



## **CALL TO ORDER**

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Senate Chair Williams called the meeting to order at 3:16 p.m.

Chair Williams welcomed Senators and introduced Past Senate Chair Lanford and current Senate Parliamentarian, Daniel Falvey, as well as the Executive Secretary & Director of the Senate, Reka Montfort. Chair Williams explained the procedures for the meeting and provided brief instructions on using the TurningPoint platform for voting.

## **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES, MAY 11, 2021 MEETING**

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Chair Williams asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the May 11, 2021, meeting; hearing none, she declared the minutes approved as distributed.

## **REPORT OF THE CHAIR**

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### Senate Executive Committee (SEC) Meeting

Chair Williams stated that the SEC held its first meeting of the academic year on August 26, 2021. It approved the agenda for the Senate meeting and reviewed a proposal related to the use of the excused absence policy for mental health reasons. The SEC voted to charge the Academic Procedures and Standards Committee (APAS) with reviewing the proposal and making recommendations.

APAS will begin its review of the charge after completing its pending work from the previous year. Chair Williams noted that additional committee charges will be announced at future meetings. Senators can follow committee work through meeting agendas on the University Senate website, or by using the [Senate legislation page](#).

### Senate Meetings

Chair Williams stated that all Senate meetings for the academic year will be held virtually on Zoom, with the exception of two meetings, during which President Pines will present his State of the Campus Addresses. Those meetings will take place on November 10, 2021 and March 1, 2022.

She also noted that an SEC assessment of the previous year's Senate meetings found that virtual meetings provided value beyond the necessity related to the pandemic that led to them initially. The virtual format provided increased accessibility and Senate meeting attendance increased significantly at every meeting last year. Because no physical space was rented in the Stamp Student Union, there was also a significant cost savings. The strongest drawbacks of the virtual format are the lack of opportunities for organic conversations between Senators prior to the meeting, and the lack of ability for Senators to judge reactions among the legislative body in the room. The SEC agreed that holding one in-person Senate meeting per semester would provide an appropriate balance of interests while prioritizing accessibility.

## Procedures and Guidelines

Senate Chair Williams stated that while in a virtual meeting format, Senate procedures for in-person meetings will be adhered to as closely as possible. All University policies and expectations for appropriate conduct continue to apply during virtual Senate meetings.

Chair Williams provided a detailed overview of the procedures and guidelines for virtual meetings related to expectations, recording, muting, use of the chat feature use, technical issues, participation, Zoom features, processes for introducing non-Senators, and voting processes. Williams also detailed instructions for voting using TurningPoint.

Chair Williams opened the floor to questions on the procedures; hearing none, she moved to the next item on her report.

## 2021 BOR Staff Awards

Senate Chair Williams stated that the Board of Regents' Staff Awards, represent the highest honor bestowed by the Board of Regents (BOR) for the achievements of exempt and non-exempt staff employees at System institutions. The Senate Staff Affairs Committee coordinates the process for the University of Maryland, College Park, prior to making recommendations to President Pines regarding nominees to be put forward to the system-level review.

Williams noted that the 2021 BOR Staff Awards winners included two UMD staff, Donna Hammer, Department of Physics for Outstanding Service to Students in an Academic or Residential Environment (exempt staff) and Amanda Preperato, University Recreation & Wellness for Inclusion, Multiculturalism, and Social Justice (exempt staff). Williams congratulated the winners and thanked them for their contributions to the campus community. She also thanked last year's Staff Affairs Committee Chair, Judi Gorski, and the committee itself for their work in the process.

## **SPECIAL ORDER**

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### **Reka S. Montfort, University Senate Executive Secretary & Director**

#### ***Orientation: Senators, Senate Meetings, and Shared Governance***

Reka Montfort, Executive Secretary & Director, University Senate provided a presentation detailing the role of Senators, the operations of Senate meetings, and the University's principles of shared governance. She provided information on the role of the Senate, and information on Senate meeting materials, agenda contents, meeting structures, meeting logistics for the coming year, the importance of communicating expected absences, committee reports, types of recommendations, policy revisions, voting procedures, and quorum. Director Montfort also discussed the issues that the Senate will be working on this year, and explained how Senators and members of the campus community can track current [Senate legislation](#) on the University Senate's website.

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## **2020-2021 SENATE LEGISLATION LOG (SENATE DOCUMENT #20-21-01) (INFORMATION)**

Chair Williams explained that the legislation log had been provided to the Senate as an informational item to provide an overview of the work completed by the Senate last year as well as information on any items that carried over to this year. She noted that, despite the pandemic, Past Chair Dugan and the Senate were able to complete 50 Senate bills during the 2020-2021 session, including 12 Bills carried over from prior years. Williams commended Dugan and the Senate for their hard work last year.

