



COUNCIL *of* UNIVERSITY SYSTEM FACULTY

Regents Report September 19, 2025

This is a summary report of The Council of University System Faculty (CUSF) activities since our last submission in June. The Tri-Council meeting is scheduled November 20, 2025 and will be held at UMCP. The next CUSF General Body Meeting will be held on October 8, 2025.

CUSF Meetings

CUSF General Body Meeting: September 10, 2025

A Council on University System Faculty General Body Meeting was held on September 10, 2025. The meeting was held virtually via Zoom. We spent the summer working in concert with the Chancellor's office at the USM to come into the new year as organized as possible. To do so Kelsey Beckett, USM Chief of Staff and Director of Operations, USM Academic and Student Affairs reached out to all faculty senate chairs to provide an updated roster with alternates and all but one institution was able to provide this listing. The one institution that did not do so will be holding their vote on membership on September 17th (after this document is to be submitted but prior to the meeting). Beckett also worked to provide a Zoom platform that is more organized with speaking participants and listening participants separated. This allowed for better communication between members of the committee. Sr. Vice Chancellor, Alison Wrynn, requested we choose a more standardized time to meet and we settled on piloting a 2nd Wednesday 9-12 meeting with a few exceptions for Tri-Council, January, and April where there were conflicts with other major meetings and winter break. CUSF chair, Ryan King-White, conducted a new member orientation prior to the general body meeting stressing the notion that CUSF is an advisory board, detailing the various committees (new) members could join and inviting other CUSF members to answer questions about the committees and what they had focused on in the past.

At the general body meeting, and after a brief welcome and introductions, CUSF welcomed Nancy O'Neill (Executive Director of the Kirwan Center for Academic Innovation) to speak about Digital Accessibility and Title II Requirements. O'Neill provided detail about changes that needed to be made to courses in order to become compliant for learners of all types. She fielded several questions and offered outreach programming and a mini grant opportunity to help faculty become compliant in the materials they use for coursework.

Chair King-White then provided updates to the general body regarding scheduling, the new software platform for virtual participants, again stressed that CUSF's role is to advise the Board of Regents and USM on various issues, and reminded members that respectful dialogue could create more productive outcomes. Alison Wrynn shared systemwide concerns from the USM

perspective primarily revolving around issues with international students obtaining visas as they attempt to complete their studies, ongoing concerns about funding from the federal and state level, and Kelsey Beckett detailed how she had organized the Zoom software for meetings this year.

To conclude the general body meeting, seasoned members spoke to others about what each committee does and advised that members were able to join multiple committees to gain insight as to which each hope to accomplish this AY. Members were then invited to join a variety of breakout rooms to decide which committees they were most interested in and able to contribute.

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee members are:

- Ryan King-White, Chair- Towson University
- Heather Rogers Haverback, Past Chair- Towson University
- Maida Finch, Vice Chair- Salisbury University
- Mirosław Janowski, Secretary- University of Maryland - Baltimore
- Lorenda Naylor, At Large Member - University of Baltimore
- Weiwei Stone, At Large Member- University of Maryland, Eastern Shore

The Executive Committee met on September 8, 2025. We began this meeting by reintroducing ourselves and setting the vision for the upcoming AY. Alison Wrynn, and Kelsey Beckett shared updates/reports with the committee centered on new software to be used for CUSF, the 4 new BOR members, USM Launch Day, broad and individual concerns about federal support, and what this means for foreign graduate students as well as research dollars. Ryan King-White and Maida Finch discussed what they heard when attending the BOR Finance and Educational Policy committee meetings respectively, new member orientation, and future dates for ExCom meetings.

Awards Committee

Chairperson- Lorenda Naylor, University of Baltimore

Lorenda Naylor agreed in principle to serve as CUSF Awards Committee Chairperson. Next month the committee will recruit members that fulfill the requirements as laid out in the bylaws. The Awards Committee will review and make recommendations to the Board of Regents.

Education Policy Committee

Chairperson- Dr. Mary Crowley, University of Maryland Global Campus

For AY25-26 this committee will focus on generative AI faculty training. They will also seek to further their recommendations on the faculty bullying policy whilst understanding that it is a complex issue. Finally, the education policy committee will revisit the nuances regarding student evaluations of teaching.

Faculty Affairs Committee

Chairperson- Not yet decided

This committee does not have an official chair yet, but generally wish to work on issues like effectively sharing and disseminating information on digital accessibility as it pertains to Title II, and working on gathering data in concert with ExCom as it pertains to the state of shared governance.

Legislative Affairs Committee

Chairperson- Dr. Holly Brewer, University of Maryland, College Park

Reported that they are working on facilitating shared governance via advocating for two USM faculty members to serve on the BOR, collective bargaining, and developing CUSF responses to federal and state legislation.

Research Committee

Chairperson- Drs. Tom Abrams (through December) and Mirosław Janowski, University of Maryland, Baltimore

Reported that they wish to review policies related to research across the system, increasing autonomy of research to adapt USM to the rapidly changing political environment, and fostering means to cross silos of individual universities to build an individualized immersion into top-notch research with focus on a support for high-tech critical research infrastructure.

Rules and Membership Committee

Chairperson- Not yet decided

Nagaraj Neerchal, a longtime member of the committee, noted an uptick in interest this year which led to uncertainty over who might serve as chair. Despite the lack of official leadership, the group wishes to review our current bylaws and potentially update them for hybrid and virtual meetings. For example, they wish to look at current standard operating procedures as they pertain to taking quorums in a virtual meeting.

I look forward to updating you as we develop CUSF's priorities for the year.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Ryan King-White
CUSF Chair