MEETINGS: The last report was for the March meeting on March 26th. The material collected for the report was accumulated after March 2nd. The AAAC (provosts) met on Thursday, March 8th and the Education Policy and Student Life (EPLS) of the BOR met on EPSL Tuesday, March 27th. The following is a brief summary of these activities since the last report.

- **AAAC Meeting** – The AAAC met on Thursday, March 8th at UB. Topics of discussion included the Civic Engagement Workgroup Draft Report, proposed changes regarding the periodic review of Academic Programs, the 1st Amendment and its costs, regional centers, faculty tenure and promotion enhancements, the Symposium on Diversify the Faculty (see below), and BOR faculty awards (i.e. Regent’s and Elkin’s Awards).

- **EPLS Meeting** – The Educational Policy and Student Life Committee of the BOR met at UMCP on Tuesday, March 27th. There were two action items: A program approval and passage of CUSF’s constitutional amendment (see next item). In addition, there were informational items including a five year review process of new programs and an overview of undergraduate success rates at USM. The overview of undergraduate success rates included a review of SAT scores of first time students, retention and graduation rates and patterns and success rates for transfer students.

- **Constitutional Amendment** – At their March 27 meeting, the Educational Policy and Student Life Committee of the BOR passed the CUSF constitutional amendment. The amendment clarifies the campus review process for amendments. The motion will advance to the BOR as a whole at their April meeting for approval.

- **Symposium on Diversifying the Faculty** – The Symposium on Diversifying the Faculty will be held at the College Park Marriott Hotel and Conference Center on April 16th. Invitations have been sent out. At this time the CUSF ExCom, Council members, and Senate Chairs were invited to the symposium.

COMMENTARIES: Originally, there were no commentaries to be included. However, as a followup to the comments made at the March Council meeting, I felt that it was again important to note the work of Jay Zimmerman and the Regent’s Awards Committee. Since this will most likely be Jay’s last year serving on the committee, it is note worthy to note his and the committee’s service.

Respectfully Submitted (3/30/18)
Robert B. Kauffman, Ph.D.
Chair, Council of University System Faculty
Chair’s Commentary 1804.1: Regent’s Awards Committee – A Thank You

At the April meeting of the Board of Regents, there will be a breakfast honoring the Regent Award recipients. As noted at the March CUSF meeting, the awards are a big deal and a major task on the agenda of CUSF.

Yes, the awards are a big deal. The Presidents take considerable pride in their recipients. At the breakfast, they are all smiles. It is a testimony to the quality of their faculty and programs. It is an honor for the recipients, the presidents, the universities and USM. It helps to showcase the work of USM and its constituent universities.

The awards are a major function of CUSF. However, because of the efficiency of Jay Zimmerman, Chair of the Regent’s Award Committee and the Committee, the work of the committee has largely gone under the radar of the Council. This is a good thing and we thank them for doing so. In addition, I need to note the work of Zakiya Lee, Chief of Staff to the Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs.

The work begins over summer before the beginning of fall semester. This year there were procedures that needed to be clarified and addressed. There was the committee that needed to be formed. I should note that forming the committee is no easy task since both the research and comprehensive institutions need representation. Metaphorically, there were times that we had to beg, borrow and who knows what to make it work. There were countless emails going back and forth between Zakiya and Jay to make it work. For the most part, my role was to monitor the discourse, throw in a vote of approval when needed and add an occasional two cents to the process. It was their work that made it work.

I need to note the committee and extend this thank you to them. It included Jay Zimmerman, TU (chair), Vanessa Jackson, CSU, Joseph Arumala, UMES, Karen Clark, UMB and Ethan Kaplan, UMCP. A special thanks to Ethan who went out of his way to contribute.

At a special breakfast on April 20th of the BOR, I will be in attendance at the Regent’s Award Breakfast. It will all go off without a hitch. There will be a lot of smiles and deservingly so. In silence, I will note to myself the work of Jay, his committee and of course, Zakiya. Your tireless efforts made it happen.... A special thank you for the work you did on behalf of CUSF.

rbk