



Report from the Council of University System Faculty
Board of Regents
June 2013

The Council of University System Faculty held meetings on April 9 at Towson University and on May 10, 2013 at the University of Maryland, College Park. Dr. Maravene Loeschke welcomed the Council to Towson University followed by the Provost, Dr. Tim Chandler. Dr. Juan Uriagereka, Associate Provost for Faculty Affairs at College Park welcomed the Council. He mentioned that UMCP has faculty serving as researchers, instructors, and other functions as well as adjuncts and non-tenure track faculty. He noted that they have 2,800 non-tenure track faculty. A task force to recommend faculty titles that reflect the duties of the faculty members was convened and their report was accepted by the UMCP Senate.

CUSF passed the following action items at the April and May meetings. CUSF voted to change the bylaws. This motion was read to the general body at the March meeting and passed at the April meeting.

MOTION #1303 – To change Section 5.2 as described below:

5.2 Duties: The Executive Committee shall:

g. Be responsible for the publication of formal communications representing the Council.

h. [Renumber Item g to h.]

Because there is money for merit raises in the 2013 – 2014 budget and because there has been no money for merit for so many years, CUSF wants to make sure that the policy which counts previous year's merit decisions in this merit raise be made with faculty input. So CUSF approved the following motion.

MOTION #1304 – CUSF urges that policies affecting the distribution of faculty merit money be developed with faculty participation.

In April, CUSF held elections for the 2013 – 2014 Executive Committee. The candidates were Chair: Jay Zimmerman, Vice-Chair: Virletta Bryant, Secretary: Bobbi Adams and At Large: Nagaraj Neerchal and Robert Kauffman. CUSF unanimously passed the following motion electing the candidates.

MOTION #1305 – We move to vote for the slate of ExecCom members.

At the May meeting, CUSF passed the following motion.

MOTION #1306 - CUSF supports the changes to the BOR Sick Leave Policy, USM Policy II – 2.30 and the new Accident Leave Policy

In April, significant time was spent discussing the Affordable Care Act and its consequences, particularly for adjunct faculty members. CUSF is very concerned about possible policy implications for all faculty and particularly adjuncts.

In keeping with our practice of inviting senate chairs to speak, Dr. Tim Sullivan, senate chair at TU and Dr. Martha Nell Smith, senate chair of UMCP and Mr. Vincent Novara, the Senate Chair-Elect of UMCP spoke to CUSF.

Dr. Sullivan noted various issues that have been getting a lot of press coverage, such as athletics. The Towson University Senate passed a resolution supporting President Loeschke. Dr. Sullivan also mentioned that one of the issues facing shared governance is the increasing use of part-time and contractual faculty, and that they may not have the same long term commitment to the institution as tenured and tenure track faculty. He also noted that the Towson University senate's constitution is out-of-date and does not reflect the changing composition of the faculty.

Dr. Martha Nell Smith, the senate chair at UMCP described the structure of the UMCP senate and was very positive about how shared governance worked at UMCP. She also introduced Mr. Vincent Novara, the Senate Chair-Elect, who spoke about upcoming issues.

CUSF invited Dr. Danette Howard, Secretary of Higher Education of MHEC to the May meeting. Dr. Howard discussed the workings of MHEC and the CUSF members asked questions about past decisions of MHEC as well as current operations. It was a very fruitful exchange and we thank Dr. Howard for her willingness to talk to the faculty.

The CUSF Chair reported that the Executive Committee inquired if there was a current gender equity study on salaries. Upon being informed that the last one was done more than ten years ago, the CUSF Executive committee asked USM to begin a new study on gender equity in salaries.

CUSF congratulates Dr. Patricia Westerman of Bowie State University and Dr. Virletta Bryant of Coppin State University on their election as Chair of their respective faculty senates. It is our belief that these elections will improve the state of shared governance at these institutions.

At the end of the May meeting, the general body of CUSF voted to cancel the June CUSF meeting.

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