The USMSC had a busy end to the fall semester in its advocacy work and planning for the spring. Recent actions and plans for the spring are summarized below.

**Federal Legislation**
USMSC will now be turning its attention on federal legislation to the proposed Higher Education Act reauthorization. We are anxiously awaiting the release of the Senate version of the bill. From the House’s version, we are particularly concerned about the provisions removing graduate student eligibility for work study and the loan limit proposals.

**State Legislative Session**
The Council continues to work with Assistant Vice Chancellor Andy Clark to track bills introduced that impact students. The Council is planning a student lobby day and looks forward to working with the System to collaborate during the USM lobby day.

**Shared Governance**
Student leaders on each USM campus are now collecting data based off of the approved shared governance survey. Data will be collected through the end of the month before a report is drafted, approved and shared with board leadership and the Chancellor prior to April 1, 2018.

The Council has also been collecting information on various shared governance processes on each of the campuses, including information relating to student representation on committees which choose commencement speakers and whether the 2012 MOU requiring Graduate Assistant Advisory Committees to be established on each campus is being followed.

Please feel free to reach out to me directly at cfabbi@umd.edu with any questions or concerns.

Best,

Caden Fabbi
2017-2018 USMSC President