



**Report to the Chancellor's Council
University System of Maryland Student Council
July 7, 2014**

Leadership Transition

The outgoing executive board advised incoming executive board members on best practices for maintaining an effective council. This meeting also included consultation with Vice Chancellor of Governmental Affairs PJ Hogan and Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Joann Boughman. The executive board is currently filling the executive cabinet and completing their roster for the upcoming year with help from system staff and administrators from different campuses. As this process occurs, it is important to note that a critical goal of the council this year is to assure representational equality for HBCU members.

Goals for the Year

The University System of Maryland Student Council will pursue a variety of goals throughout the upcoming academic year to enhance the student experience throughout the USM. In addition to advising the chancellor on any issue he deems necessary, our primary objective is to continue to assure an affordable, accessible, and high quality education for all USM students. We will achieve this through a variety of coordinated advocacy campaigns including form letters to the governor, student testimony, and direct lobbying. We will have a dual focus on state and federal level advocacy and hope to continue the council's strong record of legislative involvement for students.

The student council will also continue to collaborate with the USM Office on the Maryland Open-Source Textbook (MOST) Initiative. Together we have saved students \$130,000 through eleven courses from our Spring 2014 Pilot Program. Over 1,000 students participated in the spring pilot and we hope to expand that number in the upcoming fall pilot program. The student council will continue to promote, gather data, and provide support for this initiative, in order to continue pioneering this changing area of academics.

The student council plans to track the implementation of new USM policies throughout the upcoming academic year. We will specifically be focusing on the Sexual Misconduct, Social Media, and Cyber Security policies. We plan to give input as the policies are developed and provide feedback as they are implemented on each campus.

Because our system is so diverse, we hope to provide critical information on how each policy is being molded and adapted to fit each campus. Council leadership is currently in the process of collaborating with USM staff in revising the social media policy before it is presented to the Board of Regents.

The student council will also discuss a variety of issues that will more than likely result in subsequent working groups, campaigns, and advice to this council, the chancellor, and to the Board of Regents. We plan to discuss financial literacy initiatives, financial aid allocations, on campus coordinated voter registration for the midterm elections, system-wide implementation of bereavement procedures, and more. The council will also continue the Annual Shared Governance Survey Report to the chancellor.

Council Retreat

The 2014-2015 USM Student Council will officially convene as a full council for the first time in August at Hidden Waters in Pikesville, MD. Our retreat will involve approval of regional center voting rights, approval of our meeting agenda (attached), and activities to acclimate council members to our goals for the year.

The student council will hold its first official meeting on September 21st at the University of Maryland, Baltimore (pending council approval).

Respectfully submitted,
Zachary McGee
President