



Report from the Council of University System Faculty  
Board of Regents  
March 24, 2014

The General CUSF meeting was held on February 10, 2014 at the University of Maryland, Eastern Shore. CUSF was welcomed by Dr. Juliette Bell, President of UMES. President Bell said she is working with the faculty leadership to create and maintain open communication channels. She meets with all faculty governance leaders on a monthly basis with agendas set by the faculty.

The March CUSF meeting was held on March 12, 2014 at the University of Baltimore in their new law school building. CUSF was welcomed by Dr. Joseph Wood, Provost at the University of Baltimore. Dr. Wood introduced CUSF to the new law building at UB. The building has the highest level of LEAD certification, which explains the changing light levels and exterior louvers with independent movement. Dr. Wood talked about his experience with shared governance both as a faculty member and as a provost. He also answered questions about the Meet and Confer process at UB and mentioned how he likes to keep both formal and informal lines of communication open.

Dr. Nina Bennett, Chair of the Faculty assembly at UMES provided the following report on the state of shared governance at UMES. She indicated that President Bell instituted regular, consistent, meetings with the senate and assembly chairs. These meetings are extensive (1-2 hours), and have already been held twice this year. The hot item right now is the issue of overload compensation and adjunct pay.

Dr. Catherine Johnson, Vice-President of the University Faculty Senate spoke about shared governance at the University of Baltimore. "The May 2012 creation of a new Plan of Organization for Shared Governance at UB triggered a rewrite of the University Faculty Senate constitution – finally approved on March 14, 2013. This rewrite helped us step back and carefully think through the role of governance on campus, our committee structure and a number of process and procedural issues. The University of Baltimore's president has announced his retirement at the end of this academic year. Our governance structure, particularly through the Governance Steering Council, has been successful in pushing the search committee chair to be more transparent in the process by sending regular updates to the entire university community about what's happening with the process. A new president signals a lot of unknown change for us and, in preparation, we're doing our best to be the strongest, most well organized senate we can be. We're not there yet but we've come a long way in the last 2 years."

CUSF passed the following motion at the February meeting. The vote was unanimous.

Motion: To recommend to the Board of Regents that the rules governing the Regent's Faculty Awards be amended to say that no faculty member can win two awards in the same category in any three year period.

The CUSF reapportionment has been finished. There is no change in the number of CUSF members from any of the USM institutions.

Dr. Maggie Cohen, Chair of the UMUC Faculty Advisory Committee advised CUSF on changes in employment conditions at UMUC.

The CUSF Executive committee passed a letter of support for the February 24, 2014 letter signed by all USM Presidents opposing SB647/HB 998. That letter is attached as an appendix. Dr. Zimmerman testified on the CUSF position at the senate hearing on SB647 on March 5, 2014 and submitted written testimony for the hearing on HB998 on March 6, 2014. At the March 12 CUSF meeting, the general body passed a motion affirming the Executive committee's actions on this issue.

The nominations committee reported on the nominations for the CUSF Executive committee for 2014 – 2015 and on the procedures for the election in April. Nominations were closed at 1:00 pm on March 12, 2014. The election will be held on April 10, 2014 during the meeting at UMCP.

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## APPENDIX



Council of University System Faculty  
March 3, 2014

Academic freedom is the cornerstone of a faculty member's ability to carry on his/her duties. As such, the Council of University System Faculty supports academic freedom for ALL faculty members in any country of the world. The Council believes that the American Studies Association's boycott of Israeli academic institutions denies academic freedom to Israeli scholars and those seeking to collaborate with them.

In the letter, dated February 24, 2014 from the University System of Maryland and signed by the Presidents of all USM institutions, the reasons for opposing this boycott and for opposing the proposed solution, namely Senate Bill 647/House Bill 998 are clearly stated. The Council of University System Faculty supports the tenets stated in the letter from the Presidents. In our view, Senate Bill 647/House Bill 998 would undermine academic freedom further for the reasons stated in the Letter from the Presidents.

Executive Committee on behalf of the  
Council of University System Faculty