

STUDENT COUNCIL

Secretary's Notes

Second Regular Meeting on Sunday November 13, 2011 at Frostburg State University

Chairman Welsh

- Vote to approve agenda passes Unanimously
- Vote to approve minutes passes Unanimously

Welcoming Remarks Jonathan Gibraltar, PhD. President of Frostburg State University

- Expressed deep regret for the recent acts of violence at Frostburg State and Bowie State.
- In response to these events a middle-elementary school near Bowie State created a peace poster to remind students the avoid violence.

Intuitional Reports

Towson University

- SGA officially opposed to merger.
- Sports teams are doing well.
- Gun scare turned out to be nothing but a toy but still was a useful test to the emergency system
- Investigation into illegal chalking of school surfaces
- SGA is working to get discount cards to local businesses such as restaurants for students
- In the process of creating a Medical Amnesty policy that would encourage responsible action in regards to drinking
- Made it illegal for motorized scooters to park in bike racks, thereby creating more spaces for bicyclist

Frostburg State University

- Officially started demolishing old building and rebuilding a new one in it's place
- Students Against Violence Escalating (SAVE) campaign will focus on having more events on campus rather than at off campus parties
- Homecoming went well despite of past incidents

University of Maryland, at Baltimore

- New initiative to fight childhood obesity
- Due to recent acts of violence campus security has been increased
- SGA is officially opposed to merger
- Fall formal that was held at the B&O Railroad Museum went over well
- Demolishing old gym and temporarily installing green room and recycling center

Salisbury University

- Homecoming event went over well
- Sports teams are doing well
- Successfully installed 1 donated hydration station and estimates suggest it has saved over 600 plastic water bottles
- Participating in the System wide stop the violence campaign
- Currently suffering issues with the limited wireless capabilities and a solution is being implemented

Bowie State

- Had a sit-in event in their library to protest the wireless services issues and the hours of operations for the library
- Instituted a State of the SGA similar to the state of the Union Address
- Has restructured the SGA to now include a senate
- Planned events for Best Cancer & Domestic Violence awareness month
- Basketball team is doing well
- Nearly finished the construction of the performing arts center

Coppin State University

- Roughly 2/3 finished the formation of an official SGA
- Discovered a large sum of money and is now accepting ideas to appropriate funds
- Digital game room is now open but is underfunded and staffed by volunteers
- During a recent event free HIV screenings were open to the public
- One of the first system schools to implement a fully online degree program
- Passed a smoke-free campus bill but is not being enforced

- Hosted Battle of the Bands contest open to high school students to win a scholarship
- Administration suggested using newly discovered funds to build a new building but was met with hesitance from the soon to be SGA

University of Maryland Baltimore County

- President honored by the Carnegie foundation
- Featured on 60 Minutes for their STEM programs
- Participating in domestic violence awareness month
- Implementing the Prove-It campaign give funding, three \$10,000 grants, for ideas to improve the school
- GSA international social hour

University of Baltimore

- In the process of creating a new digital education center for graduate and business professionals
- Enrollment in undergraduate program is at 50-50 between part-time and full-time students
- SGA has found a sudden influx of new members
- Implementing a marketing campaign to gain student feedback on upcoming events
- Formation of advisory councils consisting of clubs of specific schools, such as the business school, meeting with their dean and discussing upcoming changes
- Finishing the process of selecting our student regent applicant

Chairman Welsh's Report

Chairman Welsh

- Joint council meeting to be held at College Park to discuss merger study, tuitions, fees, and furlough days
- For the merger study the Purple group has completed it's findings and will compile their answers into a report by December 2
- Next meeting with be held December 11 at 10am to interview student regent applicants

Student Regent Wojciechowski's Report

Student Regent Wojciechowski

- The board of regents met as a whole on October 21

- Senator Mikulski has developed a partnership with cyber security and is pushing for development in degree and certification for this field
- Individual fundraising at each institution is doing well
- Despite the merger study being largely hypothetical all of the reports being released are very strongly constructed
- Particularly impressed with Salisbury's Safe Ride, to prevent drunken driving, program that is run by students. Many other institutions have similar but not as successful of programs.
- Plans to revisit each institution in the spring to see any progress that has been made

