



CALL TO ORDER

Senate Chair Walsh called the meeting to order at 3:18 p.m.

SPECIAL ORDER: PRESIDENTIAL BRIEFING

President Loh provided an overview of the Maryland General Assembly (MGA) legislative session. He noted that the MGA began the year with a projected fiscal deficit of \$250-350 million, which was resolved by utilizing funds set aside in a rainy day fund and by enacting budget cuts. He stated that this resulted in a \$10 million cut to the University System of Maryland's budget, including a \$4 million cut to the University's budget. He noted that the increase of the state minimum wage to \$15 per hour is an unfunded mandate from the State. President Loh provided his perspectives on the ways in which the state will need to find revenues that can be used to support initiatives that benefit society.

President Loh provided an overview of several capital projects that received funding including the construction of a new building for the Chemistry Department and a new residence community. He noted that the Quality Inn on Baltimore Avenue will be replaced by a significant new retail and housing construction project. He commented on the high number of new jobs expected to be brought to the College Park area over the next five years, including 12,000 new tech jobs. President Loh reflected on his remaining time at the University and said that his agenda is to continue with business as usual, noting that long-term projects cannot be turned on and off.

President Loh reported that the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) small team visit resulted in a finding that the University was not in compliance with Accreditation Standard VII: Governance, Leadership, and Administration. He noted that the MSCHE had expressed concerns about the actions of Board of Regents and their involvement in personnel decisions following the death of Jordan McNair and the two investigations into the athletics program. President Loh indicated that, based on the information they gathered during their site visit, MSCHE had serious concerns regarding the ability of the institution to function autonomously, as is required in Standard VII. He stated that after considering the small team's report, the full Commission will make its final determination when it meets in late June. The potential outcomes from the Commission's consideration of the small team findings could include rejection of the findings, the issuance of a warning, or the University being put on probation. He noted that the University had no control over the Board of Regents' actions, but stated that the MSCHE only has jurisdiction over the University, not the Board of Regents or the University System of Maryland, therefore any sanction would be levied against the University, not the Board.

President Loh stated that concerns related to the autonomy of universities or their president have been raised at several other institutions including the University of North Carolina and the University of Virginia. He stated that a variety of situations, including similar issues in athletics, provide opportunities for governing boards to assert their influence over university business in ways that undermine self-governance and autonomy.

President Loh commented on the Resolution to Designate the Senate Chair to the Cabinet, passed by the Senate on February 5, 2019. He noted that he felt it would not be appropriate for the Senate Chair to serve on the Cabinet, which is composed of appointees that serve at his pleasure, while the Senate Chair is elected by the Senate. President Loh stated that he has taken other steps to formalize his interactions with the Senate leadership, including having recently committed to monthly meetings with the Senate leadership, with additional opportunities to meet, if needed. President Loh stated that the Senate leadership agreed that this regular monthly meeting, in addition to the monthly SEC breakfast and other as-needed meetings, would be a welcome additional opportunity for interaction with the President.

Chair Walsh thanked President Loh for his briefing and opened the floor to questions.

Senator Dorland, faculty, College of Computer, Mathematical, & Natural Sciences, made an observation that President Loh referred to the death of Jordan McNair as a scandal from the fall semester. He stated that McNair died in June, and that the scandal was, in part, due to the fact that the University did not react to McNair's death until the fall semester.

President Loh responded that the University has implemented or begun implementation of all of the recommendations made by Walters Inc. and that it has appointed an implementation review committee to ensure that the University continues to respond appropriately to future issues.

APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 6, 2019 SENATE MINUTES (ACTION)

Chair Walsh asked for additions or corrections to the minutes of the March 6, 2019, meeting; hearing none, he declared the minutes approved as distributed.

