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*The mission of the Council of
University System Staff
is to provide a voice for
Staff employee concerns in
reference to basic decisions
that affect the welfare of the
University System of Maryland
and its employees.*

USM Board of Regents Report

Warm wishes as we start the spring from the Council of University System Staff (CUSS).

The council conducted its last meeting on March 26 at the Maryland State House as part of our USM Staff Advocacy Day. As part of the day, the Council was briefed by Assistant Vice Chancellor Andy Clark about the latest legislation and activities impacting the USM.

Delegate Clarence Lam was invited to address the council. Delegate Lam is an alumnus of UMB and was a past President of the University Student Government Association. He provided the council how shared governance has shaped his lens of governance and how this is has impacted his freshman year in Annapolis. In addition, he expressed his support for higher education, the USM, and our staff.

Following the initial meeting, the council was recognized in both chambers of the assembly. After the recognition, the council was able to remain as the Senate had the third reading of the State Budget and BRFA bills.

Finally, the council went and visited all the offices of our delegates and senators. A letter (see attached) and the council newsletter were provided. Overall the council reached 96% of the delegates and 97% of the senators with multiple one on one conversation.

Respectfully submitted

Bill Crockett
Chair



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The Honorable Delegates of the State of Maryland

Warm wishes as we start the spring from the Council of University System Staff (CUSS).

I am proud to be a representative of CUSS, perhaps the largest higher education employee group in Maryland. The University System of Maryland, which has **nearly 34,000 employees** not represented by collective bargaining units, relies on shared governance and councils such as CUSS to serve as the voice for this group. The hard work of USM employees make the State's public Colleges and Universities a tremendous economic engine and the path to success and learning for our citizens of the state of Maryland.

Members of the Council are here today to introduce ourselves and the Council to our honorable and distinguished members of the Maryland General Assembly. Earlier in the day, the Council was recognized by both chambers during your morning assembly meetings. You will find our member roster, represented institution, and legislative district attached.

We are here today to say thank you for

- Preserving the January 1, 2015 COLA that was promised. After years of seeing no cost-of-living-adjustments, this magnanimous gesture of gratitude to Maryland State employees from the General Assembly is most welcome.
- Supporting USM and higher education by sparing us any additional cuts in the FY16 budget.
- Having visionary foresight so that we celebrate our 20th year of codification. Founded in 1992, CUSS was codified in the Education Article in 1995 by Senate Bill 528 and the Maryland General Assembly.

Through our successful collaboration and work with the Chancellor and the Board of Regents we have made great strides in advancing the mission of the USM, most importantly, providing worldwide excellence and recognition for Maryland's Higher education institutions. To maintain our momentum and success we would ask that you strongly support the following as you move forward during the session to continue in your support of higher education and to support its continued funding. It has been through your ongoing support that USM continues to make great strides in achieving the goals set forth and accomplishing the mission of providing the best education our students and their parents have come to expect from the University System of Maryland and its outstanding institutions.

In closing, we would like to take a moment to say thank you for your hard work, not only during the grueling 90 day session, but throughout the year as well. Your efforts are very much appreciated.

Please feel free to contact any of our members at any time. Our executive committee contact can be found on the reverse side of this letter. Our Contact information can also be found on our website www.usmd.edu/usm/workgroups/SystemStaff

Warm Regards,
The Council of the University System Staff