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Staff Council Report January 10, 2011

The Council met at the University System of Maryland Office on December 14, 2010 and on January 25 at UMUC.

The major topics of the meeting were:

- 1. Optional Retirement Plan Cynthia Shaw, Chair UMCP Senate Staff Affairs Committee gave a presentation regarding an initiative at College Park to review the retirement program selection process.
- 2. History of CUSS Cindy Hale, 'Founding Chair of CUSS' attended the meeting. Ms. Hale discussed the creation of CUSS and the opportunities and challenges that were faced during the formative years.
- 3. Chancellor Kirwan The Chancellor joined us for lunch and discussed:
 - a. Voluntary Program to Reduce Costs
 - b. Mood in Annapolis regarding budget realities
 - c. Potential impacts if USM does not do furloughs
 - d. Comments on Optional Retirement Plan
 - e. Appreciation for CUSS
- 4. Visit to Annapolis The February 22 meeting will be held in Annapolis. CUSS will pass out 188 letters of introduction to the 47 Senator offices and 141 Delegates offices. Additionally, CUSS will be sending a letter to the Governor during the week of February 6 to express our concerns regarding competitive salaries for staff and faculty after three years of furloughs and layoffs, and retention raises for staff.

The next meeting will be held on February 22 in Annapolis

Submitted: Willie Brown, Chair Council of University System Staff