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Committee Volunteer Period

Chair Walsh noted that the online system to sign up to serve on one of the Senate's ten standing committees this upcoming academic year was now open. He added that volunteers do not need to be a Senator to be a member of one of these committees. Senate committees address topics related to students, faculty, staff affairs, as well as educational and campus affairs. Walsh also noted that the deadline to volunteer is April 30th and that those interested could go to the Senate website to submit a volunteer statement and pick their top three committee choices. He stated that the Senate's Committee on Committees will be selecting volunteers to serve on each committee and will notify selected volunteers over the summer.

Remaining Senate Meetings

Chair Walsh reminded Senators that there are two more Senate meetings this academic year. The next meeting will be held on April 24th. This will be the last business meeting of the semester for any outgoing Senators.

Chair Walsh stated that the May 7th Transition Senate Meeting will be for all continuing and incoming Senators and will be his last meeting as Senate Chair. On May 7th, Pamela Lanford will take over as Senate Chair, Senators will elect the next Chair-Elect, and vote for the elected committees of the Senate. He noted that the slates of candidates running for the various committees and their candidacy statements will be distributed on April 23rd.

Presidential Search Update

Chair Walsh shared that Chancellor Caret met with key stakeholder groups including the Senate Executive Committee and several Senate committee chairs in early March. He stated that the Chancellor expects to have the presidential search committee in place by the end of April and a campus-wide open forum before the end of the semester to give the campus community an opportunity to convey the key attributes that they would like to see in the future president.

SPECIAL ORDER OF THE DAY

William A. Cohen, Dean, Undergraduate Studies

Proposed Changes to the University Honors Living-Learning Program

Chair Walsh invited William A. Cohen, Dean for Undergraduate Studies, to provide his presentation.

Cohen reviewed the history of University Honors (UH), noting that UH is one of seven living-learning programs housed in the University's Honors College and that UH is both the oldest and largest of the honors programs, housing an average of 500 incoming students every year. He stated that reports dating back to 1988, faculty committee reports, program reviews, and student surveys have expressed concerns about the coherence of the UH curriculum; the lack of a strong feeling of community among UH students; and the lack of a strong UH identity within the Honors College. He shared that UH scored lower than other programs in the Honors College when students were asked "There is a strong collegiate environment in my LLP" and "Compared to other LLPs, I think I learn more in my program than students in other programs do."

Cohen noted that the current UH curriculum is made up of about 120-130 distinct seminars taught by tenured/tenure-track and professional track faculty. He noted that this provides flexibility and variety for students as they plan their schedules, but that it is a collection of courses rather than an organized curriculum. Students may not have an opportunity to pursue particular interests or draw a connection between individual seminars. Cohen commented that this was the primary motivation for the development of a stronger curriculum for UH, especially as compared to other living-learning programs with very strong, organized curriculums. He noted that due to the lack of an organized curriculum, some courses may be taught for several years without being reviewed, and others may only be offered for one semester.

Cohen presented the proposed 15-credit curricular structure leading to a UH citation. Students would take twelve credits worth of thematic cluster and/or theory & practice track courses. The thematic clusters would be made up of one I-series course and one honors seminar, and the theory & practice tracks would be made up of two thematically related, non-sequential seminars taught by DC-area experts. Students would have the option to take either two thematic clusters, or one thematic cluster and one set of theory & practice courses. Freshmen in UH would be required to take a one-credit gateway seminar to assist with the transition to the University and to UH. Students would also take a final two-credit vantage point seminar during their sophomore or junior year to revisit questions explored in their gateway seminars and which would help students pivot to other opportunities, including departmental honors.

Cohen provided an overview of the impact of the redesigned UH curriculum. Students would be taking courses according to a cohesive, flexible, and responsible curriculum. The University also plans to construct a new residence hall to provide higher quality housing for UH students. Faculty would appreciate a deeper engagement with honors students, and professional track faculty would

be fully integrated into the program. Professional track faculty participating in UH would be salaried, rather than employed on a contractual basis. Colleges and Schools would likely experience significant reductions in the number of seminars and faculty members they provide for the program.

Cohen noted that multiple bodies across campus reviewed this proposal, including the Honors College Strategic Vision Committee. He stated that the committee's report highlighted the need for upgrades to UH as its principal recommendation. He noted that faculty and students have had many opportunities to become involved in the planning process and to weigh in on the proposed changes to UH.

