

CUSF General Body Meeting
Towson University, Towson, Maryland

Minutes

Friday, May 18, 2012

Attendance:	
Bowie (2)	
Coppin (2)	Virletta Bryant
Frostburg (3)	Elesha Ruminski
Salisbury (3)	David Parker, Bobbi Adams,
Towson (4)	Jay Zimmerman, Cheryl Brown, Martha Siegel
UB (2)	Stephanie Gibson
UMB (5)	
UMBC (3)	Drew Alfgren
UMCES (2)	
UMCP (6)	William Stuart, Stephen Mount, Kenneth Holsum, William Montgomery, Radu Balan
UMES (2)	Bill Chapin
UMUC (3)	Betty Jo Mayeske, Margaret Cohen, Richard Schumaker, Joyce Shirazi
Guests:	Irv Goldstein (USM), Andy Clark (USM)

Future Meeting Dates:

June 14, 2112 (Thursday) SU, Salisbury (Cancelled)

CONVENING THE MEETING - 10:00 AM

Joyce Shirazi, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. [Secretary's Note: *Since the Secretary was not in attendance, the Secretary would like to thank Elesha Ruminski for graciously taking the preliminary minutes of this meeting.*]

WELCOME FROM TOWSON UNIVERSITY - 10:03 AM

Jay Zimmerman introduced Dr. Loeschke. He noted that she was a Dean at Towson, before becoming a Provost at Wilkes University and President of Mansfield University in Pennsylvania. He noted that Dr. Loeschke has had two areas of focus: student success, and the leadership development of students, faculty, and staff. Dr. Maravene Loeschke, President of Towson University, welcomed everyone to the Towson campus. She noted that it was not to long ago that she too was a faculty member teaching students and that this helps her to focus as an institution on student success. She complemented CUSF on its representation with Joyce at the System level. In the question phase, there was a question regarding the recent legislative session. She indicated that Towson would have had a five million dollar cut which would have been a \$484,000 cut without the special session (\$50 million dollar cut threat). She was grateful for the letters written by faculty, students, staff (Note: over 20,000). Also, she noted that the

COLA is back in the budget for January.

Irv reinforced Dr. Loeschke's comments and indicated that it was time to take a deep breath after the Wednesday session. Irv noted that there were still funds for faculty and staff retention along with the COLA. At the next meeting of the Board of Directors they will address tuition increases.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES - 10:13 AM

Joyce requested that everyone introduce themselves. Everyone did so. It was moved and seconded to approve the April 16, 2012 minutes of the General Body. The motion was passed and the minutes were approved.

REPORT FROM USM

Irv Goldstein - Senior Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs presented the report.

Budget. Irv indicated that they had discussed the impact of the budget process. He noted that there are two types of cuts occurring. First, is a five million dollar cut from General Fund, and second, is a five million dollar reduction or transfer from the fund balance.

Regional Centers. Irv provided the group with an update on the regional centers. Irv noted that System is diverting a million dollars to the regional centers for the development of programs. He noted that System is running two of the Centers, Shady Grove and Hagerstown. Regarding Shady Grove, Irv noted the partnership being made with Montgomery County and their support for the Center. They have had over 4,000 students and Montgomery County has assisted in the building of another building at the center. Regarding the Hagerstown Center, Irv noted the cooperation between Frostburg and College Park in offering an EdD program in Educational Leadership at Hagerstown. College Park has offered to assist in the development of the program with the understanding that they will phase out of the program after it is development. He noted that Morgan is taking a year to study the issue and may be interested in joining in on a center. In summary, he expects to see the development of more regional centers in the next several years.

BOR Meeting. There is a BOR meeting of Educational Policy in June. On their agenda will be the *athletic directors report* made by all the athletic directors on whether they have met their progress reports. Most athletic directors will be there. In addition, there is a *crime control report*. These reports are fairly detailed. The campuses will need to explain the change on their campuses. Third, there will be a report on closing the *achievement gap*. The budget has not facilitated the closing of this gap.

With his basic report completed, Irv entertained questions. One question focused on maintaining the quality of the educational programs at the Centers. First, Irv noted a focus on the accreditation process. He cited the Towson example where when the nursing program was up for re-accreditation and they included the regional center at Hagerstown as part of their process. When Middle States does its evaluation, they will visit the accompanying regional center also. They will follow the rules of the home institution including the ratio of tenure-track versus adjunct faculty to teach the courses. Last, it is important for faculty to understand that although they are teaching at the center, they are still connected to their home institution. Having noted this, Irv noted the differences in the teaching environment at the regional centers. Rather than being surrounded by faculty from your home institution, faculty are surrounded by faculty from other institutions. For this and other reasons, it is important to address the question regarding how to make an environment where faculty can succeed.

