USM Staff Council
Board of Regents Report
April 16, 2010

The Staff Council met on February 23 at the University of Maryland, College Park and again on March 23, 2010 at Coppin State University

1. The recommendations for the Board of Regents Staff Awards have been submitted.

2. Members of the Council went to Annapolis on March 11 for the CUSS annual Visit Annapolis Day. The members passed out over 180 letters of introduction to the members (or offices of) the House and Senate.

3. The Council distributed a brief news release to the institutions to keep them up to date on the activities of CUSS (see attached). Website and feedback addresses were created to facilitate input from the staff members of the system.

4. At the last Chancellor’s meeting, the Council respectfully requested that the President’s remind their respective human resource units to keep the non-exempt and exempt staff of UMBI that have not yet found employment in the forefront of their hiring decisions (see attached).

The next meeting will be held April 27, 2010 at Towson University.

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Submitted: Willie L. Brown, Chair
Council of University System Staff
Council of University System Staff Visits Legislators in Annapolis, Spurs Overwhelming Response to Legislative Proposal Affecting USM

Council of University System Staff representatives visited Annapolis on Thursday, March 11, to meet state legislators and distribute letters of introduction from Council Chair Willie L. Brown, explaining CUSS goals and communicating the importance of shared governance. While in Annapolis, CUSS representatives learned that the evening before, legislators had heard House Bill 1533, which would have had the following effects:

- reduce General Fund appropriations for USM by at least $50 million
- eliminate 1,000 USM positions
- reduce the USM budget for travel by 50 percent
- halve the tuition remission benefit for USM employees and their families.

Thanks in part to CUSS representatives’ actions to spread the word to their Institutions and encourage their constituents to contact their legislators, the USM garnered nearly 5,100 responses to the bill from its advocates. Frostburg State University forwarded the most responses of any USM institution.

House Bill 1533 was re-referred to House Appropriations on March 15, 2010. USM does not anticipate further actions on this bill by the General Assembly.

Did you know? The Council of University System Staff represents more than 8,000 USM Staff employees excluded from the collective bargaining process. The majority of these Staff employees are the USM’s professional, technically skilled and managerial employees. CUSS predates collective bargaining in Maryland and was codified in Maryland law by the General Assembly, in the Education Article of 1995, as a permanent part of the advisory groups to the USM Chancellor and Board of Regents.

Do you have questions about USM policies or benefits? Are you having problems in your job? Do you have solutions to share with others? Be in touch with us at usmcuss@umd.edu or http://cgi.umd.edu/survey/display?CUSS/cussinput.

Get to know your CUSS representatives. Contact them with any questions or concerns you might have.

NAME, position (filled in by the respective university CUSS representative(s)
phone
e-mail

NAME, position (filled in by the respective university CUSS representative(s)
phone
e-mail
Dr. Brit Kirwan, USM Chancellor  
USM Presidents  

Council members,

Because a bargaining unit does not represent UMBI staff members, the Staff Council feels a particular responsibility to advocate for the staff of this institution and its centers.

Some staff members, exempt and non-exempt, have been with UMBI for many years, allowing the research and educational outreach activities to advance and operate at a very high level. The dedication and professionalism of these staff members to UMBI (and as a consequence to the USM), should not be overlooked during this period of transition.

While we know that the Human Resource Directors of the individual institutions have been asked to consider UMBI employees for any openings, the Council would ask that your office also emphasize to the employment offices that UMBI employees who have not been placed would have first right of refusal to positions for which they qualify. We urge that all consideration continue to be given to the dedicated staff of UMBI and its component centers whose livelihood may be at risk though no fault of their own.

If the Staff Council or I can assist the Regents or the USM Office in any way, please let us know.

Best regards,

Willie L. Brown
Chair, Council of University System Staff (CUSS)