Chair Walsh opened the floor to questions or comments.

Senator Brown, undergraduate student, A. James Clark School of Engineering, asked if the gateway seminar would be similar to the current HON100 seminar.

Cohen stated that the gateway seminar would replace HON100.

Senator Brown asked if it would cover similar topics to those currently covered in HON100.

Cohen responded that it would, and that it would cover topics particularly tailored to the UH program.

Senator Brown asked how similar the vantage point seminar would be to the gateway seminar.

Cohen responded that the vantage point seminar may not cover similar topics to the gateway seminar.

Cohen introduced Susan Dwyer, Executive Director of the Honors College. Dwyer responded that the gateway and vantage point seminars would bookend the UH experience. She said that the vantage point seminar would provide an opportunity for students to reflect on their time in Honors and their experience in the gateway seminar as they pivot back into their major courses as upperclassmen.

Senator Brown noted that she appreciates the flexibility of the current UH program, and asked if students would be locked into the subject of their chosen thematic cluster.

Cohen responded that the themes are intended to be broad enough that the associated courses could be interdisciplinary. He noted that students would have options in an approach to a broad topic from different angles. He said that in redesigning the program, the hope was that the chance to take a series of related courses outside of a major would be attractive to prospective students.

Senator Brown expressed concerns about students being required to continue with a particular theme even if they have a poor experience in the first course.

Chair Walsh thanked Senator Brown for her comments.

Senator T. Cohen, faculty, College of Computer, Mathematical, & Natural Sciences, stated that he thought that the proposed changes were a bad idea and expressed his appreciation for the intellectual incoherence of the current UH curriculum, which provides students with the flexibility to follow passions outside of their majors. He stated that he is skeptical of review courses like the

proposed gateway and vantage point seminars. He advised that as much of the current program as possible be retained.

W. Cohen responded that the proposed curriculum should provide students with a stronger pathway to follow their passions outside of their majors.

Senator Huntley, undergraduate student, College of Agriculture & Natural Resources, observed that UH would need to strike a balance between providing a coherent curriculum and requiring students to persist with tracks that they may not like. He noted that as a member of one of the other honors programs, he felt stuck partway through his experience and was no longer interested in the subject of his program. He asked if the new residence halls would only be open to UH students and noted that some students in the Honors College choose their program based on where it is housed.

W. Cohen responded that all incoming freshmen in UH would be housed in the new residence hall, and that there will also be room available for other students.

Senator Huntley asked if students would be required to live in those residence halls for the entirety of their experience in UH.

W. Cohen stated that students would only be required to remain in a particular residence hall for their freshman year.

Senator Huntley advised that the Office of Undergraduate Studies consider how the new residence halls may impact the way that students pick their honors programs.

Senator Hutson, undergraduate student, College of Behavioral & Social Sciences, expressed his appreciation for the proposed changes. He noted that as an honors student, he and his classmates always felt that UH needed more organization.

Chair Walsh thanked Dean Cohen for his presentation.

REVISIONS TO THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND POLICY ON SUSPENSION (SENATE DOCUMENT #17-18-07Z) (ACTION)

Jack Blanchard, Chair of the Faculty Affairs Committee, presented the Revisions to the University of Maryland Policy on Suspension (Senate Document #17-18-07z) and provided background information on the proposal.

Chair Walsh opened the floor to discussion of the proposal.

Seeing no discussion, Walsh called for a vote on the proposal. The result was 71 in favor, 5 opposed, and 5 abstentions. **The motion to approve the revised policy passed.**

PCC PROPOSAL TO RENAME THE POST-BACCALAUREATE CERTIFICATE IN “INTERMEDIATE SURVEY METHODOLOGY” TO “FUNDAMENTALS OF SURVEY METHODOLOGY” (SENATE DOCUMENT #18-19-31) (ACTION)

Betsy Beise, member of the Programs, Curricula, and Courses Committee, presented the PCC Proposal to Rename the Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in “Intermediate Survey Methodology” to “Fundamentals of Survey Methodology” (Senate Document #18-19-31) and provided background information on the proposal.

