



COUNCIL *of* UNIVERSITY SYSTEM FACULTY

Regents Report December 15, 2023

This is a summary report of The Council of University System Faculty (CUSF) activities since our last submission in November 2023. As we wrap up 2023, it is a good time to look back and reflect upon all that we have accomplished and to consider the initiatives we still hope to accomplish. For the first half of this academic year, CUSF has worked diligently on a number of items. I am thankful to the committees for the work they have done and proud of the direction within which we are headed. Since we last met, CUSF and the CUSF Executive Committee have both met. The CUSF General Body Meeting was held on December 13, 2023. I will highlight a few of the initiatives that are happening within our various committees.

CUSF Meetings

CUSF General Body Meeting: December 13, 2023

A Council of University System Faculty General Body Meeting was held on December 13, 2023. The meeting was held virtually. At this meeting, Robin H. Cresiski, Ph.D, Associate Vice Provost for Graduate Student Development and Postdoctoral Affairs, University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC), discussed Maryland's AGEP PROMISE Academy Alliance.

We were also joined by Susan Lawrence and Andy Clark from the USM Office Of Government Relations. Both Susan and Andy gave a brief overview and answered questions. Dr. Heather Haverback, Dr. Zakiya Lee, and Dr. Alison Wrynn all gave brief updates.

The Rules Committee presented a second read of our Bylaws regarding amendments to meeting and voting procedures. This change in the Bylaws has been worked on for over a year, with the goal of updating meeting and voting rules after COVID. A discussion and vote was held, and the Bylaws were officially amended.

USM Joint Councils Meeting: November 15, 2023

The Joint Councils' Meeting was on November 15, 2023 at UMBC. Thank you to Dr. Valerie Shears Ashby for hosting this event. This meeting was held with members from the University System of Maryland Student Council, System Staff, and System Faculty. It was a wonderful time for the three councils to come together and discuss the current items of import across the system.

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee members are:

- Heather Rogers Haverback, Chair- Towson University
- Holly Brewer, Past Chair- University of Maryland, College Park
- Tom Abrams, Vice Chair- University of Maryland, Baltimore
- Lorenda Naylor, Secretary- University of Baltimore
- Atma Sahu, At Large Member- Coppin State University
- Nagaraj Neerchal, At Large Member- University of Maryland, Baltimore County

The Executive Committee met on December 6, 2023. We began this meeting by discussing safety on campuses across the state. Heather Haverback, Alison Wrynn, and Zakiya Lee shared updates/reports with the committee. The Executive Committee discussed issues and ideas brought forth by retired faculty, which addressed prescription costs for retirees, the USM Senate Chairs' agenda, and campus safety. We are awaiting the committee's decisions on the initiatives they would like to formally bring to GB.

Awards Committee

Chairperson- Ben Arah, Bowie State University

Currently, there are 49 applications to be reviewed. The Committee is currently ranking the applications, and they will meet soon to review and deliberate. The Awards Committee will review and make recommendations to the Board of Regents.

Education Policy Committee

Chairperson- Dr. Mary Crowley, University of Maryland Global Campus

Encouraged by the Chancellor at the April townhall for USM faculty, CUSF's Education Policy Committee has been investigating ways the Council could help instructors learn how to leverage artificial intelligence to equip their students with 21st-century workplace skills. The Committee told the full Council in October that it would be meeting with Acting Director Nancy O'Neill to explore ways CUSF could partner again with the Kirwan Center on the development of AI best practices across the campuses, similar to the Convening on academic integrity that the two co-sponsored in March 2019.

As a result of these discussions, CUSF has just been offered the opportunity to join Maryland Online, Montgomery College, and the Kirwan Center in co-sponsoring a virtual showcase of best practices for the use of generative AI in teaching and learning next April 26, 2024. A call for proposals is being shared.

The Committee also is seeking an online home for the resources that it developed for last spring's webinar and the materials that it would develop with these partners on writing AI policy statements for syllabi, re-engineering learning outcomes, integrating AI into assignments and other learning activities, energizing student engagement, and improving student access to higher education and outcomes with AI-adapted personalized learning approaches.

Faculty Affairs Committee

Chairperson- Dr. Doris Santamaria-Makang, Frostburg State University

The committee is working on the broad topics of Diversity Equity & Inclusion (DEI) and Academic Support Personnel. They have identified subgroups within each of these topics and have met to discuss them. The committee focused their discussion on determining whether the issues initially identified by the committee are in fact issues that (1) concern faculty, and (2) are relevant to faculty on institutions across the USM. Upon a quick survey of those of present, they homed in on the issues that are pertinent to faculty concerns currently on our campuses, and two subcommittees were formed (DEI and Academic Support Personnel.) Each subcommittee will be performing an assessment of the policies and practices currently in place on campuses across the system, via surveys, or any data collection strategy to help identify gaps and discrepancies affecting faculty. Each subcommittee would use the information collected to present recommendations to CUSF.

Legislative Affairs Committee

Chairperson- Dr. Holly Brewer, University of Maryland, College Park

The Legislative Affairs Committee is discussing work on shared governance, collective bargaining, and organizing the 2024 Annapolis Day. Dr. Brewer reported that she has reached out to the governor's office on potential legislation and will be working with Andy Clark at USM. The committee is also working on two resolutions regarding collective bargaining to be presented to the CUSF GB in January.

Research Committee

Chairpersons- Drs. Tom Abrams and Miroslaw Janowski, University of Maryland, Baltimore

The research committee is finishing their work on animal care issues. They are discussing the initiatives of how to connect USM intercampus research portals. This area focuses on USM Research Communities, facilitating identification of collaborators and improved access to USM faculty for potential student interns. They are also discussing improved support for foreign-born researchers and students and the creation of a more welcoming environment.

Rules and Membership Committee

Chairperson- Dr. Jay Zimmerman

The committee is working on proposed changes to the CUSF bylaws and constitution.

I look forward to updating you as we develop CUSF's priorities for the year.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Heather Rogers Haverback

CUSF Chair