



COUNCIL of UNIVERSITY  
SYSTEM FACULTY

**CUSF Council Meeting  
Zoom  
Wednesday September 20, 2023  
9:00 am-12:30 pm**

**FINAL MINUTES**

**9:00-9:30 CUSF Orientation for New Members**

In Attendance on Zoom:

Heather Haverback (Towson), Lorenda Naylor (UBalt), Tom Abrams (UMB), Jordan Sly (UMD), Justin Webster (UMBC), Nagaraj Neerchal (UMBC), Amy Froide (UMBC), Timothy Nohe (UMBC), Meredith Gore (UMB), Joyce Bell (UMES), Briana Snyder (TU), Kate Sheehan (FSU), Emily Gorman (UMB), Emma Bates (UMGC), Jana Shen (UMB), Doris Santamaria Makang (FSU), Benjamin Arah (BSU), David Anyiwo (BSU), Sergiy Borodachov (TU), Jay Zimmerman (TU), Kumuduni Munusinghe (FSU), Maria Joao Antunes, (TU), Kelly Elkins (TU), Ziad Bentahar (TU), Tyesha Burks (BSU), and Bart Debicki (TU).

In Attendance, Non-Voting:

Dr. Alison Wrynn (USM), Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs; Dr. Zakia Lee (USM), Asst. Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs and Chief of Staff to Sr. Vice Chancellor; and John Lombardi (FSU, Senate Chair).

Heather Haverback, CUSF Chair, provided a slide deck and overview on the role of CUSF. See attached slide deck.

**9:32- 9:52 Call to Order for General Meeting**

Voting Members in Attendance on Zoom:

Heather Haverback (TU), Lorenda Naylor (UBalt), Tom Abrams (UMB), Jordan Sly (UMD), Justin Webster (UMBC), Nagaraj Neerchal (UMBC), Amy Froide (UMBC), Timothy Nohe (UMBC), Meredith Gore (UMB), Joyce Bell (UMES), Briana Snyder (TU), Kate Sheehan

(FSU), Emily Gorman (UMB), Emma Bates (UMGC), Jana Shen, Doris Santamaria Makang (FSU), Benjamin Arah (BSU), David Anyiwo (BSU), Sergiy Borodachov (TU), Jay Zimmerman (Towson), Kumuduni Munusinghe (FSU), Maria Joao Antunes (TU), Kelly Elkins (TU), Ziad Bentahar (TU), Tyesha Burks (BSU), Bart Debicki (TU), Jamie Pierson (UMCES), Rosie Ferraro (UMD), Holly Brewer (UMD), Miroslaw Janowski (UMB), Etahe Johnson (UMES), Kelechi Uzochukwu (UBalt), Ellen Schafer-Salins (SU), Mary Crowley-Farrell (UMGC), and Chris Jarzynski (UMD).

In Attendance on Zoom, Non-Voting:

Dr. Alison Wrynn (USM), Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs; Dr. Zakia Lee (USM), Asst. Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs and Chief of Staff to Sr. Vice Chancellor; and John Lombardi (FSU, Senate Chair).

**9:53 – 9:55            Approval of May 2023 CUSF Council Meeting Minutes**

No amendments. Minutes stand approved as is.

**9:56 -9:57            Welcome and Introductions – Heather Haverback, CUSF Chair**

**9:58-10:01            Parliamentary CUSF Overview (Pre-reads Bylaw and Constitution)**

Heather disseminated the CUSF Bylaws and Constitution to members prior to the meeting for discussion. She provided an overview of the scope and role of CUSF.

**10:02 – 10:12        USM Report**

Dr. Alison Wrynn, Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, shared her academic background. Dr. Wrynn reported she has visited all of the USM campuses this past year since she began in January. She will be attending the USM Board of Regents (BOR) meeting this week at UMGC (9/22/23). Tom Abrams asked if the board allowed public comment. Alison said yes but it requires prior notification.

Dr. Zakiya Lee, Asst. Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs and Chief of Staff to Sr. Vice Chancellor, advised that public comments at USM board meetings are required to relate to the board agenda. In addition, Dr. Lee reported that Dr. Wrynn's unit oversees academic programs, student affairs and success, articulation agreements, and academic innovation, outreach and engagement, and beyond. A separate unit manages fees, budget, and finance related items. Dr. Lee's and Dr. Wrynn's role on CUSF is to coordinate information and be a liaison between USM and CUSF. A key example is sharing state legislation that impacts USM institutions and faculty.

