



COUNCIL of UNIVERSITY  
SYSTEM FACULTY

Senate Chairs Meeting  
Hybrid

FINAL MINUTES

Thursday, October 26, 2023

10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

USM Office – Elkins Building  
3300 Metzerott Road  
Adelphi, MD 20783

Attendance:

	Senate Chairs	CUSF ExCom Members	
Bowie	Tyesha Burks	Heather Haverback	Towson
Coppin	Nicholas Eugene	Tom Abrams	UMB
Frostburg	John Lombardi & John Dunmyre	Holly Brewer	UMCP
		Lore Naylor	UBalt
Towson	Stephen Scales, Vice Chair	Nagaraj Neerchal	UMBC
UBalt	Kris Eyssell		
UMB	Sarasijhaa Desikan		
UMBC	Katy Sullivan & Susan McDonough		
UMCP	Chris Jarzynski & Katy Sullivan		
UMCES	Jamie Pierson		
		<b>USM Leadership</b>	
		Alison Wrynn	
		Zakiya Lee	

**10:10 AM-10:12 AM Welcome** from Tom Abrams, CUSF Vice-Chair & Heather Haverback, CUSF Chair;  
Introduction to CUSF Executive Committee

**10:12 AM-10:13 AM Minutes.** Review of minutes from spring 2023 Senate Chairs meeting. Minutes approved.

**10:05 AM-11:00 AM Faculty Senate Chairs & Key Campus Issues**

**Jamie Pierson (UMCES):** 1) UMCES searching for a new president; 2) undergoing major revision of academic policies; and 3) moving forward on Cyber Collaboratory (physical structure that will conduct big data synthesis).

**Nicolas Eugene (CSU):** 1) Increasing social media and political presence. Gov Moore has been on campus; 2) CSU needs to enhance faculty shared governance and collaboration; and 3) currently focusing on middle states accreditation.

**Justin Dunmyre (FSU, representing John Lombardi who was teaching):** 1) revisiting renewal process & tenure process; 2) in drafting state of middle states accreditation; 3) rebooting general education initiative; 4) shared governance, how to open channels between faculty and administration.

**Katy Sullivan (UMBC, representing Susan McDonough who was teaching):** 1) UMBC leadership undergone major leadership transition with hiring on new president and new provost; 2) rebuilding campus community, going from virtual work to hybrid model; 3) assessing faculty workload; 4) released report on Universities of Shady Grove addressing connection to main UMBC campus, process & structures not in place that needed to be such as food service, administration, etc.; 5) conducting a survey on mental health; 6) addressing the changing student population to help them on class preparedness; and 7) created a standing committee to support faculty.

**Sarasi Desikan (UMB):** 1) observed a decrease in campus engagement & participation since covid; senate meetings are now in person except around holidays;;2) there is now an increased faculty senate presence on campus (updating website, campus engagement efforts, etc.); 3) promoting DEI issues by hiring new vice president of DEI and created a UMD DEI task force); 4) addressing impact of artificial intelligence on campus (courses, research, etc.); and 5) seeking information on how university president publicly addresses Israel-Palestine war (how does university respond to war/conflict and impact on campus); 6) focused on middle states accreditation; and 7) need to increase BOR applicants by having deans disseminate nomination information.

**Steve Scales (TU, Vice Chair):** 1) new president Mark Ginsburg begins this semester; 2) TU has record number of freshmen entering; 3) Wall Street Journal changed college ranking criteria to include graduation rate, how long it takes to graduate, and alum salaries when they graduate. TU now ranked 126th in the nation; 4) committee looking at course re-certification process; 5) faculty want to change student teaching evaluations & faculty peer observation process; 6) AI taskforce focusing on student integrity policy, ethics, and best practices for course use including chat GP.

**Chris Jynsky (UMCP):** 1) campus affairs 30 year phone billing policy is being revised to address new technology and expenses; 2) apportionment. Faculty senate includes faculty, staff and student. Trying to enhance faculty senate communications with faculty constituents (summary of senate meetings provided). Engagement - using combination of in person, hybrid and online meetings. Updating website, president assembling a AI task force (education, research).

**Tyesha Burks (BSU):** 1) campus safety is top priority given; 2) tenure and promotion standards being revised and faculty handbooks being updated; 3) senate meetings are online; 4) shared governance with president and administration has increased transparency and trust; and 5) BOR awards nomination announcement is sent out early and often to generate more nominations.

