of global governance, international conflict, diplomacy, development, and sustainability.



PCC Proposal to Establish a Bachelor of Arts in Global and Foreign Policy (Senate Document #24-25-31)

- The interdisciplinary Global and Foreign Policy major will be housed in the School of Public Policy but will be collaboratively offered with the School of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures, the Department of History, and the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics.



PCC Proposal to Establish a Bachelor of Arts in Global and Foreign Policy (Senate Document #24-25-31)

- The program will be 52-53 credits, and include core courses in global policy and ethics, pluralism and public policy, and history, 16-27 credits in skill-based coursework in statistics, research methods, and world languages, a 15-credit thematic track with electives, and an experiential learning component.



PCC Proposal to Establish a Bachelor of Arts in Global and Foreign Policy (Senate Document #24-25-31)

- Graduates of this major will be prepared for careers in government, international organizations, NGOs, think tanks, global businesses, and other sectors that address international policy, diplomacy, development, and security issues.



PCC Proposal to Establish a Bachelor of Arts in Global and Foreign Policy (Senate Document #24-25-31)

- The program will be funded through internal reallocations as it leverages existing faculty, courses, and infrastructure within the School of Public Policy and its collaborating partners to offer the program.



PCC Proposal to Establish a Bachelor of Arts in Global and Foreign Policy (Senate Document #24-25-31)

- The proposal was approved by the Senate Programs, Curricula, and Courses Committee at its meeting on March 7, 2025.
- The Program, Curricula, and Courses Committee moves that the proposal to establish a Bachelor of Arts in Global and Foreign Policy be approved.



Discussion

**PCC Proposal to Establish a Bachelor of Arts
in Global and Foreign Policy (Senate
Document #24-25-31) (Action)**



PCC Proposal to Establish a Bachelor of Arts in Global and Foreign Policy (Senate Document #24- 25-31) (Action)

- A. In Favor
- B. Opposed
- C. Abstain



Agenda

6. PCC Proposal to Establish a Master of Science in Artificial Intelligence
(Senate Document #24-25-32) (Action)

PCC Proposal to Establish a Master of Science in Artificial Intelligence (Senate Document #24-25-32) (Action)

- The College of Computer, Mathematical, and Natural Sciences proposes to establish a Master of Science in Artificial Intelligence.
- This 30-credit, non-thesis program is designed for professionals seeking advanced training in AI technologies.



PCC Proposal to Establish a Master of Science in Artificial Intelligence (Senate Document #24-25-32)

- The curriculum emphasizes technical proficiency in machine learning, deep learning, and AI decision-making, while also addressing human-centered design, ethics, and the societal impact of AI.



PCC Proposal to Establish a Master of Science in Artificial Intelligence (Senate Document #24-25-32)

- The program includes 21 credits of core courses in probability and statistics, data science, machine learning, computer systems, and the social and ethical aspects of AI, along with a 9-credit elective category that will allow students to focus on a particular area of AI.



PCC Proposal to Establish a Master of Science in Artificial Intelligence (Senate Document #24-25-32)

- The program is designed to meet the growing demand for professionals trained in both the technical and social dimensions of AI.
- The program will be self-supported and funded entirely through tuition revenue.



PCC Proposal to Establish a Master of Science in Artificial Intelligence (Senate Document #24-25-32)

- The proposal was approved by the Senate Programs, Curricula, and Courses Committee at its meeting on April 4, 2025.
- The Program, Curricula, and Courses Committee moves that the proposal to establish a Master of Science in Artificial Intelligence be approved.



Discussion

**PCC Proposal to Establish a Master of Science
in Artificial Intelligence (Senate Document
#24-25-32) (Action)**



PCC Proposal to Establish a Master of Science in Artificial Intelligence (Senate Document #24-25-32) (Action)

- A. In Favor
- B. Opposed
- C. Abstain



Agenda

7. PCC Proposal to Establish a Bachelor of Arts in Public Service Interpreting and Translation (Senate Document #24-25-33) (Action)

PCC Proposal to Establish a Bachelor of Arts in Public Service Interpreting and Translation (Senate Document #24-25-33) (Action)

- The College of Arts and Humanities proposes to establish a Bachelor of Arts in Public Service Interpreting and Translation.
- This program will be a collaboration between the Department of Communication and the School of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures, and will be offered at the Universities at Shady Grove.



