



---

**TOPIC:** Proposed Changes to USM Policy on University System Student Council (I-3.00) and Policy on Constitution of the University System Student Council (I-3.01)

**COMMITTEE:** Education Policy

**DATE OF COMMITTEE MEETING:** March 28, 2012

**SUMMARY:** When the University System of Maryland was created in 1988, the statute specified that the Board of Regents would establish a University System Student Council that "shall serve in an advisory capacity to the Chancellor" and "may from time to time make reports and recommendations to the Board." The USM Policy on University System Student Council (I-3.00) established the council, which is known now as the University System of Maryland Student Council (USMSC), and a separate policy defined the constitution of the USMSC. Both documents outline membership of the Council as limited to representatives of "degree-granting institutions."

With the advent of the USM's regional higher education centers (RHECs) at Shady Grove and Hagerstown, student issues unique to those centers began to come to the attention of the USMSC. While the RHEC students are degree-seeking students from one of the USM institutions, their experience is in many cases limited to their on-site experience at the RHEC, and the issues they confront are not always well understood by students who are resident on the campuses offering the RHEC students' degrees. To ensure that the concerns of RHEC students are heard, the USMSC has invited representatives of Shady Grove and Hagerstown to participate in their meetings and to provide input, but they thus far have not been considered full members of the Council. The USMSC would like to extend full membership to RHEC representatives, with the exception that they will not be entitled to a separate vote for the Student Regent position since that decisions on Student Regent candidates are made on a one-vote-per-institution basis. The RHEC students would have input into the vote of their institutional delegation but would no separate institutional votes would be provided for the regional centers.

Attached are copies of both policies with text marked to show recommended changes along with a letter of explanation from this year's USMSC Chair, Mr. Emmanuel Welsh of Towson University.

**ALTERNATIVE(S):** The Committee could reject the changes or suggest alternative language.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** There is no fiscal impact to the proposed changes.

**CHANCELLOR'S RECOMMENDATION:** That the Committee on Education Policy recommend that the Board of Regents approved the proposed changes to USM Policy on University System Student Council (I-3.00) and Policy on Constitution of the University System Student Council (I-3.01) as recommended by the student council.

---

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Approval.

DATE: March 28, 2012

---

BOARD ACTION:

DATE:

---

SUBMITTED BY: Irwin L. Goldstein

301-445-1992

[irv@usmd.edu](mailto:irv@usmd.edu)



## STUDENT COUNCIL

March 12, 2012

Members of the Education Policy Committee  
University System of Maryland Board of Regents  
3300 Metzert Road  
Adelphi, Maryland 20783

RE: Amendments to Student Council Governing Documents

Dear Education Policy Committee Members:

The University System of Maryland Student Council is proud to submit for your consideration amendments to our Constitution and to Board Policy I-3.00. These amendments reflect the important work that the Council performs today. Our Constitution has not been amended in more than a decade, and some of the provisions are no longer applicable today.

The majority of these amendments are technical and simply make minor changes to our Constitution. The Council also adopted amendments to allow representatives from regional higher education centers to petition for full-voting rights. Currently, these representatives are non-voting members of the Council, meaning they are ineligible to run for executive board positions, vote on resolutions, and participate in the student regent selection process. After almost two years of consideration, debate, and discussion, the Council has finally concluded their work on this important issue. The Council unanimously adopted all of the amendments to our Constitution.

Recognizing the fact that regional centers are not USM institutions and are geographic locations where students from various institutions throughout the system attend, we have agreed to a compromise that does not grant permanent full-voting member status to these representatives. Our regional centers, the Universities at Shady Grove and the University System of Maryland at Hagerstown, are growing at an impressive rate. These regional centers face issues that are unique to their respective locations and it is vital that this unique constituency has a voice on this advisory council. Others may argue that the students who attend these regional centers have a home institution, thus the representatives from institutions provide adequate representation to those students. However, many, if not all, of the representatives from institutions have not even stepped foot in these regional centers. It is almost impossible to argue that institutions' representatives have a full grasp of the issues and concerns of the students they represent at these regional centers.

The purpose of this Council is to serve as a forum where all USM students are represented and can have their voices heard and represented. Many students see this as an avenue to communicate with USM leaders; likewise, the Chancellor and other USM leaders view the Council as a way to gauge student opinion on a variety of policy issues that are being considered at the System level. These amendments have little or no impact beyond the work of this Council. These changes were unanimously approved by Council members to better our ability to serve our student constituency.

It is worthy of noting that the specific changes regarding regional center representation will have no impact on the student regent selection process. It permits regional center representatives to participate in the interview process, but this is the only instance when they are not permitted to cast a vote.

In compliance with our Constitution, which states that any amendment requires the approval of the Chancellor and the Board of Regents, we are respectfully submitting these proposed changes to the Constitution and to Board Policy I-3.00 for your consideration. We urge you to approve these amendments in order for this Council to fulfill its responsibilities.

