



Chair's Report (CUSF) February 2017

For the February report, I have two commentaries. The first commentary thanks Virletta for her service as she moves to a new position. The second commentary deals with Chairman Brady attending our February meeting. It is a good opportunity for us to advocate who we are and how we can assist in strengthening higher education through shared governance.

Chair's Commentary: Thank You Virletta for Your Service

On January 27, 2017, we received an email from Virletta Bryant indicating that she has resigned her position at Coppin State University to return to her clinical social work roots. She has accepted a position at Washington Hospital Center as the Clinical Director of Outpatient Behavioral Services. In her email to us, Virletta noted the following:

Thank you [CUSF and ExCom] for your support and diligent hard work that has allowed CUSF to grow and remain relevant to USM faculty. We've tackled difficult issues, and with the rapid transformation of the professorship, more are sure to come. USM faculty are very fortunate to have such strong and dedicated leadership at such a defining moment in our profession as well as our nation's history.[email from Virletta]

As everyone knows, Virletta served as Chair of CUSF for two years and is now serving as the Past Chair. Before that she served on ExCom in multiple capacities. Under her tenure, she spearheaded the report on UMUC. The report focused on inequities at UMUC and resulted in positive movement toward shared governance. In addition, she was a champion of the faculty and in advancing faculty rights.

In my email to her, I wrote to her that "*as one door closes, another door opens.*" Although it is often taken as a platitude, it is true. For Virletta, the door with Coppin, the University, CUSF and the faculty is closing, if only for the time being. For Virletta, a new door is opening where she can focus her talents and skills on helping others. And even though metaphorically one door has closed, it is always open to visit with us. We wish Virletta the best as she takes on her new responsibilities and we thank her for her service to Coppin State University, CUSF and the faculty. In her own way, she has sought to advance the plight of the faculty. She will continue to do so with a new group. She will be missed.

rbk

Chair's Commentary: Q&A with Chairman Brady

We are privileged to have Chairman Brady attend our February meeting at UB. It indicates a concerted outreach effort on his part. In this commentary, I would like to echo my comments made at the beginning of the questions section in the packet.

First is what System calls the 30,000 foot approach. We need to remember that it is not the job of the Regents to be micro-managing the campuses, nor do we want them to do so either. Yet, they need to have familiarity with the campuses, their issues, and problems. We don't want to "get into the weeds" and try to solve specific issues that can best be solved at the campus level by the presidents. However, this is not to note what is going on the campuses either. Just remember that it is not his job to solve the problems on individual campuses.

Second, this session provides us with an opportunity to share with Chairman Brady the things that we do, the importance of shared governance, the role of the faculty in delivering the educational product in the 21st Century, and how we can improve shared governance. I can't emphasize this enough. As John Wolfe once stated, "*if we don't defend shared governance, no one else will.*" It is our job to advocate *how we strengthen higher education through shared governance*. In this respect, we can be a valuable source of input for the Chairman.

Third, Chairman Brady is a guest in our home. I know that we will all show the same level of respect that we did at the November meeting. Again, it is a good opportunity for us to advocate who we are and how we can assist in strengthening higher education through shared governance.

rbk

BOR Committee on Education Policy and Student Life (January 17, 2017)

The BOR Committee on Education Policy and Student Life held its last meeting on January 17, 2017 in the Library on the campus of UMBC.

Panel Discussion – Student Activism Update – In the wake of the 2016 Presidential Election and national and local inclusion and diversity-related incidents, the Ed Policy Committee was provided with an update on student activism on several of the campuses. The panel consisted to two provosts and two vice presidents of student affairs. The provosts were Dr. Kimberly Whitehead (UMES) and Dr. Tim Chandler (Towson University). The vice presidents of student affairs were Dr. Linda Clement (UMCP) and Dr. Tom Bowling (Frostburg).

Tim Bowling noted the incident he had at Towson and his introduction to "Periscope." Periscope is a social media app that enabled the student perform to broadcast a live pod-cast of his meeting over the internet.

Tom Bowling noted that they conducted town hall meetings, listening tables, and met with Black Lives Matters among some of their efforts.

Linda Clement advanced several conclusions. First, the student activism took the form of petitions. They formed a loose coalition with demands. Next, they were not your traditional leaders coming out of student government or similar organizations. They were activists. Third, was the speed of communication with social media. Fourth, there was not necessarily a positive reaction to their efforts by other students.

Kimberly Whitehead echoed the comments of the other participants in describing the events at UMES.

Update: Statewide Report on Campus Climate and Sexual Violence at Maryland Colleges and Universities – The MHEC Report came out in October. Joann Boughman provided an update on the report. She noted the difficulty involved in collecting reliable data. There were three take-aways. First, the 634 reported incidents in Maryland schools was below the nationwide reporting. Second, the report is a beginning. Third, there may be future legislation on “affirmative consent” where the absence of saying “no” is not enough.

AAAC Meeting (January 20, 2017)

Due to the inauguration, the meeting was cancelled.

BOR Meeting

There was no scheduled meeting of the BOR during January. The next meeting is scheduled for February 17th.

Respectfully submitted, (February 3, 2017)
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Chair, Council of University System Faculty (CUSF)