



Report from the Council of University System Faculty (CUSF)
Board of Regents
September 2014

On Wednesday, July 23, 2014 the joint CUSF Executive Committees met with Witt/Kieffer Executive Search to provide the faculty perspective on the leadership agenda for the next USM Chancellor and to report on current and emerging strategic priorities for the System. The CUSF Executive Committees note it important that the next USM Chancellor have an academic background with experience as a former Faculty Member, Dean, Provost and or President. It is critical that this individual be capable of working closely with Maryland State legislatures to advocate for the financial stability and growth of USM, and to continue the “extremely” successful legacy of Chancellor Brit Kirwan. Equally as important is the candidate’s knowledge of HBCUs and their long-standing tradition within the State of Maryland’s Higher Educational system. What, if any, initiative would he or she introduce to USM to achieve parity and equity across the System? Some of the selling points of USM are its geographical proximity to the nation’s capital, the strong commitment to higher education that it has enjoyed under the outgoing Governor’s administration, and the diversity of institutions within the System- all lauded as strengths.

On Monday, August 4, 2014, the CUSF Executive Committee had a joint transitional meeting of the outgoing and incoming Executive Committees at USM Adelphi. The incoming Executive Committee members are Robert Kauffman (FSU), Vice Chair; Patricia Alt (TU), Secretary; William Montgomery (UMCP), At Large Member; James Stephens (UMBC), At Large Member; Jay Zimmerman (TU), Past-Chair. . The focus of the meeting was on operational issues as well as identifying agenda items that CUSF will undertake in the upcoming academic year. CUSF has expressed interest in examining USM Policy on Sick Leave for Faculty II-2.30 to determine whether it is consistent with best practices. The Academic Freedom Resolution that was passed by CUSF in academic year 2012-2013 will be revisited to determine if or how it is being implemented at the institutional level. Also, CUSF will increase our legislative presence during the incoming academic year.

USM Senior Vice Chancellor Joann Boughman provided an overview and update of events and committees involving USM, such as the Sexual Misconduct Policy Workgroup established to study next steps in the implementation of the policy at the institutional level. One key task the group has undertaken is developing best practices in the training portion of the new policy, which states that, every “responsible employee” must be trained every year (including faculty). The workgroup is also exploring ways to maximize resources across USM institutions by creating a clearinghouse where materials and resources can be shared and thereby increase the pool of information. The USM Appointment Rank and Tenure Workgroup and the Faculty Workload Workgroup both met in August, reports are forthcoming.

As CUSF Chair, I represented CUSF at the Academic Program Proposal Process Workshop hosted by USM Associate Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs Teri Hollander on Thursday, August 14, 2014 at UMUC Dorsey Station. The USM and MHEC program proposal processes were both reviewed and an exemplar proposal from MHEC was provided to workshop participants to serve as a guide in future submissions. I also represented CUSF at the Academic Affairs Advisory Council (AAAC) retreat from Thursday, August 21, 2014 to Friday, August 22, 2014 at the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory, University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science (UMCES), Solomons, Maryland. Some of the issues addressed were revisions in policies including but not limited to, the Veteran’s Tuition Policy and its projected (minimal) financial impact on institutions and the Student Social Media Privacy Policy. Reports and updates were given on the BOR Task Force of Enabling Transformation through Technology, Maryland Open Source Textbook Initiative, the Faculty Workload Workgroup, and the Appointment Rank and Tenure Workgroup.

The first CUSF General Body Meeting of this academic year will be held on Tuesday, September 16, 2014 at the University of Baltimore.

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