

CUSS February 2012 Meeting Minutes: Final  
CUSS Advocacy Day  
44 West Street  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room  
Annapolis, MD 21204  
February 21, 2012

1. Call to Order
2. Welcome and introductions
  - a. Deborah Neels, Senior Director of Government Affairs. UMB has a full-time presence in Annapolis, due to health care issues involved in Annapolis. Follows all sorts of bills that have relationships to the USM, currently up to tracking 680 bills. Also have eight students (medicine, social work, law, pharmacy) to do a five-week rotation in policy.
  - b. Andy Clark, Director, USM Legislative Affairs – Every Monday Andy hosts a conference call for all Councils with weekly updates. Also a weekly newsletter. Always on the defense when it comes to budgetary concerns. We have a lot of support from governor and from legislators. Sometimes we need to guide them in a bit more of a correct path so as to avoid them from helping us too much.

Roy Ross: Wants to thank the UMB office for hosting us.

Brenda Yarema: Thanks to Andy for communications, they are widely distributed on Towson's campus, and it makes TU's staff feel as if they are more directly linked to the State. Also brought up the fact that State employees are getting back 5 administrative days, while USM employees do not.

Roy Ross: It was a negotiated deal with unions. Also, there are serious grumblings about the health care issues, negotiated with the unions, but we the non-union employees get stuck with their decisions. Why do we not have a say in it?

Bill Crockett: It may be an issue to give us some latitude. We have a separate designation. Moreover, our furloughs were skewed toward higher income levels, while it was less so for regular state employees. We need to bring some of the power back to Institutions; at times we benefit, at times we are penalized by our special status.

Nancy Bowers: It is important that we understand the background behind these kinds of decisions.

Brenda Yarema: Hundreds of staff come to TU's councils (due to communication) with their questions and concerns.

Andy Clark: Tuition remission is always a concern. He will be testifying today against a House bill that would give MHEC tuition waivers, for example, to public institutions, not private, not for-profit institutions.

Bill Crockett: What about other tuition remission bills?

Andy Clark: Our main issue is that eligible students coming to our campus on Conway Scholarships, not just the lack of funding from MHEC.

Deborah Neels: There is also a bill in support of wrongfully convicted criminals. It turns out that this bill was designed for one person.

Willie Brown: Support for Dream Act. Brought up at recent BOR meeting, Board voted on resolution to support it, as did SGA. Would like to meet with us in March.

Brenda Yarema: Do we have the funds to support Dream Act? State added 2.5 billion dollars more spending. We may not have enough money for that new spending. We're not keeping our promise to state employees and retirees, so how can we expand these benefits.

Bill Crockett. It's fine to do respond by e-mail. From a budgetary standpoint, what is the impact?

Willie Brown: What are the requirements?

Andy Clark: Must attend Maryland high school for three years, parents must demonstrate they have paid state taxes.

Brenda Yarema: Where will this money come from – the \$6000 to \$7000 subsidy for undocumented students.

Willie Brown: Does everyone agree with the process of doing so by e-mail?

Nancy Bowers: How is this a staff issue?

Willie Brown: Simply asking if the councils and senates can support the resolution.

Nancy Bowers: The budget is being diluted with all of the demands upon it.

Brenda Yarema: Let's see the financials on this issue.

Mi'Shaun Stevenson: And the impact upon enrollments of other students who cannot enroll in USM Institutions.

Willie Brown: Not vote for at least 10 days so that individuals can have time to research the issue.

Mi'shaun Stevenson: Will the e-mail that we receive have resources to make our decision?

Willie Brown: Yes. We are also in agreement of process.

### 3. Receive handouts

9:30 am: Proceed to State House: Meet Patricia Harrison DLS

Will divide into two groups – one group for Senate introduction, one for House introduction

10.20 – 10.30: Begin State House Tour: Ms. Harrison, Department of Legislative Services

11.30: Deliver handouts and meet with Senators and Delegates