



Senate Newsletter

NOTES FROM THE SENATE MEETING

At the April 4, 2018 Senate meeting, President Loh reflected on the 50th anniversary of Martin Luther King's assassination and shared his perspectives on the importance of Dr. King's contributions to our society. He noted that there will be several speakers and events on campus during the month of April who will generate discussion about this country's fundamental values. President Loh noted the importance of listening respectfully to views that may be contrary to our own, and emphasized the role of a University in empowering students to challenge divergent views.

Senators reviewed and voted to approve the Review of the Interim University of Maryland Web Accessibility Policy (Senate Document #17-18-22). Senators also reviewed and discussed the Review of the University of Maryland College Park Policies and Procedures Governing Faculty Grievances (Senate Document #17-18-13) and the Undergraduate Admissions Procedures Related to Criminal Background (Senate Document #16-17-29). Senators proposed amendments to the Faculty Grievance Policy before voting in favor of the policy as amended by the Senate. Senators discussed the Academic Procedures & Standards (APAS) Committee's recommendations extensively before voting to recommit the issue back to the Committee for further review of the financial implications of the various options it considered in its review.



The Senate is one of the largest and most influential governing bodies on campus.

University Senate = Shared Governance. Faculty, staff, students, and administrators work together to better our University.

The Senate debates and votes on policy-related issues and other governing aspects of the University. The Senate directly advises the University President.



"My experience as a Graduate Student Senator has been educational, empowering, challenging (at times!), and extremely rewarding. I am grateful that students have a strong voice in this governing body and am honored to represent my peers in important campus discussions. The University's culture of shared governance is one of the many reasons that I am proud to be a Terp!"

—Katrina Hauprich
Graduate Student Senator & Member of the Senate Executive Committee

From the Senate Chair

At the April 4th Senate Meeting, the Senate discussed the Academic Procedures & Standards (APAS) Committee's recommendations on **Undergraduate Admissions Procedures Related to Criminal Backgrounds**. Senators raised concerns about the impact that criminal background questions on the admissions application may have on underrepresented minorities, and discussed whether they might discourage students from applying to the University. Senators also discussed the importance of the questions from a campus safety perspective; the severity of activities that could result in a denial of admission; and the relative impact of potential misconduct on the campus community. Ultimately, the Senate voted to recommit the issue back to the committee.



It is important for Senators to be actively engaged in discussion on the Senate floor before voting on an issue. However, it is also valuable to have collaborative discussions on these issues prior to the Senate meeting. Senators should take advantage of opportunities to engage directly with a committee as it is forming its recommendations or on Slack with other Senators. The Senate Office Staff actively monitors the Slack channels and helps respond to any questions prior to each meeting. They can also help Senators craft amendments if they are aware of them in advance. This provides an opportunity to develop wording that is consistent with the language in the overall proposal and that accurately reflects the intent of the proposer. When appropriate they can also consult with the Office of General Counsel and/or administrative offices to see if a proposed amendment might create unintended legal or logistical complications. I encourage Senators to take advantage of Slack as a collaborative discussion tool as well as the support offered by the Senate Office on questions and potential amendments.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Daniel Falvey".

Daniel Falvey

The Senate's ten standing committees continue to make progress on all the charges they have received this year. The APAS Committee is considering the current process and questions related to student course evaluations. The Educational Affairs Committee continues to review the University's expectations related to Limited Enrollment Programs (LEPs). The Faculty Affairs Committee is considering interim policies and procedures concerning research misconduct.

Committee News



Find out more about Committee Work on each [committee's page](#) or search [current legislation online](#).



Volunteer for a Senate Committee

April 2, 2018 – April 30, 2018

Do you want to be a part of the University's decision-making process? By serving on a Senate committee, you can participate in one of the largest and most influential governing bodies on campus. Committees do the Senate's heavy lifting. They review existing policies, propose new ones, and craft recommendations that help make the University an even better place to work and learn. You'll have an excellent opportunity to shape the proposals that will be considered by the full Senate.

The 10 standing committees are: Academic Procedures & Standards (APAS), Campus Affairs, Educational Affairs, Elections, Representation, & Governance (ERG), Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion (EDI), Faculty Affairs, Programs, Courses, & Curricula (PCC), Staff Affairs, Student Affairs, and Student Conduct. You can find a brief description of each committee [here](#).

In recent years, committees have made recommendations to the Senate on important issues such as revisions to the Code of Student Conduct, undergraduate student grievance procedure, the sexual misconduct policy and procedures, the non-discrimination policy, the disability and accessibility policy, the faculty leave policy, and telework guidelines. The Senate advises the President on these and other policy issues that directly affect the day-to-day functions of the University.

All active faculty and staff and all currently enrolled students are eligible to serve on a Senate committee. You do not have to be a Senator to serve on a committee. Committees meet about five times each semester and meetings are typically an hour or 90 minutes. Committee members are expected to attend meetings and review materials outside of meetings. Any additional committee work outside of meetings is voluntary. Committees do not meet during the summer or winter breaks.

Visit the Senate website and complete an online interest form or by clicking the "Volunteer" button below. The volunteer system will ask you to log in using your University Directory ID & Password before showing you the form. You'll be able to pick your top three committee choices from the list on the form (if there are no current vacancies for a particular committee, it will not be listed as an option on the form). Volunteer forms and statements will be reviewed by the Senate's Committee on Committees. There are typically around 90 open vacancies on committees that must be filled each year and all those receiving a committee assignment will be notified over the summer.

We hope that you will volunteer to serve for the upcoming academic year!

VOLUNTEER



SUBMIT A PROPOSAL TO THE SENATE

Any member of the campus community may submit a proposal to the University Senate to review University policies* and procedures or to suggest the creation and establishment of new ones. To submit an idea or proposal to the Senate, click on a link below to download a blank proposal form in Word or as a PDF.

[Proposal Form \(Word Version\)](#)

[Proposal Form \(PDF Version\)](#)

[Sample Proposal](#)

* A manual of current University policies can be found here.

CURRENT SENATE LEGISLATION

[Providing Gender Inclusive Facilities](#)

[Senate Document 16-17-32](#)

[University Expectations for Limited Enrollment Programs](#)

[Senate Document 16-17-36](#)

[Proposal to Amend the UMD Policy and Procedures on the Disclosure of Student Education Records](#)

[Senate Document 17-18-16](#)

[Student Course Evaluation Improvement Project](#)

[Senate Document 16-17-24](#)

[Revision of the Code of Academic Integrity](#)

[Senate Document 17-18-08](#)

Click on any legislation item above for more details. To view all Senate Legislation: [Click Here](#)

UPCOMING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

EDI Committee-4/17/18

ERG Committee-4/19/18

APAS Committee-4/20/18

Educational Affairs Committee-4/20/18

Senate Executive Committee-4/23/18

Senate Meeting-4/24/18

Faculty Affairs Committee-5/3/18

Campus Affairs Committee-5/3/18

Photos provided by:

John T. Consoli/University of Maryland and University Senate

