



**Report to the Board of Regents  
University System of Maryland Student Council  
June 19, 2015**

**Changing Council Leadership**

Kennard A. Wallace, of the University of Baltimore, will be the University System of Maryland Student Council President starting July 1, 2015.

**Keeping Students Safe**

At our final meeting in May, the student council had a discussion regarding the way Baltimore-area campuses handled the recent unrest in Baltimore City. The general consensus across campuses was that initially communications were not well executed and not entirely forthright. However, as the week progressed, communications became clearer and timelier. I reported to the university presidents on these feelings and they were very receptive to student feedback.

**Tuition Increases**

The board voted to raise tuition for all universities last month, which was unfortunately expected. Students at the University of Baltimore (UB) and in USMSC leadership were happy to see a response from President Schmoke (UB) to the student-proposed alternatives to the increases. His decline to implement the alternative funding plans came with a response on the day of the tuition meeting, one week after the plan was sent to his office. Students felt they did not have ample time to prepare a rigorous response to President Schmoke's arguments for the board meeting. Student leaders were happy to see the Board of Regents flexibility in considering UB's tuition increase separately, and do appreciate their response to student input.

**Differential Tuition**

As student leaders, USMSC leadership and our current Student Regent, Raaheela Ahmed (UMCP), were shocked to discover a proposal to implement differential tuition at the University of Maryland, College Park on the board's tuition meeting agenda. The suddenness of this proposal was not acceptable. Two days before a meeting is not an appropriate amount of time to gather student feedback and have the in-depth conversations surrounding this issue.

Regent Ahmed, in conjunction with UMCP SGA leaders, did her very best to get as much feedback as possible in order to gauge the student position on this critical higher

education funding issue. Short surveys were distributed and Regent Ahmed made herself available to students, however, there was no notice that these discussions would be occurring. We cannot have a full student-informed dialogue on important issues if there is not transparency in the Board of Regents meeting agenda. If this board values shared governance, as I believe it does, we cannot stand to let an event like this occur again. Tuition will continue to rise and students will continue to shoulder the costs; however, we expect a seat at the table and a fair shot at giving our input, even if we do not always get our way.

**Shared Governance Survey**

The student council shared governance survey is in the final stages of data collection and will be distributed via email once it is completed.

Respectfully submitted,  
Zachary McGee  
President