



## USMSC Report to Board of Regents

June 22, 2018

The USMSC ended its working year with discussions on the following items: reflections on its own structure and purpose, federal legislation such as the PROSPER Act and the reauthorization of the HEA, a survey of various student benefits and rights, and an assessment of the role and responsibilities of the administrations and shared governance groups at each institution to affect what has become pushes for diversity and inclusion.

### Shared Governance

- The council is discussing the role of shared governance at each of the institutions and regional centers as well as how to best ensure concerned voices are heard at various levels.
- The council hopes that, through the restructuring of USMSC Bylaws and Constitution, the organization has been simplified in its procedures, allowing more time and focus on achieving the tenants of the organization's purpose.
- The council is investigating ways to better bring pertinent information to our members, and their constituents, as matters arise.

### State & Federal Legislation

- The council is following various pieces of state and federal legislation, assessing their impacts on the students, faculty, staff, and mission of the USM. Notably, the PROSPER Act and the reauthorization of the HEA. Many of our concerns surround the potential restructuring of student loan policies.

### Student Benefits

- The council has started discussions concerning the affordability of health insurance through the USM. We intend to continue these discussions and outline a plan to compile and present the information with potential proposals for better affordability after consultation with experts in the USM and various institution administrators.
- The council continues to seek improved procedures for discussing stipend and benefits for graduate assistants with various administrators across the USM.

### Diversity & Inclusion

- There remain concerns at various institutions and regional centers over the accessibility and efficacy of counseling centers and affordability of higher education in the USM.

Best,

Roy Prouty

2018-2019 USMSC President