



**Report to the Board of Regents  
University System of Maryland Student Council  
November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2012 – UMCES**

I. 17 October Meeting Introduction

The Student Council held its first regular meeting at the University of Maryland, Baltimore at the SMC Student Center. The Council received a warm welcome to the campus by UMB President Dr. Jay Perman, who discussed leadership, and the importance of civility in particular.

At the meeting, the Council discussed various topics ranging from the current state of shared governance on our campuses and in the University System to an introductory discussion on differential tuition.

The next University System of Maryland Student Council meeting will be held on November 11<sup>th</sup> at the University System of Maryland at Hagerstown.

II. Overview of Selected Topics

*Meeting/Hangout with Governor O'Malley*

The Council discussed the various details around the event with Governor O'Malley that was held on October 25<sup>th</sup>. The event is consisting of two segments, the first being an in-person meeting between the Governor and the various student body presidents and the Council leader in Annapolis and the second part is a ten-way video chat (Google hangout) between the Governor and folks in Annapolis and SGA leadership around the state. An addendum debriefing the meeting will be provided for your information following the 25<sup>th</sup>.

*Differential Tuition*

While the Council has not yet taken a formal stand, Regent Hershkowitz led a general discussion around a policy on differential tuition for STEM majors. The Council did not take formal action around the issue as there are many details that are not yet known, but, it should be noted that there was a fairly substantial divide between several of the institutions on the subject. Several members voiced that they believed the extra support could be to the benefit of the students in the STEM fields while others believed that charging differential tuition in contrary to the

mission of Universities. Additionally, while this is not a part of the implementation plan as we understand it, several students expressed concerns that differential tuition should be used to offset the existing inequity that exists in per FTES funding between the STEM fields and the liberal arts. The Council is prepared to continue this discussion and pass a resolution on this issue as soon as a specific details regarding the implementation is known.

### *Shared Governance*

The Council continued its discussion on shared governance with several of the institutions present discussing best practices that exist on their institutions and with many of the institutions discussing poor practices. Several of the best practices that were found at institutions include administrations that consult the SGA President on each fee review and shared governance committee appointment, permit qualified students to assume leadership roles in shared governance committees, and those that have created a policy or tradition of including students in all major decision-making processes.

However, while this is not true of all campuses, a quick poll of the members present revealed that the students representing well over half of the institutions believed that they were either being systematically excluded from important decision-making committees or made ineffective on those committees because of the actions of faculty or administrators. While some of these problems were worse than others, several common problems included faculty acting in condescending ways and not viewing students as necessary parts of the shared governance process in addition to administrators choosing unqualified students to serve on committees without any say from the student governments. One of the most troubling examples was a campus that chose students to serve on committees simply by asking random students between classes.

The Council will continue this discussion as the year continues and develop documentation on the best practices within the System. Specific institution names were not included in this document and will not in my report as the Council members are getting in touch with the requisite people from each institution to discuss how to solve these problems.

Additionally, while the Council has not discussed this, I would like to state that I have been generally impressed with the shared governance structures at the University System level.

### *Get out the Vote and Student Activism*

As a continuation of the discussion of civic engagement, the Council discussed several of the “get out the vote” efforts on each of the campuses and debriefed on voter registration efforts. Several of the campuses have polling precincts on

campus, which will be an extremely for those campuses in getting out the vote, and several campuses, including Towson, have early voting centers.

In response to Regent Reid's question at the September meeting of the Board, the Council discussed the current state of student activism on campuses. While there is certainly not anything like the demonstrations that characterized many campuses in the later 60s and early 70s, students today are still engaged, but in different ways. Student at College Park, for example, have held rallies in the past year in support of affordable education, marriage equality, and the Maryland DREAM Act. Additionally, outside of electoral politics, students in large numbers are becoming engaged with their communities through organizations such as Teach for America and in foreign places with organizations such as engineers without borders.

### III. Resolutions Passed

*Resolution 1- A Resolution Thanking Governor O'Malley for his Continued Support of Accessible, Affordable, and High Quality Postsecondary Education in Maryland.*

This resolution, proposed by the Chairman, thanks the O'Malley administration for his making higher education a priority despite the large structural budget deficits. This resolution was presented to Governor O'Malley at the meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

There was no discussion and the resolution passed by unanimous consent.

