



## COUNCIL of UNIVERSITY SYSTEM FACULTY

### **Regents Report November 4 2022**

The Council of University System Faculty has had two meetings since my last report, on September 21, 2022 and on October 19, 2022. The executive committee has also met twice. We have begun to gather a great deal of information about issues of concern for this year, both from individual members and from committees.

### **Executive Committee**

The executive committee has discussed the elements of a strategic plan of ideas to share with the general meeting. We have also dealt with many procedural questions over such issues as how and whether we need to amend our bylaws *vis a vis* electronic voting.

### **General Body Meetings**

Below I summarize the two general body meetings since my last report. The first meeting was mostly informational for all members. I shared and we briefly discussed elements of the draft strategic plan, which might be used as rough guidance for agenda presentations this year. Members were acquainted with the roles of all committees (Faculty Concerns, Legislative Affairs, Educational Policy, Awards, Membership and Rules) and broke up into those groups. After that initial meeting, all representatives had the opportunity to choose which committees they would be joining, and to give feedback on the draft strategic plan. The committees can choose whether to take up these issues as well as others of their own choosing. We had committee meetings as break out sessions at the end of our meeting.

We had presentations from Sr. Vice Chancellor Dr Joann Broughman on the role of CUSF within the USM system, and from Assistant Vice Chancellor for Government Affairs, Andy Clark, on the legislative forecast for the year.

At the meeting on October 19, we had planned to discuss each item on the draft strategic plan in more detail, but the schedule was too full. The committees have started to take up these issues separately. As a whole group, we briefly discussed, and then decided to postpone so that it went through a committee process, the idea of formally designating a joint committee of the faculty, staff and student councils to make a recommendation about revising the law on collective bargaining.

We heard from Nancy Shapiro Associate Vice Chancellor for Education and Outreach, about the teacher shortage throughout Maryland, and discussed how the USM universities can play a more strategic role in encouraging and recruiting potential teachers. We discussed strategies via which CUSF members can help.

We also heard from Andrew Pace, USMAI Library Consortium about the crucial role of libraries within the system in facilitating access to information and the role that the USM system plays, in particular. They run a consortium, that purchases electronic access to shared information, library systems and operations, and supports shared digital initiatives. They would like to expand such programs, as well as to better support member universities in purchasing access for themselves. There is also a USM Library Council, headed by Dean Adriene Lim, which provides guidance on USM library policy. We learned about disparities in access to resources among member libraries and also some of the challenges facing libraries, in terms of increasing costs of access to information.

We deliberated upon and unanimously passed the attached Election Day Resolution in response to concerns expressed by the Student Council.

The committees have started to meet and deliberate on many issues. One interesting issue that came up both in the general meeting and the Faculty Concerns Committee was the lack of a faculty member on the Board of Regents. That is something that we will pursue this year.

Finally, I want to mention that the Faculty, Staff, and Student Councils are having a joint meeting on November 16. We will hear from the Chancellor, and have break out sessions on Maryland's collective Bargaining policy, the connections between the USM system and the prison system, and on mental health, as well as a strategy session for Annapolis Day on February 15. This meeting will be in addition to our next upcoming meeting on November 22. We have scheduled a faculty senate chairs meetings for December 2.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Professor Holly Brewer**

**Chair, Council of University System Faculty**

## Resolution in support of Election Day

As the Council of University System Faculty (CUSF) is responsible for considering and making recommendations on matters of systemwide professional and educational concern to the faculty, its Education Policy Committee urges Council adoption of the following resolution:

*Whereas the Council of University System Faculty (CUSF) recognizes the importance of fair and free elections with high participation as part of the democratic process; and*

*Whereas Tuesday, Nov. 8, 2022, is both Election Day and a scheduled class day on the Fall 2022 academic calendar; therefore, be it*

*Resolved: CUSF encourages instructors to help faculty and students perform their civic duty as voters and polls workers by taking one or more of the following actions as is reasonable for their course(s):*

- Excuse students from class so that they may cast their ballots in person and/or work at the polls on Nov. 8, 2022;*
- Arrange alternative learning opportunities to a scheduled class meeting on Nov. 8, 2022;*
- Hold class meetings virtually instead of in person on Nov. 8, 2022;*
- Avoid scheduling major assignments, exams, presentations, lectures, etc., on Nov. 8, 2022.*
- Avoid penalizing late submissions of assignments due on Nov. 8, 2022;*
- Be flexible with students regarding class attendance and assignment due dates on Nov. 8, 2022.*
- Arrange their own schedules so that they may cast their ballots in person and/or work at the polls on Nov. 8, 2022.*

Approved Unanimously by Council of University System Faculty  
University System of Maryland  
October 19, 2022