



USM Student Council April 2025 Report to the USM Board of Regents

Good morning Chair Gooden, Chancellor Perman, the Board of Regents, and University Presidents,

After the last Board of Regents meeting in February, some USMSC representatives and I participated in Advocacy day in Annapolis– which was a success overall. Students felt like they were able to convey their advocacy for the USM budget and received encouraging support. In looking ahead at the next Advocacy Day, we as a council hope to strengthen our planning and approach to ensure that the student voice remains at the center of the advocacy.

We have also had two guest presentations, one from Marianne and Rebecca in March to share about the USM Foundation Process for Inquiries Relating to Sustainable Investing. The other was at our general meeting this past Sunday from Dr. Jennifer Lynch on Student Participation in Civic Education and Engagement Efforts. Students shared the importance of the education part of engagement and reframing what civic engagement actually means beyond voting and election season.

This past Sunday, we were also grateful to have Chancellor Perman join us for a conversation. We discussed the importance of tolerance to different languages and their role in research, funding to support HBCUs, and how students would appreciate more communication and disclosure from university leadership on ongoing developments, recommendations from the Attorney General, and what student privacy will look like amidst rumors of ICE surveillance.

A few additional updates include preparing to send our Shared Governance Survey to student leadership, a report of which will be shared. We are also gearing up for USMSC Elections next month, and we completed our review of the applications for the BOR Student Excellence Scholarships. We look forward to your review of the candidates today.

Finally, I just wanted to give Dr. Lee a shout-out for a wonderful Access, Equity, and Student Success Symposium, which some USMSC representatives were able to attend as well.

Madam Chair, this concludes my report.

Vainavi Gambhir

President, University System of Maryland Student Council