## **TECHNICAL REVISIONS TO THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND POLICY ON PROMOTING RESPONSIBLE ACTION IN MEDICAL EMERGENCIES (V-1.00[J]) (SENATE DOCUMENT #21-22-03) (INFORMATION)**

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Chair Williams stated that this item is a technical amendment to the University of Maryland Policy on Promoting Responsible Action in Medical Emergencies (Senate Document #21-22-03). She noted that the amendment removed gendered language and brought the policy into alignment with current University standards, and with the principles and spirit behind the UMD Policy on Inclusive Communication (VI-1.00[C]).

Chair Williams discussed the history of revisions to the policy, and provided information regarding the process taken to make the most recent amendments. Williams reported that the revisions had been approved by the Senate leadership and President Pines effective August 12, 2021, so the SEC was now providing the item as an informational item to the Senate to make it aware of the recent change.

## **APPROVAL OF THE 2021-2022 COMMITTEE & COUNCIL SLATES (SENATE DOCUMENT #21-22-02) (ACTION)**

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Rochelle Newman, Chair of the Committee on Committees and Chair-Elect, provided background on the selection process and made a motion on behalf of the committee to approve the standing committee and council slates as presented.

Chair Williams opened the floor to discussion; seeing none, she called for a vote on the slates. The result was 154 in favor, 2 opposed, and 4 abstentions. **The motion to approve the slates passed.**

## **PCC PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A DOCTORATE IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION (SENATE DOCUMENT #21-22-06) ACTION**

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Betsy Beise, member of the Programs, Curricula, and Courses Committee (PCC), presented the PCC proposal to establish a Doctorate in Business Administration (DBA) (Senate Document #21-22-06) on behalf of Chair Orlando and made a motion to approve the proposal.

Chair Williams opened the floor for discussion of the proposal.

Dean Ball, College of Behavioral and Social Sciences, asked why the program had been discontinued in the past, and if that had influenced the thinking of the design of the program renewal.

Beise explained that in the mid-80s, the program had been discontinued so that the department could start their PhD program due to a desired shift from a practice degree to a research degree. With the current proposal for the DBA, both programs would be offered.

Senator Wolfe, emeriti faculty, asked if there were similar programs around the country. Beise stated that there were and that the proposed program had been modeled after existing programs at other institutions.

Dean Konana, Robert H. Smith School of Business, stated that similar programs were offered around the country, including Washington University, Case Western University, University of Florida, Georgia State University, and the University of Oklahoma.

Rebecca Han, Assistant Dean, Robert H. Smith School of Business, added that schools such as University of Minnesota, Rutgers University, Washington University, Temple University, Georgia State

University and locally, Virginia Tech had all responded to the demand for this program and established it at their institutions.

Seeing no further discussion, Chair Williams called for a vote on the proposal. The result was 144 in favor, 7 opposed, and 11 abstentions. **The motion to approve the proposal passed.**

### **PCC PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A POST-BACCALAUREATE CERTIFICATE IN REMOTE SENSING (SENATE DOCUMENT #21-22-07) ACTION**

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Betsy Beise, member of the PCC Committee, presented the PCC proposal to establish a Post-Baccalaureate Certification in Remote Sensing (Senate Document #21-22-07) and made a motion to approve the proposal.

Chair Williams opened the floor for discussion; seeing no discussion, she called for a vote on the proposal. The result was 144 in favor, 4 opposed, and 5 abstentions. **The motion to approve the proposal passed.**

### **REVIEW OF THE INTERIM UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND GRADING SYMBOLS AND NOTATIONS USED ON ACADEMIC TRANSCRIPTS POLICY (SENATE DOCUMENT #20-21-38) (ACTION)**

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John Lea-Cox, Chair of the Academic Procedures & Standards (APAS) Committee presented the committee's recommendations and provided background information.

Chair Williams opened the floor to discussion of the committee's recommendations.

Senator Raugh, faculty, College of Computer, Mathematical, and Natural Sciences (CMNS) asked how the recommendation regarding the updated threshold to pass a class taken pass/fail would be reflected on transcripts of current students who had already received grades for classes taken pass/fail.

Senator Lea-Cox referred the question to an ex-officio member from the Office of the Registrar.

Adrian R. Cornelius, Executive Director of Enrollment Management & University Registrar, clarified that for semesters that had elapsed prior to the establishment of this policy, or the associated interim policy, there would be a notation on transcripts. Cornelius stated that this primarily applied to the Spring 2020 semester.

Senator Sobalvarro, undergraduate student, College of Computer, Mathematical, and Natural Sciences, asked for confirmation that the proposed policy would not be retroactive.

Cornelius stated that grades from previous semesters would remain unchanged.

