



Report from the Council of University System Faculty
Board of Regents
December 2011

The CUSF General Body met on Tuesday, November 15, 2011 at the University of Maryland College Park as the 2nd Annual Joint Meeting of CUSF, CUSS and USMSC. President Wallace D. Loh welcomed the Councils to the campus and in his comments noted his commitment to shared governance and the uniqueness of USM within higher education, adding that shared governance is the equivalent of academic democracy. President Loh received several questions from council members that focused on the UMB/UMCP Potential Merger Study.

Associate Vice Chancellor for Government Relations P. J. Hogan provided a legislative update and noted that it is difficult to determine what will be the “hot issue” with the Legislature because things change quickly and external events can quickly influence the legislative agenda. Director of Legislative Affairs Andy Clark provided an update on the advocacy efforts with the Legislature.

CUSF, CUSS, and USMSC members sat together at tables of 10 and discussed questions that pertained to the UMB/UMCP Potential Merger Study, USM Budget, and Family Leave. The findings from the discussions at each table were reported to the entire group before lunch and have been submitted to Chancellor Kirwan.

Maryland Higher Education Commission Interim Secretary Danette Gerald Howard and Chancellor Kirwan joined the councils for lunch and participated in the remainder of the meeting, and Senior Vice Chancellor Irv Goldstein received a standing ovation for his dedication to USM and shared governance. Interim Secretary Howard brought greetings from Governor O’Malley and focused her comments on remedial education, particularly math, within higher education, creating “college ready” students, and on the MHEC adjunct faculty study which will be completed in 2013.

Chancellor Kirwan framed his comments within three questions. *How does the System fare when compared with other states?* The downturn in the economy has affected every state. Comparatively, we have fared better than most states because of our “comparative advantage”, and we are well-positioned to rebound when the economy improves. *What strategy does the System need to develop to maximize State support?* Higher education is indispensable to the State, its economy, and its future positioning in a “knowledge economy.” This is reflected in the development of the strategic plan and a 55% completion rate goal. *What issues or problems worry him and keep him up all night worrying about them?* The compensation levels for faculty and staff and how this potentially compromises the competitiveness of the universities in the System is a major concern. He also addressed family leave, the potential merger study, and took questions from the floor regarding funded enrollment growth and research funding. Recognition awards from the councils were presented to Chancellor Kirwan and to Interim Secretary Danette Howard on behalf of Governor O’Malley.

The CUSF Executive Committee will meet with the Chancellor and Faculty Senate Chairs at USM for its regular biannual meeting on Friday, December 9, 2011.

The next CUSF General Body Meeting will be held on Thursday, December 8, 2011 at the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science. Assistant Vice Chancellor JoAnn Goedert will join CUSF at this meeting.

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