



## CALL TO ORDER

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Senate Chair Lanford called the meeting to order at 4:08 p.m.

Lanford thanked all for attending and acknowledged the tragic loss of Distinguished University Professor Dr. David Driskell and longtime Manager in Dining Services, Luckmann Simon.

## APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES, MARCH 3, 2020 MEETING

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The minutes were approved as distributed.

## REPORT OF THE CHAIR

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- Procedures & Guidelines: Chair Lanford reviewed the procedures and guidelines for the virtual Senate meeting including expectations, recordings, discussion, and voting.
- Committee Volunteer Period: Members of the campus community could still volunteer to serve on a Senate committee by completing the volunteer form on the Senate website by April 30th.
- Remaining Senate Meetings: Lanford noted that this was the last meeting for outgoing Senators and took a moment to thank them for their service on the Senate. She also stated that at the May 6th Transition meeting, newly-elected Senators will start their term, Laura Dugan will start her term as Senate Chair, and the Senate will elect a new Chair-Elect.
- Availability for May 6th Meeting: Lanford noted that there would be a slide that checked the availability of continuing Senators for the May 6th Senate meeting during New Business.

## PROCEDURES FOR THE REMAINING SPRING 2020 SENATE MEETINGS (SENATE DOCUMENT #19-20-45) (INFORMATION)

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Lanford noted that the Senate Executive Committee (SEC) had to act on behalf of the Senate to amend the Senate Bylaws to revise the provision that required Senators to be physically present in order to participate in Senate meetings. This provision was originally included in the Bylaws to prevent absentee voting but it also inadvertently prevented virtual meetings. The amendment to the Bylaws allows the Senate to conduct business for the remainder of the spring 2020 semester or until the restrictions are lifted and a separate recommendation charges the Elections, Representation, & Governance (ERG) Committee with developing formal provisions for virtual meetings of the Senate by the end of the fall 2020 semester.

**3.5 ~~Senators must be physically present in order to participate in meetings.~~ The Senate may hold virtual meetings instead of in-person meetings when there is a declared State of Emergency in Maryland and the University has restricted operations in place. Once the State of**

**Emergency and University restrictions on normal operations for all constituencies have ended, the Senate will resume regular operations for its meetings. Alternative voting methods, including absentee voting, may be considered under these conditions.**

## **PRELIMINARY REVIEW OF THE SPECIFICATIONS ON THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON UNIVERSITY FINANCE (SCUF) (SENATE DOCUMENT #19-20-40) (INFORMATION)**

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Lanford noted that the Elections, Representation & Governance (ERG) Committee's report on its preliminary review of the membership and specifications of the Special Committee on University Finance (SCUF) was provided as an information item because the committee has not made any recommendations for actions based on its review. This review was a one-year check-in point to allow for any necessary course correction. A more comprehensive review will be conducted after a second year of the committee's work, and also after it has had an opportunity to gain insight from the incoming President.

## **REVISIONS TO THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND LIBRARIES (LIBR) PLAN OF ORGANIZATION (SENATE DOCUMENT #19-20-44) (ACTION)**

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Alan Peel, Chair of the ERG Committee presented the revised Plan and provided background information.

A Senator inquired about whether there was a discrepancy in the number of members in the mentorship committee but it was clarified that the ex-officio member was one of the official members of the committee.

Another Senator noted their appreciation for the inclusion of the Diversity Officer, graduate assistants, and contract employees in the Plan.

The Senate voted to approve the proposal with a vote of **103 in favor, 0 opposed, and 2 abstentions.**

## **PCC PROPOSAL TO RENAME THE MASTER OF SCIENCE IN "SURVEY METHODOLOGY" TO "SURVEY AND DATA SCIENCE" (SENATE DOCUMENT #19-20-46) (ACTION)**

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Janna Bianchini, Chair of the Programs, Curricula, and Courses (PCC) Committee presented the proposal and provided background information.

Senators did not discuss the proposal but voted to approve it with **109 in favor, 4 opposed, and 3 abstentions.**

## **AMENDMENT TO THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT COURSE REPEAT POLICY (SENATE DOCUMENT #19-20-27) (ACTION)**

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William Reed, Chair of the Academic, Procedures, and Standards (APAS) Committee, presented the proposal and provided background information.

A Senator inquired about the impact of the repeated course of different credit loads on the GPA.

Doug Roberts, Associate Dean for General Education explained that if a student failed the 4-credit course the first time, they would not have earned any credit. However, if the student received a D in the

first attempt, they would not lose the fourth credit if they were to take a three-credit course in the second attempt.

Another Senator inquired about the GPA points associated with a student taking a 3-credit course with a better grade to replace a 4-credit course.

Roberts responded that the grade and corresponding credits for each course would be appropriately weighted and included in the student's GPA.

The Senate voted to approve the proposal with a vote of **111 in favor, 1 opposed, and 2 abstentions.**

## **REVIEW OF THE UMD POLICIES AND PROCEDURES CONCERNING TUITION REMISSION (SENATE DOCUMENT #19-20-25) (ACTION)**

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Jane Hirschberg, Chair of the Staff Affairs Committee, presented the proposal and provided background information.

A Senator inquired about whether tuition remission was only available to those seeking a degree.

Dave Reiger, Assistant Director, University Human Resources, explained that employees do not have to be degree seeking. They can take individual classes as long as they are admitted into the University. Spouses and dependents do need to be degree seeking.

