



**Report to the Board of Regents
University System of Maryland Student Council
December 12, 2014**

The council met at Bowie State University on November 16th for our third official meeting. Our fourth official meeting was held on December 7th at Towson University.

Student Regent Selection

The council conducted interviews on December 7th, 2014 at Towson University for the 2015-2016 Student Regent. The council looked for well-rounded individuals that comprehended the diversity of USM, the critical nature of shared governance, and that expressed passion for student issues.

Lobbying Efforts

The council has begun discussing what issues will be included for our legislative agenda for our state lobby day. Our lobby day will be hosted on February 17th, 2015 in Annapolis. It will contain direct lobbying, as well as a legislative reception. This is a change in format that we hope will better accommodate a need for meaningful testimony in conjunction with our efforts to apply public pressure surrounding the issues we choose to lobby for.

Thus far, the council hopes to continue our dialogue surrounding college affordability with maintenance of accessibility and excellence. We are also looking into lobbying to address inequality in terms of funding capital projects for HBCUs at a slower rate than other USM institutions. We are considering supporting a “Ban the Box” initiative, which would work to remove the checkbox on job applications that asks potential employees whether or not they have been convicted of a crime. As noted previously, we are also planning to lobby for a bill that would add protections for state interns from sexual harassment.

There are a variety of other initiatives that are to be considered in the coming weeks. None of these items are set in stone and there is still a lot of research that needs to be done before any action can be taken on these issues. The council will officially vote to approve the agenda in the coming weeks.

Respectfully submitted,
Zachary McGee
President