

STUDENT COUNCIL

Secretary's Notes

First Regular Meeting on Sunday October 9, 2011 at Towson

Chairman Welsh

- Vote to approve agenda passes Unanimously
- Vote to approve minutes passes Unanimously

Welcoming Remarks from Dr. Deb Moriarty PhD

- Words of advise over the coming votes for the voting rights of the Regional Higher Education Centers (RHEC)
- What is the role of the RHEC? To help students obtain a degree without long distance travel or higher tuitions?
- Should the RHEC get a vote on the Council?
- Either way it is a much higher complex issue then do they get a vote or not.

Welcoming Remarks from Mr. Matthew Sikorski

- Discussed several new programs as SGA president such as the search for a new President and general student needs.
- Towson's sports team are doing well
- \$150,000,000 capital projects on the expansion of Towson's campus and academic buildings
- Constantly looking for joint ventures with other colleges

Intuitional Reports

Towson University (In addition to Sikorski's report)

- Youth for Western Civilization (hate group) has been on campus
- New website to see all events taking place on campus on a single calendar

University of Maryland Baltimore Campus

- Zip cars have been brought to the school
- SGA had it's first annual retreat
- Commencement for new officers
- Graduate Students Association had it's first meeting

Coppin State

- Provost resigned suddenly and the Dean of the Honors college has taken over
- Introducing a first year program
- New email system
- Installed a digital game room
- Demolishing old gym and temporarily installing green room and recycling center

Shady Grove

- 75% more scholarships given out than last fall
- Started a stock market simulation
- Developing programs to assist students to find internships
- 1st town hall meeting
- SEB movie night
- Soccer fundraising event
- USG fundraising event

Bowie State

- Search for associate Provost
- New Student Union put into place
- Football team is doing poorly
- SGA homecoming event
- Several meetings within the SGA

University of Maryland at Baltimore

- SGA meeting to discuss merger study
- 2011–2016 strategic plan to promote studies in Technology and Interdisciplinary studies
- Programs to combat childhood obesity
- Launched new sustainability website
- Genome Sciences decoded the DNA of the E coli virus plaguing Germany

University of Maryland at College Park

- \$10,000,000 spent for new teaching centers
- New physical sciences building under construction
- Limited funds for SGA
- Increased Student fees
- New VP and diversity officer
- Increased the no smoking radius around buildings
- Giving benefits to same-sex married couples
- Parental leave to be discuss in meeting

University Systems of Maryland – Hagerstown

- Coffee bar survey for student needs
- Possibility of moving from non-traditional to traditional school
- No meal plan but attempting to have access to healthier snacks
- Introduction of new SGA members
- Convoy of Help gave 5200 people groceries
- Blood drive was huge success
- Director suddenly resigned
- Had their only scholarship fundraising event

Frostburg University

- Homecoming plans to be much more than paper decorations
- New mobile app with maps and blackboard access
- Ending grants with AstraZeneca and is searching for funding sources
- Now a smoke free campus but not enforced
- Black Student Union being replaced with Multi Cultural Student Union
- Implementing a My Voice program to get more student opinions

Salisbury University

- New recycling program
- Many students volunteered on TV show Extreme Home Makeover
- DLLR had representative speak on GMAT
- Attempting to ban the sale of plastic water bottles
- Planning for Homecoming

University of Baltimore

- Restructuring of the SGA with division on labor
- Worked out a deal to decrease the price of parking
- Introduction of a single campus wide ID card
- Building of new Law School
- Building of apartments more suited for students
- Homecoming dance even with no sports teams to boost morale
- Global Village event to support international students
- Block Party to fundraise for clubs went well

Chairman Welsh's Report

Chairman Welsh

- Public hearings for merger study will be on 10/23 and 10/28
- Task groups for merger study questions 1&2 are still in progress
- The Chancellor and his group will be finishing all other merger study questions
- Federal reductions and cuts to research funding is "Unusually Uncertain" at this time
- State of Maryland bond rating is now at AA+
- Still much debate at the Federal level regarding debt

Student Regent Wojciechowski's Report

Student Regent Wojciechowski

- Will have finished campus visits by next meeting
- Board annual retreat:
 - Financial Outlook
 - Governor O'Malley's support of higher education
 - Strategic plan for 2020
 - Plans to make increase higher education with by 10,000 bachelors degrees per year
 - Introductory courses will be revised
 - Plans to close achievement gap
 - Plans to raise the graduation rate from 60% to 75%
- Board of Regents has a merit awards for staff and faculty but none for students so Wojciechowski asked the council's opinion of having student awards. The council largely thought this was a good idea.
- Wojciechowski also asked the council's opinion on making the Student Regent position a 2-year term in which the student would have one year to acclimate and 1 year to serve as the regent. The council reached a close consensus that this was not practical.
- Regent McMillan will be starting a study on student fees in the spring.

