**UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF MARYLAND STUDENT COUNCIL**

**Secretary’s Notes**

**Meeting on Sunday March 11, 2012 at Coppin State University**

Chairman Welsh

* Vote to approve agenda passes unanimously
* Vote to approve minutes passes unanimously

**Welcoming Remarks**

Dr. Christopher-Hick, Vice President for Student Affairs at Coppin State University

* Very pleased with the student leaders at Coppin State
* Likes the efficiency of the USMSC
* Hopes that all members of the USMSC will take back what they learn to there home institutions, in particular the positivity at Coppin State

**Intuitional Reports**

Towson University

* Towson students traveled to Annapolis for the annual Tiger Pride Day. The day proved to be very successful as the students discussed campus improvements, the university operating budget, opposition to the gas tax, and the textbook tax free bill
* The SGA adopted “Koofers,” a program that allows students to rate their professors, view schedule variations, view price listings for all required text books, access class speciﬁc study materials, view who else is in a class when linked to facebook, and look at grades professors have given out in the past
* The SGA Civic Engagement committee is hosting a campus farmers market for students and faculty. Fruits, vegetables, and plants will be available to purchase. The ﬁrst ever farmers market will be held May 3rd
* The Responsible Tiger Protocol is expected to be reviewed by the Vice President for Student Affairs in the upcoming weeks and should be ﬁnalized before the end of the year. This policy would provide amnesty for students who take responsible action and call for medical assistance for a friend who may be underage and in need of medical attention Tigerthon, a dance marathon for Children's Miracle Network, raised $36,027.68 this year. This is an improvement of last year's ﬁgures, and met their goal of an additional $10,00
* University Residence Government campaigning has begun. Elections will take place March 14th. Three tickets are competing and the ﬁrst URG debate will take place on March 13th
* The University Senate is reviewing the chalking policy on campus in efforts to control unwanted messages around campus

Universities of Maryland at Baltimore

* Pharmacy students won “Script for the Future” competition
* Students meet with legislators to discuss educational programs and healthcare delivery
* Discussion on how to teach juvenile justice within schools while helping the community
* The amount of scholarship funds increased by 75% in 2011 compared to the previous fall
* Congressional form to discuss progress of oral healthcare
* “Fresh Food” initiative at Lexington Market

Bowie State University

* Gave students a chance to vote on student fees
* Finalized the creation of the SGA’s constitution
* SGA elections begin in April
* Continued in the search for the new provost
* The new performing Arts building opens in January
* The new Student Center opens in fall of 2013

University of Maryland

* State wide Good Sumerian policy towards safety
* Review committee of student fees has caused much frustration
* Collective bargaining bill in support but was pulled off the floor
* Currently adjuncts and graduate students assistants cannot unionized but when meeting with the administration they are allowed to bring outside representation

Coppin State University

* March 1rst was the first lobby day
* The faculty senate took a vote of no confidence in the president
* The Coppin State Study Team has met many of the University goals but has not addressed all of the student issues
* Spring homecoming is quickly approaching and will have black history events
* SGA elections are being held in April
* Enrollment is down which in turns will lead to budget cuts
* A new policy has been put in place as to when student aid must be distributed by
* New construction is being done on a student parking garage
* Continued in the search for the new provost

University of Maryland, Baltimore County

* Career Week will take place March 26-30 featuring several different types of events including Career Conversations, Networking Events and Skill-Building Seminars, and the Spring Career Fair
* Six semi-finalists were picked for the UMBC SGA Prove It Project!
* The SGA is hosting a fee forum on Monday to discuss student opinions about the fees that they pay
* SGA Candidate applications are due on March 16
* Our campus unexpectedly lost a very important leader – Lamont Tolliver, Director of the Meyerhoff Scholars Program, who had been a part of the UMBC community for over 20 years
* Students had the opportunity to submit designs for the GSW T-shirt, which will be the official t-shirt for grad students that week. The winner will receive a campus gift card
* 3/7/12 – “What is it like to work at a university in another country?” This event will feature a faculty panel.
* 3/27/12 – “Career path for Graduate Students.” Representatives from 11 different organizations will be in attendance. This is not a job fair, but rather an opportunity to network, have informal conversations with employers, received counsel regarding job preparation and job searches, learn about a variety of career opportunities, and enjoy dinner with fellow graduate students