Chair Walsh opened the floor to discussion of the proposal.

Seeing no discussion, Chair Walsh called for a vote on the proposal. The result was 78 in favor, 0 opposed, and 1 abstention. **The motion to approve the proposal passed.**

RESOLUTION TO EMPHASIZE THE UNIVERSITY’S PRINCIPAL MISSIONS DURING THE SEARCH FOR A NEW PRESIDENT (SENATE DOCUMENT #18-19-30) (ACTION)

Walsh reminded Senators that the Resolution to Emphasize the University’s Principal Missions During the Search for a New President was presented during new business at the February 5 Senate meeting. He stated that the Senate voted to charge the Senate Executive Committee with drafting revised text for the resolution that reflects the principles of the three amendments proposed on the Senate floor at the February meeting. He said that two of the amendments were to add “extension” and “entrepreneurship” to the resolution, and that the SEC agreed to replace “research” with “scholarship” in order to be inclusive of those suggested amendments. He noted that the language for the resolution was included in the meeting materials.

Walsh opened the floor to discussion of the resolution.

Senator Huntley noted that the resolution does not make a statement beyond restating the mission statement of the University. He noted that he planned to vote against the resolution because he believed that the Senate should not pass resolutions unless absolutely necessary.

Senator T. Cohen noted that as the author of the original resolution, he felt that the changes proposed by the SEC were consistent with the spirit of the resolution. He commented that President Loh delivered an extensive briefing without mentioning anything emphasized in the resolution. He noted his concerns about President Loh’s ability to articulate the missions of the University, and that this should be one of the president’s most important jobs. He stated that because the president does not emphasize the missions of the University, the Senate should do so.

Senator Huntley stated that the point of the resolution is that the Senate wants President Loh to emphasize things that he does not include in his present speeches. He commented that if the Senate wants President Loh to stop saying something, that is what the resolution should be about and noted that the resolution does not actually do what the Senate is trying to accomplish.

Senator Callaghan, faculty, College of Arts & Humanities, stated that emphasizing academics and scholarship as the principal mission of the University is indeed saying something. She noted that other tangential aspects of the University may be powerful, but they are not the principal mission.

Senator Howell, faculty, College of Agriculture & Natural Resources, stated that she agrees that the resolution should reflect the mission statement of the University. She made a motion to amend the resolution to add “research” to the resolution, as noted in pink:

Whereas the selection of the next President of the University is of paramount importance to the faculty, staff, and students and a critical element to the institution and to the continued ascension of the University as a top public research institution,

Be it resolved that the Senate recommends that while **identifying candidates for selecting** the next President of the University, the Search Committee emphasize the critical importance of ~~and~~ academics, scholarship, **research, and public service within a supportive, respectful, and inclusive environment** as the University's principal missions ~~s as a land grant institution.~~

Chair Walsh noted that the SEC believed that "scholarship" was inclusive of research and other scholarly activities.

Senator Howell stated that "scholarship" alone is not adequate.

Chair Walsh called for a second to the motion to amend the resolution. The motion was seconded.

Chair Walsh opened the floor to discussion of the amendment.

Senator Brown urged the Senate to reject the amendment because it should consider the resolution as a whole rather than get distracted by editing.

Senator Abana, graduate student, A. James Clark School of Engineering, stated that if the word 'research' is included, 'development' should also be added.

Hearing no further discussion, Chair Walsh called for a vote on the motion to amend the resolution. The result was 33 in favor, 38 opposed, and 3 abstentions. **The motion to amend the resolution failed.**

Chair Walsh opened the floor to discussion of the resolution. Seeing no further discussion, he called for a vote on the resolution. The result was 56 in favor, 16 opposed, and 3 abstentions. **The motion to approve the resolution passed.**

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:43 p.m.