In response to a question, Irv note that education is undergoing a significant transformation. He indicated that there was a heated discussion on this topic. He noted that Brit suggested that there was a difference between a 20 year old and a 30 year old. Parents want a place where students can go until they are old enough to work. For this reason, there will always be a place for the traditional “brick and mortar” type institutions for this group (i.e. the 20 year old). He noted that we are using technology on these campus to enhance learning. The result is that learning on these campuses is changing significantly. In contrast, the 30-35 year old doesn’t want to get on the beltway to travel to College Park, Towson, or anywhere else. They want it online. We will need to accommodate both groups. He noted that it will be an interesting next ten years.

Joyce noted that this will be Irv’s last report at a CUSF General Body meeting. She wished Irv well and thanked him for his past candor and support of CUSF. The group gave Irv a round of applause.

USM END-OF-SESSION LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Andy Clark - USM Director of Legislative Affairs conducted the panel discussion.

Overview. Initially, Andy provided an overview of his position. He noted that he tracks the progress of roughly 80 bills in the Legislature. In providing an overview of the legislative session, he indicated that they had one billion dollars in a structural deficit that they planned to reduce through tax increases and budget cuts. He noted that the process is one where the Governor submits the budget and the Legislature can only take money away that was budgeted. System was well positioned in the budget. There was a 5% tuition increase that was reduced to 3% with a nine million dollar “buy down.” This is where the tuition increase is off-set by a budget increase or “buy down.” Andy suggested that System was well positioned in terms of the budget and the legislative process. He added that there is a high regard for higher education in Maryland and this is different from many other states. In terms of their capital budget, Maryland is one of eight states that has a triple A rating.

Operational Budget Cuts. Next, Andy indicated the outcome of the current legislative session. First, there is a five million dollar cut to the System’s General Fund. One million dollars is restricted to System until System develops a plan for non-USM regional centers (e.g. Southern Center). USM has two of its own, Hagerstown and Shady Grove. There are six other centers operated by MHEC (Maryland Higher Education Commission). Essentially, the Legislature is directing USM to participate and contribute more to the regional centers and they have carved out a portion of our budget to do so.

Fund Balance Contribution. Second, the SYSTEM has a fund balance. This is different from other State agencies whose unused funds roll back to the State at the end of fiscal year if not spent. In contrast, unspent funds by System goes into a fund balance or “piggy bank” to be used for a rainy day. Each institution has it own fund balance within the overall fund. The fund balance is one reason why the State has a triple A bond rating. They will take a one time five million dollar transfer from the fund balance and transfer it to the operating budget of the System. Although it has potential financial implications, the short term effect is that System had a five million dollar operational budget cut rather than a ten million dollar cut.

COLA. There is a 2% COLA beginning January 1st. This is significant because there were four years of no cost of living increases or other salary increases. The COLA is to every full-time State employee. In response to a question, the COLA will not affect UMUC faculty who are not considered full-time State employees.

Reports. Andy outlined several of the reports for which he is responsible. These included the Faculty Workload Report, Budget Narrative, A Report on Students Participating in Access Programs, Framework for Performance Based Funding, Annual Progress Report on the 55% Completion Goal, and other reports.

In response to a question, Irv provided a brief history of the Faculty Workload Reports and how they have evolved into representing more than just graduates. Now, they include other things that faculty do including service and professional development. Irv noted that it is highly unlikely that the report will go away.

Regarding the Framework for Performance Based Funding, Andy provided a brief background on this new area of reporting. He noted that among governor associations, think tanks, and other educational related national associations, that there is a growing trend in thinking that funding needs to be linked in higher education to performance. He discussed some of the issues associated with this approach. For example, if a state is under performing, restricting funds for under performance only makes matters worse. He suggested that this will be a national issue next year. He noted that there needs to be a conversation on this and that it needs to be in the right context.

Potpourri of Items. With the shortness of time available, Andy listed and briefly discussed some of the bill being considered by the Legislature along with other items under his purview. These included the taxes on textbooks, collective bargaining, and adjunct faculty.

LUNCH - 12:00 PM

Joyce turned over the gavel to Jay at this time since she had a personal commitment that required her attendance this afternoon. She noted that *"I want to thank everyone for giving me the opportunity to represent everyone for the past two years."* It was noted from the floor that she was a "wonderful president."