PCC Proposal to Establish a Bachelor of Arts in Public Service Interpreting and Translation (Senate Document #24-25-33)

- The program will provide students with a fundamental understanding of how to communicate messages between speakers of one language and speakers of a different language through the spoken (interpreting) and written word (translation) in community-based settings.



PCC Proposal to Establish a Bachelor of Arts in Public Service Interpreting and Translation (Senate Document #24-25-33)

- The program is designed for speakers of Spanish and English with particular focus on heritage speakers of Spanish.
- This program will address the state of Maryland's growing need for trained Spanish-English interpreters and translators by equipping bilingual students with the skills and credentials to serve diverse communities.



PCC Proposal to Establish a Bachelor of Arts in Public Service Interpreting and Translation (Senate Document #24-25-33)

- The 45-credit program includes lower-level communication courses, intercultural communication theory and methods, interpretation and translation (including a practicum), upper-level communication courses, and upper-level Spanish courses.



PCC Proposal to Establish a Bachelor of Arts in Public Service Interpreting and Translation (Senate Document #24-25-33)

- Though the course focuses on Spanish-speakers now, the hope is to add more language opportunities in the future, and thus the title of the course remains open, allowing for this growth.
- Graduates will be equipped to work in education, healthcare, law, migrant services, and other public sectors where bilingual communication is essential.



PCC Proposal to Establish a Bachelor of Arts in Public Service Interpreting and Translation (Senate Document #24-25-33)

- This program will be self-funded through tuition revenue, and will be supported by existing faculty and administrative infrastructure in the participating departments.
- The proposal was approved by the Senate Programs, Curricula, and Courses Committee at its meeting on April 4, 2025.
- The Program, Curricula, and Courses Committee recommends that the proposal to establish a Bachelor of Arts in Public Service Interpreting and Translation be approved.



Discussion

**PCC Proposal to Establish a Bachelor of Arts
in Public Service Interpreting and Translation
(Senate Document #24-25-33) (Action)**

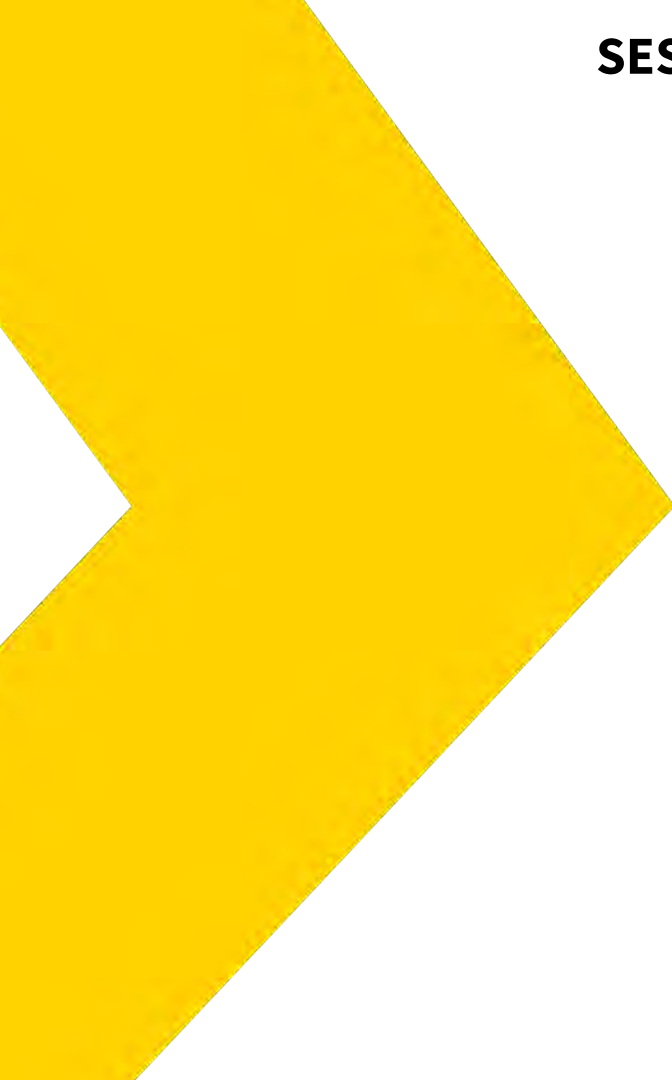


PCC Proposal to Establish a Bachelor of Arts in Public Service Interpreting and Translation (Senate Document #24-25-33) (Action)