Action Item

Amendments to the Constitution & By-Laws

- Chairmen Welsh presented a proposal of a new Constitution & By-Laws to which the following changes were suggested
- Unanimously agreed to replace four-year degree-granting to simply degree-granting
- Motion decline to have University of Maryland College Park regulate their representatives to one undergraduate and graduate representative
- Motion to change the title of Secretary-Treasurer to Secretary pass unanimously
- Clarification point suggested to be added to make a distinction between calendar year and council year
- Motion to change the title of Executive Officers to just Officers pass unanimously
- Motion to change the election of officers from April to the second to last meeting of the council year pass unanimously

Discussion Items

Merger Study Questions

- Question 1
 - Salisbury: The University has no official opinion but personally feels that it could attract attention away from other institutions
 - Frostburg: The publicity alone will attract a huge amount of attention. Also this could raise tuition for administrative cost across all institutions. Could this have a domino effect were all schools begin to merger?

Finally will this attract attention to College Park only or all of the System?

- Question from Frostburg to UMBC: How will the name of the new institutions affect UMBC?
 - UMBC: Not much thought has been put into this question as so many people already confuse the official name of UMBC
 - UMB: Wants to hear other opinions from school not directly affected
 - Salisbury: Concerned over the potential for an unbalanced level of funding to the new institutions
 - Frostburg: Explained that since they are so far away from both campuses that this issue would affect institutions in Baltimore more. Also questions about the new culture this institution will be attempting to create?
 - UB: Undergraduate program is likely to be unaffected due to different target market but for law programs feels this could negatively affect number of applications
 - College Park: Discussed the formation of the Platinum group with student and staff input
 - UMB: The merger must have some initial appeal or else this study would not be conducted
- Question 2
 - Frostburg: Will this be positive for the state as a whole and not just the system?
 - Salisbury: High school graduation is up and PR for in state schools are also increasing
 - UMB: Wants to know what is being used to measure the question?
 - Chancellors Liaison: No standards across institutions
 - UMB: Will MD's average high school student be pushed out of state due to increased competition?
 - Chancellors Liaison: Going to a system school is a privilege not a right
 - Coppin: Since the school attracts a different set of students there is very little effect with the exception of funding
 - UMBC: Wouldn't change anything
 - Bowie: Agree with Coppin
 - Salisbury: May draw away students but not a vast number

- Frostburg: May boost the idea of school competing for best education
- UMB: High school students tend to draw towards big name schools because of name recognition
- Frostburg: If enrollment in community college is up 40% because of students unsure of a educational path than creating one large institution would seem counterintuitive
- UMB: Will graduate students be forced out of new institution due to increased competition because MD wants graduates to stay in MD?
- Student Regent Wojciechowski: MD is near the top in research institutions but almost at the bottom on focusing this research back into the state
- Question 3
 - Salisbury: Will this cause an increase in tuition across the state?
 - Student Regent Wojciechowski: Yes and no, no direct increase but any increase in administrative cost will be shared across the system
- Question 4
 - Coppin: The nursing program at Coppin could face competition
 - UB: The law schools will definitely be facing difficult competition
- Question 5
 - Bowie: Could this lead to other mergers?
 - Frostburg: How will this affect other institutions outside of Baltimore?
 - Bowie: How will the other institutions expect for funds to be changing?
 - Frostburg: How will these affect admissions to UB & UMB law schools?
 - UMBC: Request further clarification on what defines a success and failure. Also how will this affect extra curricular activity?
 - Bowie: How will the administrations operate?
 - College Park: This will raise administrative cost for all institutions
 - UMB: Would like to see the reports from the merger study of UMB and UMBC back in the 1990's

- College Park: Would like a definition of what a flagship school should provide. Also how this merger will fit into the new strategic plan

Student Regent Wojciechowski

- Awards program is still in progress and is not likely to be implemented until next year but with a positive outlook
- Clarification regarding last meetings suggestion for a System Wide Newspaper Summit not a System Wide Newspaper with the goal of learning how to overcome difficulties in a digital age.