



Report to the Board of Regents University System of Maryland Student Council September 28th, 2012 – Bowie State University

I. 9 September Retreat Introduction

The Student Council held its retreat on September 9th at the Chancellor's Residence in Pikesville Maryland. The Chancellor addressed the Council regarding the importance of shared governance in the University System and the important role that the Council has played in continuing to move the System forward.

During the meeting, the Council set goals, discussed several topics, and approved our calendar for the year (attached).

The Council currently has representation from each institution and is thankful to each of the Presidents for their help in ensuring that each institution is represented.

II. Overview of Topics Discussed

Civic Engagement

Council members were very interested in ensuring that students across the state are civically engaged and, specifically, that each institution has voter registration events. At the meeting, each of the institutions shared what they are currently working on to encourage students to register to vote and actually vote. Several of the ideas include debate watch parties, voter registration fairs, and an in-house voter registration system that will only require students to log in with their University ID and password.

Maryland DREAM Act

The Council discussed advocacy efforts for the Maryland DREAM Act. Our Director of Governmental Affairs, Caitlyn Leiter-Mason of UMBC, produced an advocacy packet that was distributed at each member for use by his or her SGA. Included in the packet are marketing items, outreach ideas, and other useful information on how the SGA can promote the DREAM Act on their campus. Additionally, the packet includes contact information for organizers from various advocacy groups. A copy of that packet is available upon request.

Shared Governance

With the passage of the student fee review committee policy by the Board, the Council discussed several issues surrounding the implementation of the new policy. Several concerns that were raised included how members of the fee review committees would be selected, what role the various Student Governments would play in that selection process, and then how the students selected would be prepared to serve on these committees. In addition, the Council began a discussion on how students are incorporated into decision-making committees that are not covered under the new Board of Regents policy. Members will be evaluating the practices of each of their respective institutions and will report back to the Council at our first regular meeting next month.

Smoking Policy

The Council additionally discussed the implementation plans for the new Board policy that was approved last year. The main concerns that were raised include how the policy will be enforced on the city-owned sidewalks at the University of Baltimore and the University of Maryland, Baltimore. Each of the Council members will be working with their respective SGAs to collaborate with the appropriate campus department or organization on the implementation of the policy.

Sustainability

The Council is interested in ensuring that each of the institutions fulfills the commitments to carbon neutrality and/or sustainability that each of the individual institutions have made. Members will be researching the current status of sustainability goals and the presence of a student sustainability funds on their campus and will report back at the next Council meeting.

III. Goals for the Council

The Council set the following goals for the year, among others –

- Continue and build upon the tradition of shared governance at each institution.
- Ensure that the Board policy on student fee review committees is properly implemented on each campus.
- Educate students on and involve students with the legislative session in Annapolis.
- Hold a System-wide legislative action day in Annapolis.
- Ensure each institution is reaching its goals for sustainability.
- Create a system-wide “peace” day to encourage non-violence and stop discrimination and hurtful speech/conduct.

IV. Upcoming Discussion Topics

Several topics that will be discussed at upcoming meetings include:

- The current state of shared governance and best practices.
- A continued discussion on sustainability.
- How students can become a part of the solution on alcohol misuse and binge drinking.
- What students can do to be involved with course redesign.
- The Marriage Equality referendum.

V. Concluding Thoughts

The Council looks forward to working with the Board of Regents and our Student Regent, Steven Hershkowitz. I invite any member of the Board to let either me or Regent Hershkowitz know if there is a particular issue that you would like feedback from students on so that we can add it to our agenda for the following meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Zachary B. Cohen,
Chairman



University System of Maryland Student Council 2012-2013 Approved Schedule

September 9 th <i>Retreat</i>	Hidden Waters Pikesville, MD
October 14 th <i>First Regular Meeting</i>	University of Maryland, Baltimore
November 11 th <i>Second Regular Meeting</i>	University System of Maryland, Hagerstown
November 13 th <i>Annual Joint Council Meeting</i>	Bowie State University*
December 9 th <i>Third Regular Meeting</i> <i>Student Regent Selection</i>	University of Maryland, Baltimore County
TBD <i>USM Advocacy Day/Night</i>	Annapolis, MD
February 24 th <i>Fourth Regular Meeting</i> <i>Student Awards Selection</i>	University of Baltimore
March 10 th <i>Fifth Regular Meeting</i>	Bowie State University
April 14 th <i>Sixth Regular Meeting</i>	University of Maryland Eastern Shore
May 5 th <i>Seventh Regular Meeting</i> <i>Council Leadership Elections</i>	Towson University

*The Joint Council meeting will be planned and executed by CUSS. It is suggested but attendance is not mandatory.