



**Report to the Board of Regents  
University System of Maryland Student Council  
September 19, 2014**

**Proposed Constitutional Changes**

The student council is set to amend its constitution in two ways this upcoming academic year. Pending council approval, we will expand our cabinet by two members, adding two deputy directors of governmental affairs, and we will grant the USM regional centers permanent voting rights on the council.

**Student Regent Selection**

I am thrilled that Governor O'Malley has completed the process of selecting a student regent for the University System of Maryland. While the process took longer than usual this year, I am confident that the Governor's selection of Raaheela Ahmed from the University of Maryland, College Park was one made in great confidence. Her passion for service and her forceful voice in advocating for students within the USM will surely benefit the council this upcoming academic year. I cannot wait to collaborate with Raaheela to continue the council's work on affordability and financial literacy.

**The Maryland Open-Source Textbook (MOST) Initiative**

The council is continuing its collaboration with the USM Center for Academic Innovation in expanding the MOST Initiative. We are working with MJ Bishop to plan and execute the upcoming fall workshop. The workshop will be for faculty members interested in participating in our Spring 2015 pilot program, or who are interested in learning more about open-access materials in general. The workshop will take place at UMBC Tech Center on October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2014.

This year, Lumen Learning will continue to assist us in providing high-quality open-access materials and support for this initiative. We hope to include more customization by faculty members in the adoption of classes for the Spring 2015 pilot.

The council will also be conducting surveys on campuses throughout USM to collect data on how students use their textbooks. We will also be attempting to understand how much money students usually spend on textbooks, if they choose to purchase them at all. This data will help inform our campaign for affordability and also, hopefully, add legitimacy to our efforts in pushing for broader open-access adoption across the System.

### **Changing Campus Cultures – Sexual Assault**

The Board of Regents approved a revised policy on sexual misconduct at their June 2014 meeting. This policy must be enacted on each campus by January 1, 2015. I am currently sitting on the workgroup to inform implementation of this policy, however, this is only a small amount of the work the council will be doing on this issue during the upcoming academic year.

At our retreat on September 7<sup>th</sup> the council expressed interest in drafting language to guide campuses in the implementation of their sexual misconduct policies. The council has not begun this process, however, the focus will be on assuring students are treated fairly and that the policy addresses any concerns that may not have been included due to the broad nature of the BOR policy.

Our Director of Outreach is working to plan events on campuses that will include speakers relevant to sexual assault on campuses and the culture that manifests the epidemic we have found ourselves in. The council will also be assisting in facilitating an initiative being led by the National Campus Leadership Council. The initiative will work to change campus cultures. We hope to focus our efforts on bystander intervention, which empowers campus communities to come together and allows students to address sexual assault before it happens. There was a lot of discussion in support of our approach to this critical issue at our retreat. The council will be discussing sexual assault on campuses at our next two or three meetings.

### **Financial Literacy**

The council had a spirited and spontaneous discussion at our retreat surrounding financial literacy. There were a variety of suggestions on how to approach this critical issue. Those suggestions included anything from required courses, to elective courses, to interactive online systems similar to AlcoholEdu, and much more. There was also interest in including financial literacy in the council's federal lobbying efforts. This discussion was only a small part of a larger dialogue we will be having over this academic year. As that discussion develops, I will report back to the board to ensure that you are all fully informed on what students have to say about their financial wellness and literacy.

The council's next meeting will take place on September 21<sup>st</sup> at 10:30 am at the University of Maryland, Baltimore.

Respectfully submitted,  
Zachary McGee  
President