



Senate Newsletter

NOTES FROM THE SENATE MEETING

At the May 9, 2018 Senate Transition meeting, the Senate welcomed new Senators and conducted its special elections for the 2018–2019 Senate Chair–Elect, the Senate Executive Committee (SEC), the Committee on Committees, the Athletic Council, the Council of University System of Faculty (CUSF), and the Campus Transportation Advisory Committee (CTAC). Election results have been posted on the Senate website.

The Senate voted to approve the PCC Proposal to Establish a Post–Baccalaureate Certificate in Integrated Technology in Education (Senate Document #17–18–25).

Sharon Kirkland–Gordon, Director, University Counseling Center provided a presentation on **Trends in Student Mental Health on Campus**. She provided information on the increasing trend of students seeking counseling services over the last four years and the most common symptoms reported by clients. She also commented on the resources that the Counseling Center is providing to address those trends including hiring seasonal psychologists, providing multiple options and alternatives for in–person care, and establishing new programs and services focused on coping and emotional regulation. Due to limited time at the end of the meeting, Carlo Colella, Vice President for Administration and Finance agreed to postpone the Purple Line Update to the Fall.



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.



"Serving on the University Senate has been one of my best experiences in college. I've enjoyed my time working on LEP programs and Course Evaluations, but most importantly I got to relay student input to help make UMD better for every student. "

–Doron Tadmor

Undergraduate Student & Member of the Student Affairs Committee

From the Past Chair



As we come to the end of the academic year, I want to express my gratitude for the opportunity to serve as Senate Chair. For me, this experience has been a few times frustrating, but more often enlightening and rewarding. Overall, one leaves this position very impressed with the dedication and intelligence of the faculty, staff, and students all across this great campus. Most of all, I want to thank everyone on the Senate and the associated committees, councils, and task forces for a productive year. Your commitment to shared governance is what helps to make UMD a great place to work, study, and do research.

In many areas, shared governance is working well at UMD, but I think we all agree that more should be done to make it even more effective. One area where there is room for improvement is in matters related to the budget and how that affects academic priorities. Currently, most faculty, staff, and students have little understanding of how the budget is structured or appreciate the pressures and complexities the campus leadership has to grapple with when allocating resources.

Likewise, there is currently little room for non-administrative members of campus to provide meaningful input into how priorities are set through the budget. This can sometimes lead to the misinformation and mistrust among the broader campus community. Nearly all the other Big 10 Senates have some sort of elected body such as a committee, council, or other representative group that is charged with understanding their respective budgets and providing their administration with input on campus resource allocation.

With the support of previous Senate Chairs, we have started the process of developing such a body at UMD. It is my hope that this work will be completed under the next chair, Chris Walsh. I believe that this will further strengthen shared governance on this campus and make us a better institution.

Most of the real work in the Senate happens in the **committees, councils, and task forces**. The faculty, staff, and students who serve on these bodies do the research and writing for the specific proposals that come to us on the senate floor.

This year the Senate completed work on a **Web Accessibility Policy** (IT Council), a **Policy on Student Social Media Privacy** (Educational Affairs), **Faculty Grievance Procedures** (Faculty Affairs), **PTK Faculty Merit Pay Policy** (Faculty Affairs), **Revisions to the Policy on Appointment, Promotion, and Permanent Status of Library Faculty** (Faculty Affairs), **Revisions to the Student Code of Conduct** (Student Conduct), **Revisions to the IT Council Bylaws** (ERG), and on **Revisions to the College of Arts & Humanities Plan of Organization** (ERG).

From the Past Chair (continued)

I also want to give a special acknowledgement to Dylan Roby and the members of the PCC Committee, who completed an impressive total of 11 items through the Senate this year as well as many individual curricular modification proposals, all of which will help update our various curricula.

Last but not least, I want to acknowledge the work of the **Joint President/Senate Task Force on Inclusion and Respect at the University**. The co-chairs, Ja'Nya Banks, Warren Kelley, and Lucy Dalglish, along with the Task Force members and support staff, worked diligently on a very ambitious timeline to produce a wide-ranging report and recommendations that the Senate was proud to endorse at our last meeting.

The University Senate at UMD has the best group of staff I have had the pleasure of working with. The work we accomplished this year was due to diligent work behind the scenes done by Reka Montfort, along with Sarah Hughes, Aaron Tobiason, and Heather Snyder. In addition to the standard duties of supporting the Senate and its standing committees, our staff also took on the responsibility of organizing and supporting the efforts of the Joint President/Senate Task Force on Inclusion and Respect, including its five separate working groups. This entailed late hours attending forums, doing research, scheduling meetings, and drafting reports. The detailed and thoughtful work that goes into the recommendations from our committees, councils, and task forces would not be possible without their support.



Daniel Falvey

Welcome From the Senate Chair

First of all, I would like to thank you for your support during the past year while I served as Chair-Elect. Secondly, I would like to thank Dan Falvey for his leadership and the confidence he has shown in me. In addition, I would like to show my appreciation to Reka Monfort and the Senate staff for their assistance in preparing me for the many varied ex-officio committee assignments. These have allowed me to connect with a wide circle of faculty, staff, students, and administrators on this campus.



During the past year I realized much of the heavy lifting of the Senate is conducted by its committees. Deserving our thanks are those who volunteer for our **committees, task forces, and councils**. The committee chairs and the staff members who lead and coordinate these committees spend tremendous time and effort in this work. They ensure that proposals brought to the Senate floor are well-developed and clearly written. Committee chairs and members display a higher level of service and deserve our thanks for their dedication to the Senate and this campus.

In the past four decades as a faculty member at this university, I have watched the campus's slow but steady improvement. While there have been setbacks at times, the changes I have witnessed are remarkable. This improvement has come at a time of a national decline in the perception of the value of public education, and a concomitant decline in financial support for these institutions. Luckily, we have weathered this storm better than most land-grant universities.

Much of our ability to grow and improve has come from the continued recognition by the State of Maryland in the value of an educated populace to support a vibrant economy. To counter the national decline in public funding, many universities have also engaged in a series of public-private partnerships. These began at the University of Maryland with new dormitory construction in the 1990s, but now affect academic buildings, appointments, and programs. These long-term national trends impact faculty, staff, and students and will no doubt be discussed in the Senate for years to come.

Shared governance is about finding common ground between faculty, staff, students and administrators. As we do this, we also need to consider the balance between arts and sciences, academics and athletics, and public and private partnerships. Providing this balance through shared governance is one of the defining features of our country's educational institutions.

All Senators serve as volunteers. We have a common goal to use shared governance to make this a better place to learn, study, and work. Thank you again for volunteering and for your continued service to the institution. I appreciate your support as we continue to debate and contribute to the future of this vibrant university.



Chris Walsh



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.

2018-2019 Senate Meetings

September 5, 2018 (Wednesday)

October 2, 2018 (Tuesday)

November 7, 2018 (Wednesday)

December 4, 2018 (Tuesday)

February 5, 2019 (Tuesday)

March 6, 2019 (Wednesday)

April 4, 2019 (Thursday)

April 24, 2019 (Wednesday)

May 7, 2019 (Tuesday)

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](#)

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