



Report from the Council of University System Faculty  
Board of Regents  
April 2012

The CUSF General Body met on February 15, 2012 at Bowie State University. President Mickey Burnim welcomed CUSF and noted that Bowie State University serves many first-generation college students. Dr. Burnim emphasized the role of universities like Bowie State University in providing access to a new generation of students in need. In addition he elaborated on the new Performing Arts Center.

Associate Vice-Chancellor John Wolfe provided an update on academic affairs at USM elaborating on the goal to have a 55% completion rate of AA and BS degrees by 2025. Currently at 44% or roughly 39,000 degrees in 2010, this interprets as 58,000 degrees must be awarded annually in 2025. CUSF responded that in order to meet this goal, there may be a tendency to water down our education in order to meet the goal and that if we are going to graduate more students, we will need more resources at the front end to do this. In addition, the issue of imbalance between the faculty and administration, the growth of administration versus faculty, and the growth of enrollment should be reflected in the growth of faculty rather than the administration.

In addition, there was a panel discussion on maintaining the legacy of shared governance in this time of transition with Senior Vice Chancellor Irv Goldstein's retirement. Panelists were TU Professor and Senate Chair Tim Sullivan, UB Professor and Shared Governance Work Group Chair Debra Stanley and Associate Vice-Chancellor John Wolfe. Observations noted during this panel discussion were as follows:

- CUSF members have the vehicle and responsibility to protect the legacy of shared governance in Maryland.
- Younger faculty tend to wait for something to happen rather than become proactive within the shared governance process.
- We are at a potentially critical turning point with younger faculty needing to step up and take their roles in shared governance.
- It is incumbent on those in shared governance to create an environment to integrate the younger faculty into shared governance.
- There is a greater expectation for faculty to change in terms of shared governance
- Autonomy and increased workloads have influenced shared governance involvement and this may have resulted in increased apathy
- Commuter campuses may not have the sense of community that is often found at a residential campus

Later in the meeting, CUSF passed the following motion:

*MOTION #1205: “We reaffirm MOTION #1203 to change the CUSF Constitution to eliminate the reference to UMBI which no longer exists.”*

The CUSF General Body met on March 16, 2012 at Coppin State University. President Reginald Avery greeted CUSF and noted that the university welcomes developing partnerships with other institutions. Dr. Avery highlighted several new programs at Coppin State University, including the new doctorate program in nursing, a partnership with Shady Grove, and the Honors Program which is one of the best in the country.

CUSF passed the following motions submitted by the Legislative Committee:

*MOTION #1208: “CUSF opposes the Department of Legislative Services recommendation for an \$11.6 million reduction in USM’s FY13 operating budget. \$11.6 million was provided to all USM employees for a \$750 annual bonus for FY12 only. It was a one-time expense. This was deducted and removed from the USM budget for FY13. All USM Presidents have spoken out against this Department of Legislative Services recommendation. CUSF supports the FY13 operating budget for USM as recommended by the Governor.”*

*MOTION #1209: “CUSF recommends that language be added to these regulations (USM Child Abuse Policy) that would provide appropriate protections for those reporting such incidents, including the indemnification from suits by alleged perpetrators, when such reports are made in good faith and without malicious intent.”*

Representing a consortium of different organizations including Casa de Maryland, Travis Tazelaar gave a presentation on the Dream Act Referendum, which led to the passage of the following motion:

*MOTION #1210: “CUSF supports the Dream Act and opposes the referendum.”*

Chief Operating Officer and Vice Chancellor of Administration and Finance Joe Vivona reviewed the *Meet and Confer* process with CUSF. He explained that the process was developed by USM after considerable consultation with the Governor’s Office, several legislators, and some indirect interaction with the American Federations of Teachers. There were many questions and comments regarding which faculty members will be included in the process and why, as well as how and when the *Meet and Confer* process will be implemented on each campus, and who will have the oversight. Joe stressed that it will be broad in its approach, transparent, and institution-centric. He emphasized that *Meet and Confer* is not collective bargaining, but that if the graduate assistants and adjunct faculty choose to be represented by a union, they may do so. A CUSF member added that collective bargaining and shared governance are not necessarily mutually exclusive. Collective bargaining affects the workplace; shared governance affects academic affairs. They are not necessarily the same thing.

Assistant Vice Chancellor of Administration and Finance JoAnn Goedert discussed proposed improvements in the proposed maternity and paternity leave policy for faculty. JoAnn stated that the proposal is currently in the process of making its rounds within USM, noting that the policy is focused on meeting the needs of nine to ten-month faculty and nonexempt staff with less than ten years of service. Eligible faculty members will be assured eight weeks of paid maternity or paternity leave, and that guaranteed period of paid leave will be supplemented by a family support plan that may include workload modifications developed jointly by the faculty member and department chair. Establishing recommendations to stop the tenure clock and providing nursing rooms are also included in the proposed policy.

Senior Vice Chancellor Irv Goldstein presented the USM academic affairs report noting that this has been a difficult legislative session with the Senate proposing a \$5 million cut to System and the House proposing a \$19 million cut. There were many CUSF questions regarding the budget and the status of the Coalition Case.

*A CUSF Fete for Irv* was conducted from lunch until meeting adjournment. It was a celebration and tribute to Irv Goldstein from CUSF upon his retirement as Senior Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs. It included a special guest (one of his former PhD students), a citation from Governor O'Malley, a \$500+ donation to the Irv and Micki Goldstein Scholarship Fund for needy students, a recognition plaque from CUSF, and a poetry slam with poems and songs dedicated to and written specifically for Irv. It was a good time for all.



The CUSF Executive Committee will meet with the Chancellor and Faculty Senate Chairs on Friday, April 9, 2012 at USM Adelphi for its second biannual meeting.

CUSF will co-host the New Chairs Workshop with USM on Friday, April 27, 2012.

The next CUSF General Body Meeting will be held on Monday, April 16, 2012 at the University of Maryland Baltimore and the 2012-2013 CUSF officers will be elected.

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