

University Senate Meeting

October 15, 2025



Agenda

1. Call to Order

Call to Order – Welcome!

- Today's meeting is being offered in a hybrid format.
- University Senate Meetings are open to all members of the campus, however, only Senators and Deans may vote.



Call to Order – Procedures & Guidelines

- Senators who wish to speak during the discussion sections of the meeting can come up to the microphones if they are in the room or use the ‘Raise Hand’ feature, if they are joining us through Zoom.



Call to Order – Procedures & Guidelines

- Chair Dammeyer will alternate calling on Senators who are in person and those on Zoom, in the order that they are either lined up in the room or virtually.
- If you wish to speak and you are located with us in the Grand Ballroom today, please use the microphones, placed on the aisles.



Call to Order – Procedures & Guidelines

- All virtual participants are **muted** when entering the Zoom.
- You will be asked to unmute yourself when you are recognized to speak.
- Please listen for that request so you can unmute.



Call to Order – Procedures & Guidelines

- Any non-Senators who wish to speak, must be introduced by a Senator or Dean.
- Senators and Deans attending virtually are labeled as Panelists and non-Senators/campus community members are labeled as attendees.



Call to Order – Procedures & Guidelines

- Attendees who would like to identify a Senator to introduce them to speak can find a complete list of Senators at <https://senate.umd.edu/CurrentSenators>.
- **All speakers must first state their name and constituency after being called on.**



Call to Order – Procedures & Guidelines

- The audio from all Senate meetings is utilized to create meeting minutes that will be available prior to the following meeting, so it is important that you identify yourself for the record.



Call to Order – Procedures & Guidelines

- We conduct our meetings in accordance with the Senate Bylaws and adhere to Robert's Rules of Order.
- Please remember that all University policies and expectations for appropriate conduct still apply during all University Senate meetings.



Call to Order – Chat Etiquette

- The Chat box is not part of the official record.
- If you are attending virtually and would like to speak, please use the raise hand feature and wait to be recognized.



Call to Order – Questions

- Are there any questions about any of the procedures or guidelines that I have described?
- If so, please use the **Raise Hand** feature at the bottom of the Zoom window in the **reactions** option or come to the microphone and wait to be called on.



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2. Approval of the September 11, 2025
Senate Meeting Minutes (Action)

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3. Report of the Chair
(Information)

Report of the Chair – Passing of Senator Michael Elonge

- Senate Leadership is saddened to share that Associate Professor Michael Elonge recently passed away.
- Professor Elonge was serving as a Senator for the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, and as an alternate member for CUSF.
- He had previously served as a Senator and as a member of the Elections, Representation, & Governance committee.



Report of the Chair – Passing of Senator Michael Elonge

- Professor Elonge joined University of Maryland Extension in Baltimore City in 2008.
- Professor Elonge was passionate about economics, entrepreneurship, eviction prevention, and housing.
- An 'In Memoriam' slide will be shared now to honor Senator Elonge.



In Memoriam

Senator Michael Elonge



Report of the Chair – Committee Vacancies

- We are still in need of Non-Exempt Staff volunteers for the following committees:
 - Educational Affairs: 1 Non-Exempt Staff seat
 - Elections, Representation & Governance (ERG): 1 Non-Exempt Staff seat
 - Staff Affairs: 1 Non-Exempt Academic seat and 1 Non-Exempt Contingent II seat



Report of the Chair – Committee Vacancies

- If you are aware of any Non-Exempt staff who would be interested in volunteering on one of the University Senate Committees, please share the Volunteer form or have them contact the University Senate Office before October 17.
- The link to the volunteer form was shared in the September 11th Senate Meeting Overview.



Report of the Chair – Volunteers for the Nominations Committee

- Outgoing Senators will soon receive an email about volunteering for the Senate Nominations Committee.
- Every year, the Nominations Committee solicits nominations for the Senate Chair-Elect and membership on the Executive Committee, the Committee on Committees, and other University-wide committees and councils.