We are grateful for Chancellor Kirwan's strong support for these amendments and we hope that we hope that our amendments are found favorable by the Committee. Our members and the 150,000+ USM students that we proudly represent continue to appreciate the hard work that you and your colleagues do on behalf of our system.

On behalf of the entire Council membership and the 150,000+ students that attend University System of Maryland institutions, I am

Sincerely yours,



Emmanuel M. Welsh  
Chairman

Attachments

C: Dr. William E. Kirwan, PhD, Chancellor

**I-3.00-UNIVERSITY SYSTEM STUDENT COUNCIL**

(Approved by the Board of Regents, August 30, 1988; amended July 13, 2001)

Section 12-201 of Education, Annotated Code of Maryland, calls for the Board of Regents to establish a University System Student Council that "shall serve in an advisory capacity to the Chancellor" and "may from time to time make reports and recommendations to the Board." Such a Council will provide a mechanism for the consideration of matters of System-wide concern to students within the System and enable the students to speak on such matters with unity and visibility. Consistent with the principles of shared governance, the University System of Maryland Student Council and the Chancellor jointly will develop for submission to the Governor a list of at least three nominees, each from a different USM institution, for the Student Regent position.

- ADD:** "and regional center"
- ADD:** "and regional center"
- STRIKE:** "22" and **REPLACE** with: "26"
- STRIKE:** "institutional" and **REPLACE** with: "Council"

The Council shall include two representatives from each degree-granting institution in the System, selected in a manner determined by each institution. The Council will vote on a one institution, one vote basis. In addition to the 22 institutional representatives, there will be a chair elected by the membership. The Student Regent shall also serve on the council ex officio. The representatives shall serve one-year terms; they may be re-appointed for subsequent terms as long as they remain students in good standing.

The Student Council shall, from time to time, present reports to the Board of Regents at regular meetings.

**STRIKE:** "SSC" and **REPLACE** with: "Council"

**STRIKE:** "member institution" and **REPLACE** with "four-year degree granting institution." This simply clarifies what constitutes a member institution within the USM, which are four-year degree granting institutions.

**ADD:** "or student councils." This simply includes student governing structures that are referred to as "student councils" in this section.

**ADD:** "or regional center." The Council unanimously amended the Constitution & By-Laws to create a process for regional center representatives to obtain voting rights.

**ADD:** "or regional center executive director."

**ADD:** "or student council."

**ADD:** (i) Regional Centers. University System of Maryland Regional Centers shall submit petitions for full membership to the Council. Regional Centers who wish to continue their membership with the council will submit a resolution before the council on the last meeting of the council's schedule. The council must pass the resolution in order for regional centers to obtain full membership in the succeeding council year.

**STRIKE:** "The Council will vote on a one institution, one vote basis" and **REPLACE** with: "Each four-year degree granting institution or regional center shall have one vote on the council. Regional centers may be granted full-voting rights upon council approval pursuant to Section I.A.i." This amendment adds regional centers and clarifies the previous provision that every institution and/or regional center on the Council has one vote.

**ADD:** "or proxy"

**ADD:** "for the succeeding council year"

**ADD:** "on the last day of the council year. Vacancies that occur during the council year will be filled by the council."

## UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF MARYLAND STUDENT COUNCIL CONSTITUTION

(As approved by the Board of Regents, June 10, 1994; amended July 13, 2001)

*The University System of Maryland Student Council, hereafter referred to as the SSC, is an apolitical advisory board established to assist the Chancellor. The Council derives its authority from the Board of Regents and shall act as a conduit for communication between students and the Chancellor and the Board of Regents. In keeping with its proactive nature, the Council will propose new policies and policy changes to both the Chancellor and the Board of Regents, as well as review other proposed policies.*

*The primary function of the Council will be to advise the Chancellor on issues, matters, and policies having direct bearing on students and student affairs of the System as a whole. In fulfilling this function, the Council will transmit to the Chancellor its majority and minority views on behalf of its constituent student bodies.*

*The Council will also function as a network for sharing ideas and concerns of general interest to students and act as resource contacts for student government associations on the individual campuses.*

### SECTION I: REPRESENTATION

(A) Each member institution will have two (2) representatives on the Council. The method of selection will be determined by the student government(s) of each institution, except the University of Maryland University College, which will determine its own method. The representatives will be determined with the advice and consent of the institution president. It is not necessary that the representatives be members of any student government association.

(B) The Council will vote on a one institution, one vote basis. Only the representatives will be allowed to vote. No absentee votes will be allowed.

(C) The Student Regent will be an ex-officio member of the Council.

(D) The representatives will serve a term from May to the following May.

### SECTION II: OFFICERS AND DUTIES

(A) The Chairperson calls and presides at all meetings of the Council. He or she will appoint, with majority approval of all Council representatives present, the Chairperson of all committees created by the Council and serves as an ex-officio member of each. The Chairperson reports to the Chancellor and the Board of Regents.

