



## **USM Student Council Report for the USM Board of Regents**

Date: April 14, 2023

Meeting: April 2023 Full Board of Regents Meeting

Organization: University System of Maryland Student Council

Representation: Arsalan Siddiqui, President of the University System of Maryland Student Council

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Good Morning Chair Gooden, Board of Regents, and Esteemed Colleagues,

Before I begin, I want to take a moment to thank Dr. Anthony Jenkins and the entire Coppin State University Team for hosting us to a lovely dinner last night.

The last time I was at the Board of Regents Meeting in February, we were still accepting applications for the first ever Board of Regents Student Excellence Scholarship. In just a little over two weeks, we received 300 applications from students across the University System, and that is not an insignificant number. The executive team and I, as well as a former student regent, Ada Beams, had a chance to review those applications, and believe me, it was not easy. There were *so* many students doing such amazing things, it really goes to show the dedication and drive that so many of our students have. So once we selected a total of twelve students, three from each category, Dr. Zakiya Lee presented those names to the Student Education and Policy Committee, and they had a chance to hear those awardees last month; and today you, Board of Regents, will have a chance to hear the wonderful students that are doing amazing things on our campuses.

On the USMSC level, one of the issues that we have been hearing is students' access to hybrid education. My team and I had a chance to talk to students at University of Maryland Baltimore, University of Maryland College Park, and University of Maryland Baltimore County where students, particularly the graduate student population, voiced concerns about trouble accessing their classes through a virtual method. Many of the professors who are set in their more traditional ways are not always receptive to change, but some of these students were young parents, some were working two part-time jobs, others had some medical conditions that they were dealing with. In those cases, they were asking that they be given permission to access educational materials online for a temporary period, especially since many of the classrooms are equipped with having a virtual platform after COVID.

The USMSC will be meeting this Sunday at 11:00 at Towson University, and we look forward to welcoming the Chancellor there.

Respectfully submitted,



**Arsalan Siddiqui**

President of the University System of Maryland Student Council (USMSC)