Seeing no further discussion, Chair Williams called for a vote on the proposal. The result was 134 in favor, 11 opposed, and 13 abstentions. **The motion to approve the proposal passed.**

### **REVIEW TO THE SENATE BYLAWS TO EXTEND THE TERM OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON UNIVERSITY FINANCE (SCUF) (SENATE DOCUMENT #21-22-05) (ACTION)**

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Rochelle Newman, Chair-Elect presented the proposal to amend the Senate Bylaws to extend the terms of the faculty and staff members on SCUF by one year and made a motion that the amendment to the Senate Bylaws be approved. Senator Goodman, faculty, College of Computer, Mathematical, and Natural Sciences (CMNS) seconded the motion.

Chair Williams opened the floor to discussion of the amendment to the Senate Bylaws.

Senator Raugh, faculty, College of Computer, Mathematical, and Natural Sciences (CMNS) asked why student members of the committee were not able to extend their terms.

Chair Williams and Chair-Elect Newman explained that student committee members could have their terms renewed in line with existing Senate Bylaws.

Senator Zhi-Long Chen, faculty, Robert H. Smith School of Business, asked for clarification that the proposal was seeking to extend the term on the Special Committee on University Finance (SCUF) by one year.

Chair Williams clarified that the proposal was seeking to extend the committee for one year, and that the future of the committee would be decided the following year after a full review.

Senator Chen asked if the committee members' terms would still be for three years.

Chair Williams said that the proposal would extend the terms of committee members so that they could serve for four years, but that any potential extension of terms beyond that could not be decided until the review of the committee has been completed.

Senator Brewer, faculty, College of Arts & Humanities, stated that the committee should become permanent, citing the importance of having faculty voice and oversight around how financial decisions at the administrative level are made. She inquired why there was a delay in deciding if the committee should be permanent, adding that the delay is concerning. Brewer suggested that the original members who had already served three years end their terms so that a new slate of committee members could be elected. Senator Brewer asked that a discussion take place regarding establishing SCUF as a permanent committee, rather than extending the committee for one year.

Chair Williams said that the request for the discussion was a process issue. Chair Williams introduced Pamela Lanford, Past Senate Chair, to elaborate and provide additional context.

Past Chair Lanford stated that since the committee was new and was operating through the University Senate, a specific process had to be followed to make the committee permanent. "Lanford agreed that this committee is an important addition to the Senate, which deserves an appropriate opportunity to function and undergo assessment. Lanford noted that there has been significant transition in the upper administration positions with which the committee interacts and that the circumstances of the pandemic limited the degree to which the administration could provide certainty regarding budget matters. Considering these combined issues, it is very important to continue the terms of the committee members into a fourth year.

Senator Raugh asked to revisit her previous question. Citing article 7.1.d of Senate #21-22-05, Raugh noted that faculty and staff terms had been extended from 3 years to 4 years, but that terms for students remained at one year, with the option to renew terms twice, for a total of three years. Raugh asked if this was intentional, or if it did not apply because no student had already served for three years.

Montfort stated that since none of the students on the committee were the original student representatives, all students on the committee would not be in a position to serve for 4 years.

Senator Sharp, exempt staff, asked how involved the committee had been in recent decisions regarding university financial restructuring. She also asked if there was a way to share the work that the committee had been involved in to date.

Chair Williams introduced Past Chair Lanford, to respond to the questions.

Lanford reported that the committee had been very active prior to the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic. She explained that committee members had initially required time to learn about the various components and structures of university finances, which was impacted by the multiple transitions on the administration's level regarding finances. Lanford reported that the committee had been successful in creating a website with information for members of the campus community. She also stated that the current focus was to determine how best to work within the context of the new administration and new people. Lanford stated that the committee had also provided a set of guiding principles relating to the process of the temporary salary reductions in 2020, and that the guiding principles were received well by the administration and by President Pines, being referred to multiple times by President Pines. Lanford said that the committee is hoping to complete similar work in the near future.

Chair Williams reiterated that the Senate had been in communication with President Pines regarding the extension of the committee, and that he is in support of the extension.

Chair-Elect Newman reiterated that the committee was working to determine what its role would be as a potential permanent committee, and where it would belong in the University structure.

Senator Goodman reiterated points made by Past Chair Lanford regarding the impact of transitions on the committee. He also added that the committee had been able to create and share a comprehensive document online, explaining the UMD budget to people who are unfamiliar with it.

Senator Goodman reported that the committee had provided advice to the administration, discussed relevant issues, and engaged in collaborative meetings with individuals working on the UMD budget. Goodman also stated that due to the emergency caused by Covid-19, the committee had not been able to create a review for the larger Senate, or determine how the committee should operate. He explained that the extension would be used to determine the present and future operations of the committee now that relevant partners are established at UMD. Senator Goodman stated that the committee would also use the extension to establish a review and coherent vision of the committee to be reviewed by the Senate at the end of this academic year, prior to a vote regarding the permanent establishment of the committee in Fall 2022.

Seeing no further discussion, Chair Williams called for a vote on the amendment to the Senate Bylaws and noted that it required a 2/3 vote in favor to pass. The result was 142 in favor and 9 opposed. **The motion passed.**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

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There was no new business.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

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The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.