- A. In Favor
- B. Opposed
- C. Abstain



Agenda

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8. APAS Report: Review of UMD Policy on Excused Absence [V-1.00 (G)] (Senate Document #24-25-10) (Action)

APAS Report: Review of UMD Policy on Excused Absence [V-1.00 (G)] (Senate Document #24-25-10) (Action)

- In October 2024, the Senate Executive Committee (SEC) charged the Academic Procedures and Standards (APAS) Committee with a review of the University of Maryland (UMD) Policy on Excused Absence (V-1.00(G)) after a Senator expressed a concern about possible misalignment between UMD's policy and a University Systems of Maryland (USM) policy, which had been updated in December 2024.



APAS Report: Review of UMD Policy on Excused Absence [V-1.00 (G)] (Senate Document #24-25-10)

- At the October 2024 APAS Committee meeting, members reviewed the UMD Policy on Excused Absences and the USM policy Concerning the Scheduling of Academic Assignments on Dates of Religious Observance; Campus Space for Faith-Based or Religious Practices (III-5.10).



APAS Report: Review of UMD Policy on Excused Absence [V-1.00 (G)] (Senate Document #24-25-10)

- Members identified that the first sentence of section III in the UMD Policy contains a direct quotation that is no longer present in the USM Policy.
- The committee agreed that a UMD Policy change should remove the direct quote and be broadened by referring to the USM Policy without directly quoting the policy to avoid any misquotes should future USM updates occur.



APAS Report: Review of UMD Policy on Excused Absence [V-1.00 (G)] (Senate Document #24-25-10)

- With that change of the policy language, committee members observed that UMD's Excused Absence Policy is in alignment with the updated USM Policy based on the following points:
 - the UMD Excused Absence Policy states that events related to religious observances are considered an excused absence that receive academic accommodations, and,
 - should a student be denied an excused absence, the UMD Policy contains the process to appeal a denied excused absence or denied accommodations for an excused absence.



APAS Report: Review of UMD Policy on Excused Absence [V-1.00 (G)] (Senate Document #24-25-10)

- Consultations were held with the Office of General Counsel (OGC), the Undergraduate Ombuds Officer, and the Faculty Affairs Committee members to gather feedback about concerns regarding potential misalignment between the two policies or concerns with implementation of the policy. No concerns were voiced among any of the constituents.



APAS Report: Review of UMD Policy on Excused Absence [V-1.00 (G)] (Senate Document #24-25-10)

- APAS Committee members discussed concerns about a student's ability to successfully complete a course if a substantial number of classes or assignments are missed.
- Policy language was included directing students to consult with their instructor and academic advisor for extra guidance.



APAS Report: Review of UMD Policy on Excused Absence [V-1.00 (G)] (Senate Document #24-25-10)

- Additionally, after receiving further guidance from OGC, policy language was also included to provide a clearer framework about reasonable accommodations. This language is in alignment with USM Policy language about reasonable accommodations.
- The Academic Procedures and Standards Committee recommends that the proposed revisions to the University of Maryland Policy on Excused Absence (V-1.00(G)), as shown in the report be accepted.



Discussion

**APAS Report: Review of UMD Policy on
Excused Absence [V-1.00 (G)] (Senate
Document #24-25-10) (Action)**



APAS Report: Review of UMD Policy on Excused Absence [V-1.00 (G)] (Senate Document #24-25-10) (Action)

- A. In Favor
- B. Opposed
- C. Abstain



Agenda

9. APAS Report: Proposal for Bereavement Policies and Practices Toward an Inclusive Community of Care (Senate Document # 23-24-27) (Action)

APAS Report: Proposal for Bereavement Policies and Practices Toward an Inclusive Community of Care (Senate Document # 23-24-27) (Action)

- In December 2023, University of Maryland (UMD) doctoral students submitted a proposal entitled, “Proposal for Bereavement Policies and Practices Towards an Inclusive Community of Care.”
- The proposal highlighted the prevalence and impact of bereavement among college students, noting that a significant portion of college students experience the death of someone close to them.



