



USMSC Report to Board of Regents

December 14, 2018

So far this year, the USMSC has held three regularly scheduled meetings. The first at the USM Office in Adelphi on September 9th, the second at UMES on October 14th, and the most recent at UB on November 18th. Additionally, members of the USMSC were able to attend the Joint Council Meeting on November 16th at UMCP.

The fourth and final meeting of the calendar year for the USMSC was on December 9th at UMBC. At this meeting, the USMSC continued its sacred tradition of selecting three USM students for recommendation to Chancellor Caret for the position of the FY 2020 Student Regent.

These meetings have been focused on sharing information related to a few key issues identified by USMSC representatives early in the academic year. Namely, campus safety, bereavement policies, mental health resources and their accessibility, affordability, civic engagement, and the state of USM shared governance.

The committee formed by the USMSC two months ago to focus on Urban Campus Safety—led by students at UB, UMB, and Coppin—continues to work to understand the role campus communities play in their surrounding areas as well as the role these surrounding areas play in ensuring community member safety on and around the campuses. The committee is in the process of collecting information from the various campuses that support collaboration between campus and community authorities to better understand what works well for campuses in various community settings.

The USMSC continues to work to understand the disparity and efficacy of bereavement policies across the system. With these, it is working to collect resources and ideas that should serve to inform drafts of more modern and inclusive bereavement policies.

The USMSC is in the process of identifying key mental health issues present on its represented campuses and plans to address these issues with subject matter experts in the spring semester.

The total cost of attendance (COA) at universities is often summarized with reports on tuition and fees. The USMSC will be working to identify excesses in other areas of the total COA such as textbooks, supplies, transportation, and personal expenses while also noting disparities between undergraduate and graduate student needs.

To this end, the USMSC boasts continued support of the Online Educational Resources (OER) initiative, Maryland Open Source Textbook (M.O.S.T.), and will be requesting responses to a survey sent to students in the coming weeks. The results should give the M.O.S.T advisory committee (on which the USMSC has a seat) the direction it needs to more substantively encourage USM faculty to use OERs for their courses.

With the legislative session not yet underway, our Director of Legislative Affairs (David Guzman from UB) is beginning to coordinate with USM institutions regarding a student-authored legislative platform. David will be working with the entire USMSC as well as with students at each university and USM officials to author a legislative platform we all support. In this way, the USMSC can identify a platform that it can advance and for which students can begin to advocate.

Finally, following developments regarding the recommendations of this Board regarding UMCP personnel, our most recent meeting saw much discussion on how shared governance works throughout the university system at all levels. A highlight of this discussion focused on ambiguity surrounding the participation of shared governance in high-level administrator selection and search committees. Based on these discussions, I would like to formally request time on the next agenda of the Board of Regents Committee on Compensation and Organization, February 21, 2019.

If the Board has any input for items to be brought to the Student Council, please communicate with me so that I can ensure they are given time on our agenda and addressed in my next report to this board.

Thank you all for your time and dedication to this university system and its students,



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