Report of the Chair – Volunteers for the Nominations Committee

- To all our senators whose term ends in May 2026, I encourage you to self nominate for the Nominations Committee!
- The Nominations Committee is essential for soliciting nominations for our elected senate committees including; the Senate Executive Committee, Committee on Committees, Campus Transportation Advisory Committee (CTAC), the University Athletic Council, and the Council of University System Faculty. The committee will meet between January and April.



Report of the Chair – Volunteers for the Nominations Committee

- The self-nomination form is due by Friday, October 17, by 5:00pm.
- Outgoing Senators interested in serving on the Nominations Committee, should submit the Google form linked in the email or contact the Senate Office at senate-admin@umd.edu.



Report of the Chair – Senator-Constituency Communication

- Senators are encouraged to communicate with their constituencies.
- As a reminder, any opinions about University Senate matters communicated to constituents are solely those of the Senator and do not reflect the view of the University Senate Office or other University administrators or stakeholders.



Report of the Chair – Senator-Constituency Communication

- A Senate Overview is emailed to Senators after each University Senate meeting.
- Senators are responsible for sharing the Overview with their assigned constituency.
- Senators may add their thoughts to the email but must specify that they are their own and not of the University Senate.



Report of the Chair – Senator-Constituency Communication

- Senators should refer to the Google Group list found in the University Senate ELMS page under the "Senator Constituency Communication" module.
- Please Note: The Google Group list will be updated to reflect any recent Senator changes prior to the distribution of the Senate Overview for today's meeting.



Report of the Chair – Senator-Constituency Communication

- Senators should email the Senate Overview to their Google Group name at umd.edu (GoogleGroupName@umd.edu).



Report of the Chair – Senator-Constituency Communication

- The University Senate Office works with the Division of Information Technology (DIT) to create the Google Groups.
- Senators should contact the University Senate Office for assistance if they have questions or encounter problems when emailing their Google Group.
- If needed, they will connect you with a DIT representative.



Report of the Chair – Senate Office Staffing Updates

- The University Senate Office is currently hiring.
- Since the last University Senate meeting, Danielle Bretz stepped down from her position as Coordinator, thus creating a third vacancy in the Senate Office.
- Pending a successful search, the University Senate Office will hire two candidates to fill the Coordinator vacancies.



Report of the Chair – Senate Office Staffing Updates

- Chair Dammeyer would like to extend a thank you to Danielle Bretz, on behalf of the University Senate, for her incredible contributions. We wish her the very best in her future endeavors.



Report of the Chair – Senate Office Staffing Updates

- Your continued understanding and patience are appreciated as the University Senate Office staffing will be extremely limited until they hire and complete the onboarding process for new staff.



Agenda

4. Darryll J. Pines
President, University of Maryland
State of the Campus Address

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5. Proposal for Bereavement Policies and Practices Toward an Inclusive Community of Care (Senate Document #23-24-27) (Information)

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

- At the April 24, 2025 University Senate meeting, the Academic Procedures & Standards (APAS) Committee presented their recommendations for revisions to UMD Policy on Excused Absence (V-1.00[G]) based on the proposal for Bereavement Policies and Practices Toward an Inclusive Community of Care.



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

- When the committee presented their recommendations, an amendment to one of the recommendations of the number of self-signed excused absences was added via Senate floor amendment.
- This floor amendment increased the number of self-signed excused absences from the recommended one to two.



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

- The final amended policy was forwarded to President Pines for approval, as is typical for all legislation approved by the Senate.
- The President had the option to Approve, Amend, or Reject any recommendation from the Senate.



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

- President Pines reviewed the policy revisions and **did not approve the Senate Floor amendment to increase the number of self-signed excused absences from one to two.**
- President Pines provided a memo explaining the rationale for his amendments with his approval which is included in today's meeting materials.



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6. PCC Proposal: Establish a Bachelor of Science in Environmental and Resource Economics
(Senate Document #25-26-12) (Action)

PCC Proposal: Establish a Bachelor of Science in Environmental and Resource Economics (Senate Document #25-26-12) (Action)

- Meredith Gore, Chair of the Program, Curricula, and Courses Committee will present.
- The College of Agriculture and Natural Resources' Department of Agriculture and Resource Economics proposes to establish a Bachelor of Science in Environmental and Resource Economics.



