



COUNCIL of UNIVERSITY
SYSTEM FACULTY

Chair's Report (CUSF) May 2017

For my May report, there are three commentaries. The first commentary focuses on the joint ombudsperson resolution. The second commentary focuses on the downsizing in reapportionment at UMUC from three delegates to two delegates. The third commentary focuses on the year in review for CUSF. We have had a productive year.

1705.1: Joint Ombudsperson Resolution

The commentary last month (1704.2) provided the background and history of CUSF's and its original Ombudsperson Motion. Sherrye Larkins, my counterpart with CUSS, has rejuvenated interest in the Ombudsperson resolution. Things have been moving steadily forward in a good way. It can best be summarized that many people think an ombudsperson is a good idea, but they need more information about what an ombudsperson does and how do they fit into the campus community. It takes a little time for people to familiarize themselves with the concept. It is part of the process.

The three Councils have formulated a joint resolution. It is attached elsewhere as part of the May agenda. It correctly positions the ombudsperson service with the individual campuses and the Presidents. It provides a recommended standard of practice, and a review process as part of the Chancellor's yearly evaluation of the Presidents. It offers the Presidents considerable latitude in providing the service.

Currently, CUSS has approved the joint resolution at their April 25th meeting. USMSC is expected to approve the resolution at their May meeting. CUSP (Council of Presidents) has been approached regarding the motion at the May 1st Chancellor's Council. They were very supportive of the joint resolution. The Provosts (AAAC) met and reviewed the resolution. They were generally supportive of the concept but wanted to know more about what an ombudsperson actually does and how they mesh with other services on campus. It is planned that ombudsperson from UMCP and UMB will meet with the Provosts this summer. CUSF needs to approve the resolution. We are planning to invite the UMCP and UMB ombudsperson for the September program. With the support of the Provosts and the other three Councils, the resolution will be revisited by the President's Council.

The resolution is in a review and refinement phase. It is gaining momentum. CUSF recognized and passed a resolution addressing the need for an ombudsperson in 2013. This joint resolution brings the resolution full-circle. It creates a process that emphasizes its implementation. I ask your support for the joint resolution.

rbk

1705.2: Reapportionment Update at UMUC

The following is more of a house cleaning item than a commentary. Reapportionment occurred this past year. This is probably one of the few times that a university lost representation and had to downsize representation. At the April meeting, the CUSF Council passed a motion stating that the downsizing at UMUC would be effective September 2017 and determination of the process to accomplish this downsizing was an internal matter.

Beginning September 2017, UMUC will have two delegates and one alternative. To this effect, Theo Stone, Senate Chair at UMUC, forwarded their plan to reduce their representatives to two members. That plan is included below.

I wanted to share with you the recent results of the Academic Advisory Board vote on the downsizing of the UMUC CUSF delegation. For next term, the two CUSF representatives will be Elizabeth Brunn and Sabrina Fu. Elizabeth's term will be three years, while Sabrina's will be two years.

We are grateful to Albert Nekimen for his service on CUSF and we wish him well in his future endeavors. [email: Theo Stone, May 1, 2017]

We thank Theo in handling this downsizing efficiently and equitably. I too wanted to thank Albert for his service.

rbk

1705.3: CUSF Year in Review

The academic year goes quickly. CUSF has been very active this year. There has been an emphasis on infrastructure with the mission, vision, goals, strategic plan and logo. Also, there have been some historic firsts with the visit of the BOR Chairman Brady at two of the Council's meetings. The following are a summary of the highlights and accomplishments made this year.

- **Mission, Vision and Goals** (AI-1601) – CUSF developed and approved a mission, statement, vision statement and goals. The abbreviated mission is “*strengthening higher education through shared governance.*”
- **Strategic Plan** (AI-1601) – CUSF developed a strategic plan with action items for the year.
- **Logo** (AI-1602) – It may seem like a simple task, but for a host of reasons, it became a year long ordeal. Now, CUSF has a smart looking logo.
- **Reapportionment** (AI-1603) – Consistent with the Constitution and bylaws, CUSF went through its reapportionment process this year. It does so every three years. This is the first year that an institution lost a delegate. UMUC went from three to two delegates.
- **Regent's Awards** (AI-1604) – Jay Zimmerman chaired the committee. This year there were sixteen recipients from six institutions.
- **Newsletters** (AI-1606) – This year it was decided to complete two newsletters, one in fall and one in spring semester. Beth Clifford did an excellent job completing the two newsletters this year.
- **Advocacy Day** (AI-1608) – As part of it legislative strategy, System sponsors Advocacy Day. It is a collaborative effort between System and the student, staff, and faculty Councils. Working with Patrick Hogan and Andy Clark at System, Chris Brittan-Powell did an excellent job coordinating CUSF's involvement in Advocacy Day.

- **Joint Meeting** – As in most previous years, CUSF participated in a joint meeting with the student and staff Councils at the November meeting at UMCP. Emphasizing the theme of communications, this year was historic with the attendance of Chairman Brady and several of the Regents.
- **Chairman Brady’s Visit** – Emphasizing the theme of communications, Chairman Brady returned for a visit with the Council at its February meeting at the University of Baltimore (UB). It was a good dialogue.
- **Inter-Council Attendance** – This may seem like a small thing, but it is indicative of the communications and collaborative efforts between Councils. When CUSF met at Coppin, Sherrye Larkins, Chair of CUSS, briefly spoke to our Council. When CUSS had its meeting at Frostburg, I spoke to their group.
- **State of Shared Governance Report** – The State of Shared Governance Report within USM is a survey of Senate Chairs regarding the state of shared governance on their campuses. The report is completed prior to April 1st in order for the Chancellor to use the data in his yearly evaluation of the Presidents. Two reports are generated. The first is a generic document for the public. The second document includes the survey data also. CUSS is in the process of generating a parallel survey for staff.
- **Joint Ombudsperson Resolution** – In 2013 CUSF passed a motion requesting an ombudsperson. CUSS expressed renewed interest in an ombudsperson concept and the student, staff and faculty Councils are developing a joint resolution. In addition, they are seeking the support of the President’s Council. Passage of this resolution would provide needed ombudsperson services on all the campuses. Currently, this resolution is a work in progress.
- **The Changing Professoriate Series** – Part of good communications is being current and up-to-date on the changes occurring in higher education. This year the Council had presentations on the changing classroom, the changing student and the changing professoriate. These presentations were most informative.
- **AGB Case Study** – The Association of Governing Board sponsored a series of case studies on shared governance. Two Systems were examined by David Maxwell, USM and SUNY. As part of the process I was interviewed and contributed to the case studies. My “takeaway” was that in terms of shared governance, USM is comparatively ahead of most other states. The State of Shared Governance Report is one example of this.

There is still work to be done. There needs to be increased communications with and between the campuses. An orientation session and manual for incoming members is a high priority. Active committees are another priority. In summary, it has been a productive year. Congratulations to everyone for helping to make the accomplishment this year happen.

Respectfully Submitted,
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 Chair, Council of University System Faculty