



USM Student Council's Report to the Board of Regents

February 2024 Full Board of Regents Meeting, University of Baltimore

Good morning Chair Gooden, Chancellor Perman, the Board of Regents, and University Presidents,

I was grateful to be a part of the most recent, and my first in-person, Chancellor's Chat in January for international students. Thank you so much Chancellor Perman for having us.

Many of the students were international graduate students, and I gained some extremely valuable feedback from them, especially on international graduate student housing needs, which was very applicable to the international graduate student housing resolution the council has been working on. I stayed in touch with them beyond that conversation and met with a few earlier this month again. Conversations like this have also sparked the possibility of creating a subcommittee within the council specifically for international student initiatives.

We had our first general council meeting of the semester on February 4th. There were multiple items on the agenda, including collecting feedback on the housing resolution and on the proposed USM-wide civics course requirement. We'll also be bringing the shared governance survey back to the USMSC and will report feedback from that when it comes. Additionally, we discussed a white paper written by a group of students advocating for system-wide hybrid learning options especially for the disabled community. Towards the end of the meeting, the council took some time to vote on 13 bills in session in preparation for the Government Relations committee to testify.

For the USM Student Speaker Forum, we have received speech drafts from each of the five presenters and will be working closely with them on edits and revisions before the event.

The Board of Regents Student Excellence Scholarship deadline has also passed– the application deadline was February 9th, and we received X applications. We are currently in the process of evaluating the application packets to send out for your approval around April.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vainavi". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line above the letters.

Vainavi Gambhir

President, University System of Maryland Student Council