Action Item

Nominations for Secretary

- Chairman Welsh asked for any further nominations besides the representative from the University of Baltimore and Coppin State
- The representative from the University of Baltimore won, Jacob Goldberg.

Approval of the Student Regent Application

- Vote to approve Student Regent Application was approved unanimously

RHEC Representation

- Recommendations from Chairman Welsh and Regent Wojciechowski
 - RHEC must submit petition for full membership annually
 - If the petition passes the RHEC will gain full memberships
 - RHEC must abstain from voting on the on the Student Regent Nominee
- Notes from Wojciechowski
 - Chancellor feels RHEC should be granted full membership just like any other institution
 - RHEC currently don't pay high student fees which is likely to change if they continue to grow
 - We are the first board to make a move on this issue
 - Wojciechowski thinks this is a very smart compromise
- Open floor Discussion points
 - There is a potential abuse of power vs. Actualized unrepresented group
 - Incremental approach is rational
 - VPs are not in favor because of there work with Student Affairs (SA) but this board deals with much more than SA
 - Why have a petition for annual membership? To stay on good terms with the VPs
 - Any intuition can send more than 3 nominees for student regent
 - Shady Grove has over 4000 students Hagerstown over 550
 - All full time students at Shady Grove pay some student fees
 - Possibility of allowing non voting members to sit in on votes rather than leave the room
 - Possibility of removing recommendation 3 was declined, as it would be Unconstitutional to MD constitutional.

- Pushing too hard would delegitimize the council which is why the Chairman and Student Regent suggest slow progress
- Motion to pass recommendation passes unanimously and will be sent along to the Board of Regents.

Discussion Items

UMCP Graduate Assistant Leave Policy

- As Graduate Students are not employees they do not get the same benefits as staff
- Entitled to 2 weeks or 40 hours of leave but do not qualify for sick or child birth leave
- Initial proposal to give “reasonable procedure” but had no graduate student input
- Still waiting for information from other campuses on their policies
- Desired for up to 6 weeks of leave for child birth

Student Regent Wojciechowski

- Idea to have a state wide college newspaper and asked for each representative to contact our school paper and send contact information along

UMCP–UMB Merger Study: Chairman Welsh and Regent Wojciechowski

- Each University needs to Develop a council and come up with an official view point
- Discuss of University councils finds will take place next meeting
- Salisbury: Had a discussion with Dean and decided to just wait for more information
- Regent Wojciechowski
 - Very political issue
 - Mergers in Higher Education are uncommon
 - 9/10 mergers occur from a within the institutions not commonly due to legislature
 - Since the new institution would have over 50% of the budget this is truly important to all institutions
- Frostburg: Several administrators have stated that the merger doesn’t directly effect Frostburg which may or may not be true
- Open floor Discussion points

- Institutions were formerly merged from 1920–1970 but split so more information is desired as to the reasons
 - Would the new institutions receive more research funding?
- Regent Wojciechowski
 - 2 opposing schools of thought
 - If the institution receives national attentions then the other institutions would “rise with the tides”
 - Or that the attention will be overly focused on the new institution and all others will left aside
 - We need to consider the not only the academic side but the cultures that would have to be forced together
 - Then the idea of one president for 2 distant campuses would be a “bureaucratic nightmare”
- Open floor Discussion points
 - Desire for research from other schools such as a recent case in Chicago
 - Many issues being brought up have been considered within the merger study questions
 - Will this plan benefit Maryland as a whole?
 - If federal funding is cut the new institution will still receive large grants as it would be a very large school
 - Would this be a gateway to future mergers?
 - How will this effect job security and new opportunity?
 - No physical changes will be made
- Regent Wojciechowski
 - Has the possibility of bring back business to the Baltimore area
 - The ABLE foundation is also conducting a study on the Baltimore economy
 - Even if there is no merger it is clear the two schools will continue to collaborate
- Open floor Discussion points
 - If this issue is so conceptual why is there a budget stipulation attached to the merger study?
 - How will this affect the average student who already has to go out of state to get into an average University?
 - “Slippery step” to become one large University of Maryland at_____
 - No indication of a hostile takeover
 - Would this now make UMB a RHEC?

- There may not be as much gained by UMB compared to UMCP
- UMB representative seems to be against the merger while UMCP representative seems to see value in the possibility
- The two intuitions are almost complementary with very little overlap
- Discussion would likely continue but due to time constraints the discussion had to be stopped for this meeting

Ending Statements

- Possibility of having a special meeting to continue discussion for Frostburg was suggested but no official actions
- Answers to merger study questions will be out by mid to late November