FACULTY RIGHTS AND BENEFITS COMMITTEE MOTIONS

MOTION #1211: USM Statement on Academic Freedom. It was discussed and moved to pass the Academic Freedom Policy (See attachments for a copy of the policy). An amendment was made to add two sentences. The Amendments failed. Next, the main motion was acted upon. It was noted that the first sentence in the second to last paragraph is being removed. This would leave the paragraph as a one sentence paragraph. The sentence being eliminated is "Academic freedom does not give faculty the freedom to engage in activities or speech that are unsanctioned by the Academy." The main motion passed unanimously. [Disposition: Yeas: unanimous]

After passage of the motion and upon the request of the chair, it was noted that the consensus of the committee was to pass the motion which was done and then its intent was to distribute it to the individual campuses for their action and approval.

Tuition Remission. There was a discussion regarding the tuition remission policy, its evolution over time, what it does and doesn't do, and what can be done to strengthen the policy. (See attachment)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MOTION

Senate Chairs Annual Shared Governance Review. Jay provided the group with an overview of the motion and its evolution. He noted that the short version which emanated from the ExecCom (see motion below) was circulated and it resulted in a longer version (see attachment). He suggested that it was the sense of the ExecCom to act on the shorter version and utilize the information in the longer version as possible items to be included in the review. A motion was made to table the motion and return it to the Faculty Rights committee. The motion to table passed.

Motion #1212: Senate Chairs Annual Shared Governance Review: Be it resolved: In order to further shared governance at individual institutions within the USM, the Council of University System Faculty recommends that the chairperson of the faculty governance body at each institution prepare a yearly report on the status of shared governance at their institution which will be sent to the Chair of CUSF. A compiled report approved by the CUSF Executive Committee will be shared with the Chancellor, CUSF General Body, and the Senate Chairs. [Disposition: Tabled]

A brief summary of some of the comments made during the discussion include the following:

- There is a need for a mechanism to evaluate shared governance on campuses. [Secretary's Note: *See Section III: F and H of the Shared Governance Policy.*]
- There was an issue raised whether it is appropriate and legal for faculty chairs to evaluate the presidents on their campuses
- It was noted that there were "back channels" to report on the performance of presidents and that this has worked satisfactorily in the past regarding communicating necessary communications.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

CUSF Representation on USM Organization of Meet and Confer. The following discussion and resolution was discussed regarding adding representation to the USM Organization of Meet and Confer. It was a *conditional resolution* that would be sent to the Chancellor only if no action is taken. Second, there was a discussion regarding the composition of the CUSF representatives regarding whether there should be tenure and tenure track faculty whether it should be one or two tenure-track representatives. The motion was not passed due to a lack of quorum. [Secretary's Note: *In a May 22nd email from Brit Kirwin to Joyce Shirazi, he indicated that two CUSF members would be added to the USM Organization of Meet and Confer.*]

MOTION #1213: Resolution: *CUSF urges the Chancellor and Board of Regents to add CUSF representation to the USM Organization of the Meet and Confer, as included in the past with other USM committees "on matters of System wide professional and educational concern to the faculty and matters to which faculty bring special expertise," such as the Adjunct Faculty Work Group, Graduate Assistants Work Group, Voluntary Separation Plan Ad Hoc Committee, etc.* [Disposition: No action take due to lack of quorum]

Amendment: If the Chancellor doesn't reply to CUSF by June 15th, CUSF will forward to the Chancellor the following resolution. [Disposition: Friendly Amendment]

Amendment: ... that the two CUSF representatives be tenure or tenure track. [Disposition: Yeas: 5; Nays: 8; Amendment fails]

Amendment: ... that at least one of the two representatives be a tenure or tenure track faculty. [Disposition: Yeas: 11; Nays: 4; Amendment passed]

Amendment: ... that the second representatives be a non-tenure track faculty. [Disposition: Not seconded; no quorum]

A brief summary of some of the comments made during the discussion include the following:

- There was a conversation regarding the composition of CUSF representation including the inclusion of tenure-track faculty.

The following agenda items were not addressed due to lack of time.

Request for Report of MHEC New Program Approval/Denials

Request for Comment for Revision of COMAR Math General Education Requirements

Policy of Compensation for Faculty Reporting Teaching Consulting External Services

ADJOURNMENT - 2:00 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert B. Kauffman

Robert B. Kauffman
Secretary

Attachments: Draft on USM Policy of Academic Freedom
Faculty Rights Committee - Tuition Remission Issue
Annual Shared Governance Review (long version)
Request from USM for Comments on Statewide Mathematics Faculty Committee for revision of the COMAR general education requirement
Opening Learning Initiative [Secretary's Note: *This power point is informational. It is one of several new educational alternatives being examined by the Chancellor, and it represents a educational direction in higher education. It was presented at the May Chancellor's Council.*]