



Date: December 10, 2021
Meeting: December 2021 Board of Regents Meeting
Organization: University System of Maryland Student Council
Representation: **Yvonne Harper**, University of Baltimore
Master of Public Administration Candidate
University System of Maryland Student Council President

Good morning, Chair Gooden, and the Board of Regents,

Happy Holidays to all, with a grateful heart this has been a fulfilling semester for the University System of Maryland Student Council. I would like to highlight the key items that have happened since our last Board of Regents meetings in November 2021.

Joint Council Meeting

On Wednesday, November 17, 2021, there was a system-wide joint council meeting where the Council of University System Faculty (CUSF), Council of University System Staff (CUSS), and University System of Maryland Student Council (USMSC) came together virtual where we were joined by Chancellor Perman, who facilitated a Question-and-Answer chat. Also, during that morning session, we were joined by Vice Chair Robert Neal from the USM Board of Regents, who was also there to answer any questions from students, faculty, or staff. Later the virtual meeting transitioned the discussion to the upcoming legislative session, which was hosted by Patrick N. Hogan, Vice-Chancellor- USM Government Relations, and Andy Clark, Assistant Vice Chancellor USM Government Relations. This was a great time to understand any updates that are happening in Annapolis, Covid protocols, and restrictions to prepare for the 2022 session that will begin on January 12, 2022. There was also a “State of the Council Report” presented by each chair/ president of the preceptive council, but the highlight of the morning of November 17, 2021, were the three break out rooms hosted by Dr. Elizabeth K. Brunn (CUSF), Laila Shishineh (CUSS) and I (USMSC). These break-out rooms addressed the areas of potential collaborations throughout our system. Hybrid Learning & Work Environments (Host: Laila Shishineh), Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Work (Host: Elizabeth Brunn), and Mental Health Resource & Support (Host: Yvonne Harper). The response from the breakout rooms (students, faculty, and staff) leads us all to believe more breakout sessions are needed or space to communicate.

Executive Team and Board of Directors

As I took this information back to my executive board and the board of directors of the USMSC, we have planned to present the students with the idea of having three different townhalls that model after the breakout rooms from the joint council meeting on November 17, during the spring 2022 semester.

The USMSC would like to look into options during the spring 2022 semester on how to have a Mental Health wellness day for all system institutions and universities. As we are still in the planning stages, this idea was borrowed from Bowie State University. Bowie State engaged their students, faculty, and staff in a wellness day to relax the Monday before Thanksgiving break. Relating to mental health I believe this is something we as a system should consider implementing into our calendar year, not just this coming spring.

Student Regent Interviews

Student Regent Interviews were held on Sunday, December 5, 2021. We had a great selection of candidates. The candidates were from Towson, Salisbury, University of Maryland, Baltimore, University of Maryland, Baltimore County, and University of Maryland, College Park. With four Finalists moving forward, those names have been sent to Chancellor Perman and his team. The other candidates that were not selected to continue the interview process, I have asked them to come and be a part of the USMSC (because they were all great candidates) to join either the executive team, a director position, or a committee. Most if not, all have accepted my offer and will have to be appointed by the USMSC once we have our next meeting.

Connection with students

As we transition into winter break, I have set a goal to start having one-on-one sessions with student representatives of the undergraduate and graduate councils. I would like for students and representatives to feel more connected to me as a peer not just the “President” of the USMSC. I want them to understand I am here for them, so I may connect the dots for them throughout their educational journey, while I’m in this position. I will adopt the idea of office hours, so student representatives do not have to wait until our monthly Sunday meeting to update me and the council on concerns and issues. The goal is to be innovative and to solve problems as things happen.

Sincerely,

Yvonne Harper

University System of Maryland Student Council President

2021-2022