(B) The Vice-Chairperson assumes the duties of the Chairperson during his or her absence or disability. He or she will perform such additional duties as the Chairperson requests.

(C) The Secretary-Treasurer will maintain the minutes, rolls and other such records of all regular and closed meetings of the Council. He or she is responsible for distributing the minutes and financial reports of the Council to its members and for sending out written notices of all regular and special meetings. He or she will perform such additional duties as the Chairperson may request. The Secretary-Treasurer will formulate a semi-annual report of the financial activity of the Council, if applicable.

### SECTION III: ELECTION OF OFFICERS

(A) Election of officers will be held annually.

**ADD:** "B. All members are eligible to run for officer positions, including regional center representatives upon the approval of their membership." Letters B, C, D will be changed accordingly.

(B) The Student Regent will plan and execute the Council elections. The Student Regent will count the votes and announce the new officers immediately after the balloting.

(C) Voting will be by secret ballot.

(D) New officers will be determined by simple majority.

#### **SECTION IV: STUDENT REGENT SELECTION PROCESS**

(A) The Council will conduct the Student Regent selection process at its December meeting.

(B) Each of the eleven degree-granting institutions in the University System of Maryland may nominate a student to be interviewed at the December meeting.

(C) Within five days of the December meeting, the Chairperson of the Council will send a letter to the Chancellor certifying that the selection process was carried out in accordance with this Constitution and the corresponding By-Laws and transmitting the names of the Council's nominees for the position of Student Regent.

**ADD:** "Students attending regional centers may submit applications for student regent in their home institutions." This simply adds an existing process in the Constitution.

**ADD:** "i. Regional Center representatives may participate in the interview process and the deliberation, but will not be able to cast a vote for the Council's nominees for Student Regent."

(D) The selection process may be further elaborated in the By-Laws.

#### **SECTION V: MEETINGS**

(A) The Council will meet at least twice a semester, with time and place decided upon by a majority of the members at an official meeting.

(B) Special meetings, including meetings over the summer term and winter break, may be called by the Chairperson or upon petition by a simple majority of the Council membership. At least ten days notice is *required* for such meetings to be official.

(C) The Council will meet at least once a year with the Chancellor.

(D) The Council meetings will be open to all interested persons unless an Executive Session is called for by simple majority vote of the members present.

**ADD:** "(E) Regional Center representatives may participate in the interview process and the deliberation, but will not be able to cast a vote for the SSC's nominees for Student Regent."

**STRIKE:** "note" and **REPLACE** with "letter"

**ADD:** "or student council"

**ADD:** "or regional center"

**ADD:** "The Chairperson of the Council and the representatives absent shall receive copies of the correspondence."

**ADD:** "to the Vice President for Student Affairs or the Executive Director of Regional Centers."

#### **SECTION VI: ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS**

(A) Attendance at all meetings is expected. Upon the absence of a representative, the Secretary shall send a note to the president of the student government of the representative's institution declaring the absence. After two absences, a letter recommending resignation of the representative will be sent.

(B) If an institution is not represented for two consecutive meetings, the Chairperson may appoint, with Council approval, appropriate representation for that institution, to serve with full voting rights until duly selected representatives attend.

#### **SECTION VII: REMOVAL OF OFFICERS**

(A) Removal proceedings may be initiated against an officer for failure to carry out his or her respective duties as outlined in the constitution.

(B) A majority of the voting representatives will be required to initiate the removal process.

(C) The *accused* has the following rights:

1. Notification of date, time, place of the hearing, by certified mail at least fourteen days in advance of the hearing.
2. A copy of the charges and the evidence upon which the charges are included with the notification.
3. An advisor of his or her choice may be present during the removal process.
4. Presentation of evidence and witnesses in his or her behalf and response to allegations.

(D) The Chancellor or his designee must be present at the hearing.

(E) A two-thirds majority of the voting representatives (excluding the accused officer) will be required to remove an officer.

**ADD:** "(E) The Chairperson shall preside over the proceedings.  
(F) If the Chairperson is the officer facing charges, the Vice-Chairperson shall preside over the proceedings."

**REPLACE:** letter E with letter G, to replace the new order of provisions.

#### **SECTION VIII: PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE**

The most recent edition of *Robert's Rules of Order* will govern the Council meetings except when in conflict with this Constitution.

#### **SECTION IX: AMENDMENT PROCEDURES**

(A) To amend this Constitution, the following criteria must be met:

1. Any proposed amendment will be presented in a written form at least one meeting prior to the one at which a vote is taken.
2. The proposed amendment must be sent to each member in printed form with notice of the called meeting.
3. The proposed amendment must receive a two-thirds majority of the representatives to be included in the constitution.

(B) Any changes must also be approved by the Chancellor and the Board of Regents of the University System of Maryland.