**10:13- 10:30        Chair Updates**

Heather invited faculty to attend the USM Board Meeting on 9/22/23 at UMGC.

Meeting Modalities -January in person option- April with an in-person option. Straw poll, majority of faculty voted yes in favor of in-person option for April 2024 general CUSF meeting. There will be a Zoom option for both.

Ideas for Possible Committee Work (USM Strategic Plan).

### **10:18- 10:33 USM Overview- Strategic Plan- Dr. Alison Wrynn and Dr. Zakiya Lee**

Dr. Wrynn provided an update on the USM Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan is vital because it is tied to funding and planning (short-term, middle, and long-term view for USM). It addresses student enrollment, access, quality education, and student support. There's an emphasis on civic engagement and democracy, workforce development and economic impact, and diversity and inclusion. Dr. Lee added it took 2 years to develop and finalize the USM Strategic Plan. Faculty (via CUSF) gave input and feedback during the development process.

John Lombardi asked about USM plans to address the shortage of males in higher education. Dr. Wrynn agreed it is an issue and USM institutions acknowledge the problem and are assessing how best to address the trend.

### **Committee Chairs-**

Heather tasked each committee with identifying a couple of ideas that are measurable for the year. Ideas and goals start with CUSF committees, then go to the CUSF executive committee then general meeting; utilizing a bottom up approach.

CUSF Committee Overviews:

Legislative Affairs: Holly Brewer, chair

Educational Policy: Emma Bates advised that Mary Crowley is the chair.

Faculty Concerns: Doris Santamaria Makang, chair

Faculty Awards: Zakiya Lee advised that Benjamin Arah is the chair

Membership and Rules: Jay Zimmerman, chair

Research: Tom Abrams, & Mirosław Janowski, co-chairs

### **11:00 – 11:20 Committee Breakouts:**

### **11:21-11:33 Committee Reports**

Legislative Affairs: Holly reported they had 7 faculty members, discussed collective bargaining and the upcoming legislative session.

Educational Policy: Emma Bates advised they discussed benefits and disadvantages of Artificial Intelligence (AI).

Faculty Concerns: Doris shared that graduate assistantships are decreasing; DEI will remain a focus for the committee.

Membership and Rules: Jay Zimmerman discussed voting process on CUSF executive committee and recommend having a trial run to test it out.

### **11:34- 12:13 New Business**

#### **Rules Committee Discussion on Meeting Modalities**

Heather advised there are advantages and disadvantages to both online and in person CUSF meetings. Faculty had a full discussion on meeting modalities and frequency of in person meetings. Nagaraj made the motion to change the current draft language from “videoconferencing” to “technology, which includes both secret and non-secret ballots” in the last sentence of Article VII , 7.1 of the proposed amended CUSF Bylaws. Lorenda Naylor seconded the motion. Vote count: 12 voted in favor, 0 nays, 0 abstentions. The motion carried. The revised bylaws will be voted on at the next CUSF meeting.

### **12:13-12:28 Review of USM Policy Regarding Religious Accommodation**

Zakiya Lee disseminated several documents pertaining to religious accommodations for students. The packet (distributed before the meeting) contains the current USM policy, the recently passed law, and proposed amendments (based on the changes in the law) to the USM policy. Discussion followed. The aim is to comport with the law and respect student religious observation. CUSF representatives should contact Zakiya within the next week or two if they have any questions or feedback.

### **12:30 Meeting Adjourned**

Lorenda Naylor made the motion to adjourn. Benjamin Arah seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned.

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September	9/20/23 (Wednesday)	Virtual 9:30-12:30	
October	10/24/23 (Tuesday)	In Person USM Baltimore 9:30-1:00 <i>(lunch will be served)</i>	
November	11/15/23 (Wednesday)	In Person UMBC Joint-Council Meeting <i>(details forthcoming)</i>	
December	12/13/23 (Wednesday)	Virtual 9:30-12:30	
January	1/23/24 (Tuesday)	In Person USM Adelphi 9:30-1:00 <i>(lunch will be served)</i>	
February	2/23/24 (Friday)	Virtual 9:30-12:30	
March	3/27/24 (Wednesday)	Virtual 9:30-12:30	
April	4/25/24 (Thursday)	TBD	
May	5/15/24 (Wednesday)	Virtual 9:30-12:30	
June	TBD		