Salisbury University

* Student activity fees will be raised by $100 this year and $50 next year
* The SAVE campaign is working hard
* SGA elections have already been held
* New policy requires student organizations to go to funding workshops
* Some older buildings on campus are being torn down to make room for new buildings

University of Baltimore

* In accordance with the new-shared governance a new committee is being formed that will consist of the President and Vice President of the Student Government, Faculty Senate and the Administrative Senate that will not only allow for increased communication but also will allow for the organizations to work together much more easily.
* Elections for our Student Government, Leadership and Service Council and Student Events Board. This will be the first election at UB that each candidate will run for the position that they desire where as in years past candidates would run for members at large and there would be internal elections.
* Ethics Weeks went over well and there were four great presentations that get everyone thinking about our society. For example I attended a seminar on how in a time of emergency limited resources would be distributed. There would have to be some sort of formula for who get these resources and who doesn’t.
* A new organization has been formed know as the Leadership Service Council of similar workings to that at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. LSC is an organization led by UB students particularly interested in service and developing leadership skills that can be used in college and throughout the rest of their lives. LSC regularly meets to plan activities for UB.
* With a final push that resulted in dozens of key donations in its final months, Uniquely UB: The Campaign for the University of Baltimore is ending with a new record for funds raised—$45 million. The campaign shattered the institution's previous record for fundraising, almost doubling the amount of funds raised in a single, distinct capital campaign and exceeding its $40 million goal by 12 percent. Substantial new funding will be available to support scholarships for deserving students, to attract and retain first-rate teachers and scholars and to allow the institution to improve its facilities and technology.

**Chairman Welsh’s Report**

Chairman Welsh

* No news for the new Student Regent selection
* The RHEC voting rights has reached it’s final stage and is waiting to be voted upon at the Board of Regents
* Note to all members of the USMSC that all members need to communicate effectively and are engaged in conversations
* Encourage all institutions to participate in lobby day and, congratulations to all that institutions that have

**Student Regent Wojciechowski’s Report**

Student Regent Wojciechowski

* The Board of Regents has vote to support College Park’s master facility plan
* The Board of Regents voted in favor of University of Baltimore’s new global governance and security program
* A new study is being done on the economic impact of colleges on local business
* The Board of Regents official approved the “M Power the State” and the strategic alliance
* A new president has been appointed for the University of Maryland at Eastern Shore
* Student Regent Wojciechowski will be visiting the SGAs again this spring
* The Department of Legislative Services have proposed 2 budgets, one which will cut $11 million and one that will cut $4 million, to the System Office and each institution will have to pitch in to fill the cut

**Legislative Session Update**

Mr. Cohen

* Dooms Day Budget
* A Dooms Day budget has been requested to see what would happen in a worse case scenario
* Students need to advocate to the budget committee because it is thought that as Higher Education has a revenue stream in tuition
* Even a 5% increase is fairly low as Pennsylvania has a 20-30% increase in tuition annually
* Since 2007 the system has been trimming as much as possible but there is a point at which quality will be sacrificed
* All funding is likely to be cut from private institutions
* The Gas Tax is off the table which on creates further problems budgeting
* Textbook Tax Cut
* In the open hearing many testified for the bill but none spoke in opposition
* Bill HB173
* Require our campuses to send emails to all students directing them where to register for voting
* College Affordability
* Tuitions would have a cap of increasing no more than the % increase in the average household income
* Cyber Security
* Has good intentions but is worded incorrectly and would cause problems over commonly used software such as antivirus
* Bill 859
* Allows Graduate Assistants, Adjuncts and faculty to unionize
* The compromise that was struck would only affect Graduate Assistants and Adjuncts
* This bill doesn’t solve what the Graduate Assistants and Adjuncts were really fighting for which was there voices to be heard

**Action Item**

Ms. Bedford

* Resolution to Support Graduate Student Family Leave Policy Proposal was passed unanimously

Chairman Welsh

* Proposal for the council to support the Governor’s budget passes