APAS Report: Proposal for Bereavement Policies and Practices Toward an Inclusive Community of Care (Senate Document # 23-24-27)

- In the proposal, the proposers explained that the UMD Policy on Excused Absence (V-1.00[G]) allows for bereavement-related absences under “compelling circumstances;” however, the policy lacks specific guidelines for accommodations, leaving decisions to individual instructors.
- The proposal asked for a review and redesign of the University’s policies to ensure clear, compassionate, and inclusive support for students while also providing instructors with guidance on how to respond effectively.



APAS Report: Proposal for Bereavement Policies and Practices Toward an Inclusive Community of Care (Senate Document # 23-24-27)

- In February 2024, the Senate Executive Committee (SEC) charged the Academic Procedures and Standards (APAS) Committee with a review of the University of Maryland (UMD) Policy on Excused Absence (V-1.00(G)).
- The APAS Committee began its review at the May 2024 committee meeting. The committee began with an analysis of BIG10 universities and peer institutions' policies and procedures.



APAS Report: Proposal for Bereavement Policies and Practices Toward an Inclusive Community of Care (Senate Document # 23-24-27)

- Through this review, members noticed that the majority of policies state that students are expected to inform the instructor of the need for an excused absence and the instructor has the discretion of how to academically accommodate the excused absence. Another trend was that, if a number of days are quantified in a policy, five days is the average amount a student can miss for the death of family members specified as a parent or sibling.



APAS Report: Proposal for Bereavement Policies and Practices Toward an Inclusive Community of Care (Senate Document # 23-24-27)

- Other immediate family members, such as grandparents, uncle/aunt, and cousins receive a fewer number of days. A few institutions centralized the process with the Dean of Students, removing faculty involvement.
- In comparison to the peer data reviewed, committee members observed that the University's current policy is more flexible than many peer institutions, which can accommodate various circumstances but lacks specifics for implementation.



APAS Report: Proposal for Bereavement Policies and Practices Toward an Inclusive Community of Care (Senate Document # 23-24-27)

- For a better understanding of how bereavement absences are addressed with the current policy, the committee sought feedback from stakeholders across campus, including:
 - The authors of the proposal
 - The Senate Student Affairs Committee
 - The Dean of Undergraduate Studies
 - The Undergraduate and the Graduate Ombuds Officers,
 - Seven Directors of Undergraduate Studies



APAS Report: Proposal for Bereavement Policies and Practices Toward an Inclusive Community of Care (Senate Document # 23-24-27)

- The committee also consulted with the University Counseling Center Director, the Dean of Students, the Office of Faculty Affairs, and the Director of Letter and Sciences, who works with a large population of undergraduate students through academic advising. Finally, the committee administered a survey to all Directors of Undergraduate Studies.



APAS Report: Proposal for Bereavement Policies and Practices Toward an Inclusive Community of Care (Senate Document # 23-24-27)

- The consultations with the proposers and members of the Student Affairs Committee identified challenges with the current policy, including the burden faced by students when notifying multiple instructors about a bereavement absence and the mixed level of responses received from each instructor.



APAS Report: Proposal for Bereavement Policies and Practices Toward an Inclusive Community of Care (Senate Document # 23-24-27)

- Students we spoke with expressed further challenges when the loss is not a “family member.”
- Some students indicated that instructors’ support for a grieving student may vary depending on the student’s relationship with the individual who passed away, leading to inconsistent treatment based on the nature of the relationship.
- Only a few students acknowledged awareness of the appeal process listed in the policy or other resources available to help.