*Resolution 2- A Resolution Supporting Marriage Equality in Maryland.*

This resolution, proposed by Ms. Zwerling of College Park, takes a stance in favor of the marriage equality question on the ballot. The purpose of this resolution was to encourage members of the University System community to support this question that will have a great effect on many LGBT students.

The Council passed the resolution with a vote of 7-2-1 after a discussion.

### IV. Upcoming Discussion Topics

Several topics that will be discussed at upcoming meetings or that were tabled at the October meeting include:

- A continued discussion on the best practices of shared governance.
- A continued discussion on sustainability.
- Promoting responsible action in medical emergencies.
- What students can do to be involved with course redesign.

Respectfully Submitted,

Zachary B. Cohen,  
*Chairman*



**University System of Maryland**  
**Student Council**  
*2012-2013 Session*

**RESOLUTION NO. 1:** Thanking Governor O'Malley for his Continued Support of Accessible, Affordable, and Quality Postsecondary Education in Maryland.

**PROPOSED BY:** Zachary Cohen, Chairman

**DATE:** Sunday, October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2012

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**WHEREAS,** the tuition rate for students in the University System of Maryland set by the Board of Regents is dependent on the amount of state funding appropriated in the annual operating budget; and,

**WHEREAS,** nearly 30% of the total unrestricted funding to the University System of Maryland comes from the Maryland General Funds; and,

**WHEREAS,** all but one of the states in the union require the legislature to pass a balanced budget; and,

**WHEREAS,** nationally, the great recession of 2008 has caused states to make substantial cuts to their operating budgets to fulfill their balanced budget requirement; and,

**WHEREAS,** many states have substantially reduced their appropriations to higher education, causing a mean tuition increase of over 33% nationally; and,

**WHEREAS,** Maryland has faced structural budget deficits of over \$1 billion for the fiscal years following the beginning of the 2008 recession; and,

**WHEREAS,** the O'Malley administration's balanced approach to mitigating the structural deficits has resulted in Maryland seeing the lowest percent increase in tuition since 2008; and,

**WHEREAS,** the modest tuition increases have greatly aided students in achieving their degrees without having to take time off to work, having take out substantial debt, or even having to drop altogether.

**RESOLVED THAT THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF MARYLAND STUDENT COUNCIL OFFERS ITS UTMOST GRATITUDE TO GOVERNOR O'MALLEY AND HIS ADMINISTRATION FOR MAKING HIGHER EDUCATION A PRIORITY AND FOR MAINTAINING THE ACCESSIBILITY, AFFORDABILITY, AND QUALITY OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR THE PEOPLE OF MARYLAND.**

Council Action: Adopted Unanimously      Date: October 14, 2012

Chairman: \_\_\_\_\_



**University System of Maryland**  
**Student Council**  
*2012-2013 Session*

**RESOLUTION NO. 2:** Supporting Marriage Equality in Maryland

**PROPOSED BY:** Samantha Zwerling, University of Maryland, College Park

**DATE:** Sunday, October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2012

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**WHEREAS,** the University of Maryland Student Council (USMSC) represents the rights of students at all USM institutions; and,

**WHEREAS,** the USMSC counts among its various constituents members of the LGBT community and numerous allies; and,

**WHEREAS,** in the Spring of 2012, the Civil Marriage Protection Act was passed by the Maryland General Assembly and signed by Governor Martin O'Malley; and,

**WHEREAS,** the Civil Marriage Protection Act officially granted all Marylanders the right to marry whomever they choose regardless of sexual orientation, taking effect January 1, 2013; and,

**WHEREAS,** the law protects religious freedom by allowing clergy to perform ceremonies consistent with their over religious beliefs; and,

**WHEREAS,** opponents of marriage equality have petitioned to put this law to the referendum on November 6, 2012 ballot, known as Question 6; and,

**WHEREAS,** the voters of Maryland will decide whether to extend (with a "yes" vote) or deny (with a "no" vote) the right to marry to LGBT couples on election day; and,

**WHEREAS,** student voter turnout can directly influence the success of Question 6; and,

**WHEREAS,** marriage equality in the state of Maryland will help all USM institutions attract the most talented faculty, staff, and students.

**RESOLVED, THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF MARYLAND STUDENT COUNCIL SUPPORTS UPHOLDING THE CIVIL MARRIAGE PROTECTION ACT BY REFERENDUM IN NOVEMBER 2012.**

Council Action: Adopted

Date: October 14, 2012

Chairman: \_\_\_\_\_