

USMSC Report to USM Board of Regents

June 21, 2019

The FY18-19 USMSC met for the last time on May 12, 2019 at the University of Maryland, Baltimore. We were happy to have the Director of Student Development and Leadership at UMB, Cyndi Rice, deliver brief remarks about UMB developments and the importance of shared governance on campus.

At this final meeting, we elected the new USMSC leadership. Benjamin Forrest, an undergraduate student from Frostburg State University, was elected President and Alex Rittle, a graduate student at UMBC, was elected Vice President of Graduate Affairs. The office of Vice President of Undergraduate Affairs remains vacant. The President will run an election at the first meeting of the FY19-20 USMSC to fill this vacancy.

The USMSC remains interested in the final plan to include a second student regent on the Board of Regents in compliance with the new law concerning the Board of Regents structure. As always, the USMSC Executive Board is able and willing to provide feedback on this plan, should it be requested.

The Executive Board has authored—and continues to review—documents summarizing the FY18-19 position on various issues and ideas that were brought to the USMSC this year. These documents will serve as a basis of continuity and bring the new leadership up-to-speed quickly next year.

Of particular note in these documents are the developments in (1) collective bargaining, (2) mental health, (3) VA In-State Tuition, (4) graduate assistant inclusion in MD COLAs, (5) assessment of late fees for graduate assistants, (6) Title IX compliance, (7) the role of students in the setting of mandatory fees, (8) and the role of shared governance in administrator search committees.

As members of the USMSC represent the student leadership from across the USM, we would like to respectively request that the Board of Regents include a member of the USMSC or a USMSC nominee as a member of the search committee for the new Chancellor of the USM. The USMSC, Chancellor, and Board of Regents have worked hard over recent years to collaborate on important goals, and we are always seeking out new opportunities to advocate for the important voice of the students in and in matters of the USM.

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2018-2019 USMSC President

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