APAS Report: Proposal for Bereavement Policies and Practices Toward an Inclusive Community of Care (Senate Document # 23-24-27)

- Additionally, the proposal asked that the Senate define a minimum number of days that students are eligible for when requesting an excused absence for bereavement.
- Many members of the UMD community acknowledged the difficulty of quantifying a minimum number of days permitted in a policy, since everyone's experience with grief is unique and individuals experience grief in a non-linear manner.



APAS Report: Proposal for Bereavement Policies and Practices Toward an Inclusive Community of Care (Senate Document # 23-24-27)

- The open-ended structure of the current policy was identified through our consultations as the best option to ensure that there is flexibility provided to meet students' individual needs while accounting for the unique structures and demands of each course.
- Several constituents highlighted the importance of providing both students and faculty with better guidance of resources to utilize rather than revise the policy to include a specific number of days given for a bereavement absence.



APAS Report: Proposal for Bereavement Policies and Practices Toward an Inclusive Community of Care (Senate Document # 23-24-27)

- It is important to note the sensitive nature of this proposal and the way in grief impacts our campus community.
- During committee discussions, members shared their personal experiences with a loss of a loved one, recalling emotions ranging from numbness, a mental dissonance, shock, and apathy towards daily life.
- The experience of grief is life changing.



APAS Report: Proposal for Bereavement Policies and Practices Toward an Inclusive Community of Care (Senate Document # 23-24-27)

- Since grief is distinct from other types of absences, members felt strongly that expanding the policy to specifically mention bereavement as an excused absence was necessary.
- This ensures that students receive the support they need in these vulnerable moments while still allowing for the flexibility needed in different academic contexts.
- This modification would validate the experience of grief, but does so without introducing unnecessary complexity.



APAS Report: Proposal for Bereavement Policies and Practices Toward an Inclusive Community of Care (Senate Document # 23-24-27)

- Since grief is distinct from other types of absences, members felt strongly that expanding the policy to specifically mention bereavement as an excused absence was necessary.
- This ensures that students receive the support they need in these vulnerable moments while still allowing for the flexibility needed in different academic contexts.
- This modification would validate the experience of grief, but does so without introducing unnecessary complexity.



APAS Report: Proposal for Bereavement Policies and Practices Toward an Inclusive Community of Care (Senate Document # 23-24-27)

- Members also quickly agreed that the definition of "family" in the policy should be expanded to better reflect students' lives and the diverse relationships that support their well-being, ensuring a more holistic understanding during times of grief.
- This revision will make the policy more inclusive and responsive to the diverse needs of the student population, ensuring all students receive appropriate accommodations during bereavement.



APAS Report: Proposal for Bereavement Policies and Practices Toward an Inclusive Community of Care (Senate Document # 23-24-27)

- Based on stakeholder feedback and committee discussions, members concluded that the current policy needed revisions in two areas:
 - Explicitly including bereavement as an excused absence rather than including it as an example of a “compelling reason”
 - Expanding the definition of “family” to be more inclusive.



APAS Report: Proposal for Bereavement Policies and Practices Toward an Inclusive Community of Care (Senate Document # 23-24-27)

- The committee also deliberated at length about the need for supporting documentation.
- In speaking with representatives across campus, it was determined that some documentation is necessary.
- It was noted that the policy does currently allow one health-related absence without documentation.
- The committee recommends that this exception be broadened beyond health-related absences to be appropriate for any absence.



APAS Report: Proposal for Bereavement Policies and Practices Toward an Inclusive Community of Care (Senate Document # 23-24-27)

- The Academic Procedures and Standards Committee recommends that the proposed revisions to the University of Maryland Policy on Excused Absence (V-1.00(G)), as shown in the report be accepted.



APAS Report: Proposal for Bereavement Policies and Practices Toward an Inclusive Community of Care (Senate Document # 23-24-27) (Action)

- A. In Favor
- B. Opposed
- C. Abstain



APAS Report: Proposal for Bereavement Policies and Practices Toward an Inclusive Community of Care (Senate Document # 23-24-27)

- The Academic Procedures and Standards Committee recommends that the proposed revisions to the University of Maryland Policy on Excused Absence (V-1.00(G)), as shown in the report be accepted.



Agenda

10. New Business
11. Adjournment

**Thank you for
attending!**

