



USM Student Council November 2024 Report to the USM Board of Regents

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

In October, I attended the Chancellor's Chat for international students. The students discussed international student support resources on campuses, housing affordability, and internship/career training. At our October general meeting, students from the Maryland Youth Advisory Council and Governor's Office for Children joined us to share more about the council and spread the word on openings for students to get involved. We were also grateful that Dr. Michelle Masucci joined us to share more about research across the system and potential opportunities for cross-campus collaboration on sharing student research.

At our November general meeting, Chancellor Perman joined us for a conversation with the student representatives on pre-election thoughts and feelings, and we really appreciated that opportunity. This was also reported at the Chancellor's Council meeting, but in general, students raised thoughts on campus safety post election, the role of social media messaging, concerns about international students including retention and legal services, the need for further awareness and civic engagement in local and state election, and thoughts on preserving resources for female reproductive health and ensuring they are funded by the university rather than the student government associations. We also discussed the USM Student Regent nomination process and reviewed the questions that will be asked during the interview in December. Dr. Zakiya Lee then presented on the Draft USM Policy on Refunds to Students Who Withdraw from All Courses or the Institution for Extenuating Circumstances and the Policy on Sex Discrimination.

We also had a separate conversation about the USM BOR Student Excellence Scholarship process and considered any changes before the application goes live in December. The format will largely be the same, and we look forward to sharing further details at the next meeting.

On November 19th, we had our Joint Councils Meeting. I had the privilege of facilitating a panel with members of the Board of Regents shaped around questions and topics that have been raised by faculty, students, and staff. We are extremely grateful to everyone who was able to attend and join the conversation on shared governance.

Madam Chair, this concludes my report.

Best regards,

Vainavi Gambhir

President, University System of Maryland Student Council