



CALL TO ORDER

Senate Chair Pamela Lanford called the meeting to order at 3:08 p.m.

Chair Lanford and the Senate welcomed new Senators. Chair Lanford reviewed the procedures and guidelines for the virtual Senate meeting including expectations, audio recording, discussion, and voting. She provided a brief overview of voting procedures using the TurningPoint platform.

ELECTION OF THE SENATE CHAIR-ELECT (ACTION)

John Lea-Cox, College of Agriculture & Natural Resources (AGNR) and Ellen D. Williams, College of Computer, Mathematical, and Natural Sciences (CMNS) were identified as the candidates for Chair-Elect. Ellen D. Williams was elected Chair-Elect.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES, APRIL 22, 2020 MEETING (ACTION)

The Senate approved the minutes as distributed.

SLATES FOR THE 2020 TRANSITION ELECTIONS (SENATE DOCUMENT #19-20-48) (INFORMATION)

Chair Lanford provided procedural information and instructions for online voting for the Transition Elections for the Senate. She stated that the Senate Bylaws require that the Chair-Elect be held at the Transition meeting. Senate leadership agreed to hold additional Transition Elections online due to logistical concerns of managing approval voting by constituency during a virtual meeting.

Nominations were taken from the floor for faculty, staff, and student representatives for the Senate Executive Committee (SEC), the Committee on Committees, the University Athletic Council, the Council of University System Faculty (CUSF), and the Campus Transportation Advisory Committee (CTAC).

Chair Lanford stated that Senators will have until 5 p.m. on Wednesday, May 13, 2020 to complete online voting. Winners will be announced on Friday, May 15, 2020.

REPORT OF THE OUTGOING CHAIR, PAMELA LANFORD (INFORMATION)

Chair Lanford provided an overview of legislation approved over the course of the past year. She noted that the Senate has approved almost twice as many policies this year as in previous years.

- The Senate approved a number of policies which impact student and instructor experiences, including the Student Course Evaluation Improvement Project; and revisions to the Undergraduate Student Course Repeat Policy, the Code of Academic Integrity, and the Policy on Latin Honors.

- Four policies promoted equity and inclusion in the University community: Review of the Policy on Inclusive Language, Review of the Interim Sexual Misconduct Policy & Procedures, the expansion of policies on parental leave for faculty and staff, and the Campus Smoking Policy.
- Four policies clarified how the campus uses resources: the Use of Physical Facilities Policy, the Use of Research Facilities by Non-University Users, and the Use of University Name and Trademarks.
- The Senate streamlined and optimized some existing policies, and eliminated outdated policies.
- The Senate process was successfully brought online due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Chair Lanford introduced the incoming Chair, Laura Dugan. She thanked the incoming Chair, outgoing Chair, Parliamentarians, Senate committee members, University administration, and the Senate Office staff.

A plaque of appreciation was presented to Chair Lanford in recognition of her leadership of the Senate for the year 2019-2020. Senate members thanked her for her service.

REPORT OF THE INCOMING CHAIR, LAURA DUGAN (INFORMATION)

Chair Dugan thanked outgoing Chair Lanford for her leadership, mentorship, and commitment to efficiency, transparency, and advocacy on behalf of the campus.

Chair Dugan emphasized the importance of shared governance and establishing a baseline relationship between the Senate and the new President. She encouraged Senators to establish relationships with their constituents and bring their concerns to the Senate, particularly because of the uncertainty caused by the pandemic. She suggested using principles of humor, authenticity, kindness, and compassion in facing the challenges ahead, and thanked Senators for their willingness to serve.

Senate Schedule: Chair Dugan shared the finalized schedule for the 2020-2021 academic year, noting that the locations are contingent on returning to in-person operations on campus. Dates and times will remain as scheduled.

Special Committee on University Finances (SCUF) Elections: Chair Dugan described the role of SCUF and the nomination and election process. Candidates for SCUF must be nominated by Senators and elected by representatives on the Senate Executive Committee (SEC). She encouraged Senators to consider nominating colleagues with the experience and level of commitment necessary to have a positive impact on the committee's efforts.

SPECIAL ORDER

Jeffrey K. Hollingsworth, Vice President & Chief Information Officer, Division of Information Technology, University of Maryland

Technology That Allowed UMD to Go Virtual In A Fortnight

Chair Dugan invited Jeffrey K. Hollingsworth, Vice President & Chief Information Officer of the Division of Information Technology (DIT) to provide his presentation about the University's rapid transition to an online platform due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Hollingsworth shared the challenges DIT faced in moving all of the University's instructional, administrative, and as much research activity online as possible in about two weeks, and summarized DIT's response to the changing situation.

- DIT leveraged existing technology, decided to accelerate acquiring and deployment of additional online tools such as Zoom, and provided extensive outreach and training seminars for faculty and staff.
- DIT quickly developed a survey of the campus community to identify their technological needs and find out how DIT could meet them. Survey results showed an urgent need for software and training. In response, DIT and the Teaching and Learning Transformation Center (TLTC) offered an average of 12 webinars per week from March 23, 2020 to April 7, 2020, and over 600 total faculty attended. DIT also saw a 50% increase of instructor ELMS use during the "pause" week after Spring Break, showing that instructors were using the time to engage with the platform.
- Successes are the Device Loaner Program for students in need of laptops, rapid adoption of new software and platforms, virtual call centers, the shift to departmental teleworking, and collaborations with colleges and administration.
- Ongoing challenges remain security issues such as Zoom bombing, and demand for wifi hotspots.

Chair Dugan opened the floor for questions.

Senators stated their appreciation for DIT's hard work, particularly in setting up the Zoom platform. Senators asked questions regarding additional online platforms, DIT poll response rates, and the DIT Strategic Plan. Senators expressed concerns shared by transgender students about the inability to change names in online platforms, online teaching in disciplines like music, intellectual property rights, implied consent for the use of images, and Zoom bombing.

Hollingsworth stressed that DIT will need to be agile and ready to adapt to new platforms on a constant basis. DIT will be happy to work with EDI on diversity concerns, and DIT working groups are implementing the strategic plan. DIT is continuing to look into online teaching methods, and the Provost is preparing to announce innovation awards. Hollingsworth explained that the best practice for recording is to explain at the start of the meeting that the meeting is being recorded, as it is a criminal matter in the state of Maryland if both parties are unaware that recording is taking place.

Chair Dugan thanked Hollingsworth for his presentation. She expressed appreciation for all of the work that DIT has done to keep the University productive during the transition to an online environment.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:58 p.m.