PCC Proposal: Establish a Bachelor of Science in Environmental and Resource Economics (Senate Document #25-26-12) (Action)

- This new undergraduate major will equip students with a rigorous foundation in economics, quantitative methods, and environmental policy, enabling them to address some of the world's most pressing environmental challenges, such as climate change, resource scarcity, and sustainable development.



PCC Proposal: Establish a Bachelor of Science in Environmental and Resource Economics (Senate Document #25-26-12) (Action)

- Graduates will be well-prepared for careers in data analytics, environmental policy, and sustainable resource management.
- The curriculum requires 42–43 credits, including foundational courses in economics and statistics, upper-level major coursework in areas such as environmental economics, energy economics, economic development, and natural resource policy, and a field specialization chosen from four areas.



PCC Proposal: Establish a Bachelor of Science in Environmental and Resource Economics (Senate Document #25-26-12) (Action)

- The program builds upon an existing specialization in Environmental and Resource Economics within the Agricultural and Resource Economics major.
- This existing specialization will be phased out if the new major is implemented.
- Because the program already exists as a specialization in an existing major, no new resources are required.



PCC Proposal: Establish a Bachelor of Science in Environmental and Resource Economics (Senate Document #25-26-12) (Action)

- The proposal was approved by the Senate Programs, Curricula, and Courses Committee at its meeting on September 5, 2025.
- The Program, Curricula, and Courses Committee moves that the proposal to establish a Bachelor of Science in Environmental and Resource Economics be approved by the University Senate.



PCC Proposal: Establish a Bachelor of Science in Environmental and Resource Economics (Senate Document #25-26-12) (Action)

- Senators who wish to speak may come up to the microphones if they are in the room or use the 'Raise Hand' feature, if they are joining us through Zoom.
- Chair Dammeyer will alternate calling on Senators in the order that they are either lined up in the room or virtually.
- Any non-Senators who wish to speak, must be introduced by a Senator or Dean.



Discussion

**PCC Proposal: Establish a Bachelor of Science in
Environmental and Resource Economics
(Senate Document #25-26-12)**



**PCC Proposal: Establish a Bachelor of Science in
Environmental and Resource Economics
(Senate Document #25-26-12) (Action)**

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



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7. Non-Binding Straw Poll Regarding In-Person Senate and Committee Meetings (Action)

Non-Binding Straw Poll Regarding In-Person Senate and Committee Meetings (Action)

- At the September 11, 2025 University Senate meeting, Senator Lathrop (TTK, CMNS) moved to conduct two non-binding straw poll votes regarding members' preferences for the format of (1) Senate meetings and (2) Senate committee meetings — whether they should be held in person, virtually (remote), or in a hybrid format (offering both in-person and virtual options).



Non-Binding Straw Poll Regarding In-Person Senate and Committee Meetings (Action)

- The Senate voted to include the questions in a non-binding straw poll at the next University Senate meeting to gather information on members' preferences.



Non-Binding Straw Poll Regarding In-Person Senate and Committee Meetings (Action)

- Senators who wish to speak may come up to the microphones if they are in the room or use the 'Raise Hand' feature, if they are joining us through Zoom.
- Chair Dammeyer will alternate calling on Senators in the order that they are either lined up in the room or virtually.
- Any non-Senators who wish to speak, must be introduced by a Senator or Dean.



Discussion

The discussion is regarding preferences on whether Senate meetings and/or Senate committee meetings should be held in person, virtually (remote), or in a hybrid format (offering both in-person and virtual options).



Non-Binding Straw Poll Vote #1:

In which format do you prefer University Senate meetings to be held?

- A. In-Person
- B. Virtual
- C. Hybrid (Option for both In-Person and Virtual)



Non-Binding Straw Poll Vote #2:

In which format do you prefer University Senate
Standing Committee meetings to be held?

- A. In-Person
- B. Virtual
- C. Hybrid (Option for both In-Person and Virtual)



Agenda

8. New Business
9. Adjournment