

Board of Regents Report February 16, 2013

The Council of University System Staff met on December 11 at the USM Office in Adelphi. Council members discussed implementation of the new smoking policy, its successes and its challenges. Urban schools such as UB, UMB and Coppin all reported issues with enforcing the ban, considering their campuses didn't own the sidewalks and Baltimore City has been less than forthcoming in providing assistance. It was proposed that a task force be created with members from public safety, student affairs, and staff councils from each urban campus to brainstorm ideas for implementation and enforcement, as well as provide a sounding board for other issues that may arise.

Joanne Goedert, AVP of HR, USM, presented a summary of the proposal for a Systemwide employee assistance program (EAP). While the idea was well received by the Council, concerns were raised about the potential additional cost to already-taxed health care budgets, confidentiality of information, and oversight of the program. Ms. Goedert also encouraged the Council to send her any additional suggestions for covered programs to be included in the RFP. The Council looks forward to working with the USM on this important service for Staff and Faculty employees.

The Council of University System Staff met on January 22 at the Mulligan's Golf Course Club House in College Park, MD. Council members were welcomed by Linda Clement, Vice President for Student Affairs at UMCP, who brought greetings to the Council on behalf of President Loh. She also updated the Council on staff initiatives at College Park. Chancellor Kirwan updated the Council on the current budget that has been presented, as well as ask for the Council's support in defending the budget to legislators. Martha Nell Smith, Chair of UMCP's University Senate, gave a short presentation on the work of the Senate.

Council members discussed the agenda and "plan of action" for the meeting in Annapolis, as well as the important USM messages to present. Members were more interested in meeting one-on-one with their legislators than moving around in groups, so the Legislative Committee will plan a schedule around those meetings.

The Council Committees met during a working lunch, and will each make presentations at the March meeting on their progress with the 2012-2013 goals.

Respectfully submitted,

Gynene V. Sullivan Chair

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