



September 3, 2015

RE: Report to the Chancellor's Council  
University System of Maryland Student Council

University System of Maryland  
Student Council

University System of Maryland  
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On Sunday, August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015, at Towson University, the USM Student Council Executive Officers and Executive Board met for their first in-person meeting of the 2015-16 academic year. We were also joined by Tracey Jamison, USM Director of Articulation & Enrollment Services and Sydney Comitz, Student Regent.

**USMSC Executive Officers**

**Kennard A. Wallace**  
*President*

**Daniel J. Miller**  
*Vice President, Graduate*

**Gayon M. Sampson**  
*Vice President, Undergraduate*

Included below is a summary of the discussion points and initiatives that were discussed by each executive department within the council.

**Communications and Marketing**

The communications and marketing team discussed ways to streamline council news and information, including a refresh of the USMSC's web/digital presence. They also shared collaborative efforts between other executive departments.

**USMSC Executive Board**

**Brandon K. Wharton**  
*Director of Communications  
and Marketing*

**Jasmine Gibson**  
*Assistant Director of Communications  
and Marketing*

**Yvette Pappoe**  
*Director of Diversity and Inclusion*

**Maia Williams**  
*Assistant Director of Diversity and  
Inclusion*

**Benjamin Mendelsohn**  
*Director of Finance and Management*

**Kyle Bamberger**  
*Assistant Director of Finance and  
Management*

**Aiden Galloway**  
*Director of Governmental Affairs*

**Mark O'Halloran**  
*Assistant Director of Governmental Affairs*

**Samantha Figueroa**  
*Director of Student Affairs*

**Karina Mandell**  
*Assistant Director of Student Affairs*

**Diversity and Inclusion**

The diversity and inclusion department will be focusing on explaining the meaning of diversity to campuses, with an emphasis that diversity means many different things to many different people. They plan to be involved and engaged at each institution in order to learn the unique challenges they may be facing in terms of diversity and inclusion.

**Finance and Management**

The finance and management department plans to work with officials within the USM and its institutions to re-examine how financial literacy and wellness are infused into higher education curricula.

**Governmental Affairs**

The governmental affairs team is remaining abreast of policy developments underway that may affect FAFSA's process for applying for federal aid. They are also mindful of proposed legislation on anti-hazing which could place additional regulations on USM institutions.

**Student Affairs**

The USMSC department of student affairs is beginning the year by examining current practices in grading throughout the system. Specifically, they are studying the lack of uniformity between institutions as it pertains to the grading scale and the use (or lack thereof) of +/- differentials in grade point averages.

We also discussed collaborative efforts between the student council and the staff/faculty council. It is our belief that these joint-initiatives will facilitate better practices system-wide. Additionally, the council looks forward to welcoming Chancellor Caret to our annual fall retreat at the USM Office on September 13.

Respectfully submitted,

**Kennard Alexander Wallace**

Student Council President  
University System of Maryland