**Kris Elysell (UBalt) -** 1) new provost with new ideas; 2) middle states accreditation review; 3) facilities master plan (need to demolish an old building); 4) upcoming 100-year anniversary celebration; 5) two

of UBalt's four colleges transitioned to a flat structure; departments were coalesced into a single unit; 6) faculty residence. A few faculty members have moved out of state which brings up the issue of required residential location for faculty; and 7) student online performance (students like online courses but didn't do well). As a result, new provost wants classes to be in-person.

No Faculty Senate representation or reports from SU, UMES or UMGC.

There was a general discussion around recording faculty meetings and class lectures. Zoom calls require permission. People need to agree to be recorded or given opportunity to leave meeting. Heather Haverback advised she can share more information on this topic if anyone is interested. Tom Abrams reported that all medical classes are recorded. Zakiya Lee advised that the USM Student Council, which represents the whole USM student body, has not requested recorded classes.

### **11:00 AM-11:12 AM Heather Haverback: CUSF Updates**

Shared Governance – Heather is a strong advocate for shared governance; it increases transparency and facilitates openness and trust. She views her role as CUSF Chair as a facilitator and has an open-door policy, will meet with faculty via Zoom, phone, or in-person. Her aim is to represent faculty issues and concerns.

BOR – USM moving to student centric focus;

USM campuses are focused on safety and emergency preparedness; and

CUSF committees are active and planning events.

**11:13- Shared Governance – Holly Brewer** (UMCP, CUSF Past-Chair) provided update on shared governance surveys from AY23. Aim is to utilize survey results to increase shared governance at individual campuses. Holly will disseminate the survey report to all senate chairs.

### **11:15-11:25 BREAK**

### **11:25 – 11:30 Tom Abrams – Campus Safety & Trauma.**

Tom reported campuses need to provide trauma services for faculty, staff, and students who experience trauma due to a range of issues (robberies, vehicle accidents, campus shootings, natural disasters such as flooding, tornados, hurricanes, and fires). He meets monthly with UMD Chief Tom Leone on campus safety.

Tom introduced Chris Stanton.

### **11:30 AM-12:10 PM Crisis Management - Christopher Stanton, UMB Office of Emergency Management**

Chris provided a presentation on UMB emergency management. Slide deck attached. Chris recommended greater consistency and coordination across and within campuses. Zakiya Lee shared that there is a USM system-wide management group that addresses emergency management. Links to the USM policy on crisis management, risk management & emergency management are provided below:

<https://www.usmd.edu/regents/bylaws/SectionVIII/VIII-21.00.pdf>

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Each university is responsible for creating and tailoring their own crisis and emergency management systems. USM campuses understand that safety is a primary concern and has been taking steps to enhance and promote safety and preparedness.

#### **12:10 AM-12:30 PM Lunch**

#### **12:30 PM-1:00 PM Senior Vice Chancellor Alison Wrynn (Academic and Student Affairs) & Assistant Vice Chancellor Zakiya Lee: USM updates**

Dr. Wrynn provided an overview on her background and the California State University system, where she previously worked before joining us at USM. She advised that emergency preparedness is important to USM and campuses across the country. Natural disasters, such as fires and earthquakes, are a part of emergency preparedness and campus safety. Dr Wrynn will be attending various conferences this fall. U.S. Senator Ben Cardin will be speaking at TU next week for a Civic Education conference. Alison will be attending.

#### **Dr. Zakiya Lee, USM Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs & Chief of Staff to Alyson Wrynn.**

Dr. Wrynn convenes monthly meetings with CUSF, CUSS, and the Student Council, plus the President's Council. The purpose of USM is to coordinate and share information across the system. Zakiya advised that students are concerned about the implementation of the religious accommodation policy. Appointment Tenure Policy, which addresses the title of teachers (Lecturer 1, Lecturer II), will likely be on the agenda in November. The aim is to give teachers a title that conveys respect and their importance to our institutions. BOR Awards call for nominations already went out for AY24. Please share any feedback and input on nomination process if you have any concerns. Each campus creates a process for disseminating the call for BOR nominations. Due in December in campus honorary degree nominations, which requires faculty input. Those nominations that are approved stay on list for 5 years.

#### **1:00 Meeting Adjourned**

Join via Zoom

<https://usmd-edu.zoom.us/j/94703913296?pwd=UHpzOENqazNTbGN2bjBMSE91QXVrdz09>

Dial in: 301-715-8592

Meeting ID: 947 0391 3296

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