September 3, 2015

RE: Report to the Chancellor’s Council
University System of Maryland Student Council

On Sunday, August 30th, 2015, at Towson University, the USM Student Council Executive Officers and Executive Board met for their first in-person meeting of the 2015-16 academic year. We were also joined by Tracey Jamison, USM Director of Articulation & Enrollment Services and Sydney Comitz, Student Regent.

Included below is a summary of the discussion points and initiatives that were discussed by each executive department within the council.

Communications and Marketing
The communications and marketing team discussed ways to streamlined council news and information, including a refresh of the USMSC’s web/digital presence. They also shared collaborative efforts between other executive departments.

Diversity and Inclusion
The diversity and inclusion department will be focusing on explaining the meaning of diversity to campuses, with an emphasis that diversity means many different things to many different people. They plan to be involved an engaged at each institution in order to learn the unique challenges they may be facing in terms of diversity and inclusion.

Finance and Management
The finance and management department plans to work with officials within the USM and its institutions to re-examine how financial literacy and wellness are infused into higher education curricula.

Governmental Affairs
The governmental affairs team is remaining abreast of policy developments underway that may affect FAFSA’s process for applying for federal aid. They are also mindful of proposed legislation on anti-hazing which could place additional regulations on USM institutions.

Student Affairs
The USMSC department of student affairs is beginning the year by examining current practices in grading throughout the system. Specifically, they are studying the lack of uniformity between institutions as it pertains to the grading scale and the use (or lack thereof) of +/- differentials in grade point averages.
We also discussed collaborative efforts between the student council and the staff/faculty council. It is our belief that these joint-initiatives will facilitate better practices system-wide. Additionally, the council looks forward to welcoming Chancellor Caret to our annual fall retreat at the USM Office on September 13.

Respectfully submitted,

Kennard Alexander Wallace

Student Council President
University System of Maryland