Another Senator questioned why the committee didn't make a stronger recommendation related to mandatory fees.

Rieger clarified that the University System of Maryland (USM) Policy requires employees to pay mandatory fees but noted that he had been working with USM to see if there was any flexibility.

Senators discussed a variety of broader concerns related to tuition remission such as the percentage of tuition remission provided for attending other USM schools, the amount of money contributed towards tuition remission from specific projects that is then never used as a benefit, and the model that some institutions use where dependents that choose to go to another institution are reimbursed the current rate of their tuition.

Rieger stated that the University is bound by the USM policy and noted that the University could not make any broad changes until USM policy was changed.

The Senate voted to approve the proposal with a vote of **104 in favor, 0 opposed, and 10 abstentions.**

## **REVISION TO THE POLICY ON SMOKING AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND (SENATE DOCUMENT #19-20-17) (ACTION)**

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Jo Zimmerman, Chair of the Campus Affairs Committee, presented the proposal and provided background information.

A Senator emphasized the importance of the administrative recommendation on resources and information for smoking cessation.

Another Senator inquired about whether the policy called for a complete ban or whether people would still be able to use designated smoking areas and if those areas would be separated for vaping and smoking.

Zimmerman responded that the existing provisions for designated areas would remain and implementation details would be up to the administration.

Senators raised concerns about whether the definition could be standardized so it would not have to be revised in the future and whether it had been broadened too far to include prescribed medication for treatment of respiratory disorders and medical marijuana.

Zimmerman responded that the definition was broadened to anticipate additional advances in nicotine and smoking simulation and noted that it is limited to secondary bystander impact rather than preventing anyone from taking appropriate prescribed medication. She also stated that the committee was careful in its consideration of marijuana because it is still illegal at the federal level but noted that the upcoming comprehensive review will likely address this concern.

Another Senator inquired whether the policy applied to just the main campus or all campus facilities.

Zimmerman clarified that the policy states that any property owned, leased, or otherwise controlled or operated by the University including buildings, other structures and grounds, and vehicles owned or leased by the institution.

A Senator raised concerns about all of the debris left behind by smoking that is creating an environmental hazard and encouraged the University to implement the 2013 recommendation that called for fireproof garbage receptacles being placed 25 feet from campus buildings but also suggested that the Senate take up the issue in the future.

The Senate voted to approve the proposal with a vote of **94 in favor, 12 opposed, and 7 abstentions**.

## **REVIEW OF THE INTERIM POLICY ON USE OF UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND FACILITIES BY NON-UNIVERSITY USERS FOR RESEARCH-RELATED ACTIVITIES (SENATE DOCUMENT #18-19-32) (ACTION)**

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Jo Zimmerman, Chair of the Campus Affairs Committee, presented the proposal and provided background information.

Senators thanked the committee for its hard work and inquired whether the Vice President for Research would own the process and whether she and her staff had approved the process outlined in the policy.

Zimmerman noted that identifying who owns the overall process was one of the key elements to the committee's revisions to the policy. She also stated that the committee streamlined processes based on the complexity of the request.

The Senate voted to approve the proposal with **108 in favor, 1 opposed, and 4 abstentions**.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

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Chair Lanford asked continuing Senators and Deans to indicate their availability for the May 6th Transition meeting to ensure a quorum. All of the new Senators will be in attendance at that meeting and the Senate will elect its new Chair-Elect so it is important that there is a strong turnout at that meeting.

Lanford asked if there was any additional new business.

Senator Sakurai, exempt staff, made a motion to approve a resolution. The motion was seconded.

## **Resolution on Charitable Service and Disaster Relief**

The University Senate believes our university community must always be a beacon of hope and of service to our greater communities.

Thus, we recommend that the President institute an interim policy or practice on Service Leave, which could expand upon the 2015 Maryland Unites campaign that allowed employees paid administrative leave to perform qualifying volunteer service during normal working hours, with supervisor approval. The Senate should be charged with further review of the policy to potentially make it more permanent.

The University Senate also recommends that the university further publicize the availability of and procedures for the existing Disaster Service policy.

Senator Sakurai stated that this was an opportunity to build the positive reputation of the institution in our local community in a time of crisis. They noted the past Maryland Unites campaign when staff were given four hours of paid administrative leave to provide volunteer service with a valid 501(c)(3) organization but suggested that the President could choose to implement the resolution however he thought would be appropriate.

Some Senators were supportive of the resolution while others raised concerns about the President's authority to create a new leave category or a policy that violates USM policy and suggested instead that the Senate advise the President to have the conversation at the System-level.

Chair Lanford noted that the resolution could be brought back as a proposal but noted that anything policy related may not make it far. She also stated that the current Stay at Home Order made it difficult for anyone to go out and do much of anything

Senator Sakurai made a motion to extend the meeting by five minutes. The motion was seconded.

The Senate voted to approve the motion to extend with a vote of **66 in favor, 25 opposed**.

The Senate voted to approve the resolution with a vote of **60 in favor, 19 opposed, and 11 abstentions**.

Lanford asked if there was any additional new business.

Senator Rozenblit, faculty, College of Arts & Humanities, stated that the Senate should make a statement of support for some of the more vulnerable employees on campus, such as professional track faculty, if the University must endure major budget cuts.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

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The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.