

**Council of University System Staff  
April 25, 2006  
Towson University**

<b>Members Present</b>	<b>Alternate Members</b>
- BSU	
Marie Meehan - BSU	
Bernedette Bell - Coppin	
Jay Hegeman-FSU	Gary Love - FSU
-FSU	
Judy Lowe – SU	Janine Vienna - SU
Gloria Gaguski – TU	Loretta Hollifield - TU
Joan Doremus – TU	
Angie Brickhouse - TU	
Judy Sabalauskas - UB	
David DeLooze – UMB	Lauren Fusillo - UMB
John Barber – UMB	
Lidia Schechter – UMBC	
– UMBC	
– UMBI	
- UMBI	
Larry Lauer – UMCP	
Thomas Noyes - UMCP	
Chenita Kollock - UMES	
Jim Hartsock - UMUC	<b>Chancellor’s Liaison to CUSS –</b>
Joe Hill – UMBC – Chair	<b>Guest: Dr. Robert Caret, President of Towson University</b>

**Call to Order**

Joe Hill, Chair, called the April meeting to order at Towson University at 10:00 a.m.

Angie Brickhouse welcomed CUSS to the Johnny Unitas Stadium at Towson University and introduced Dr. Robert Caret, President of Towson University. Dr. Caret stated that he appreciates the efforts of CUSS and stated that Joe Hill, Chair, represents CUSS well at the Chancellor’s Council. He stated that Towson University is the second largest undergraduate university in the State and the largest growth campus, i.e., anticipating 1000 additional students for the 2007-08 academic year.

**Minutes**

The March minutes were approved as amended.

**Report from the Chancellor’s Liaison – No Report**

E-mails from the Liaison indicated that the Governor approved the \$600 Match, and as representatives of the staff, we should encourage our staff members to participate in one of the supplemental retirement programs to receive the match. The State Pension benefit enhancer of 1.8% from 1998 will become effective 7/1/06; previously the multiplier had been 1.4%. Employee

contributions to their pensions will increase from 2% to 3% for 2007; 4% for 2008; and 5% from 7/1/2008 forward. The COLA for employees whose earnings are \$45,000 and below will receive \$900; \$45,000 to \$70,000 will receive 2%; those at \$70,000 or above will receive a flat \$1400.

No dates have been given for the start of Open Enrollment, but will occur in May.

Effective July 1, 2006 you will be able to participate in a mail order prescription drug program, Caremark (the Pharmacy Benefits Manager for the State of Maryland) that will allow for a 90-day supply for a \$20 co-pay, -1-800-345-9384. This modifies the existing prescription plan.

### **Chair's Report**

- There was no Finance meeting held this month.
- The Chancellor's Council meeting was a conference call meeting and the Chair advised the council of the e-mail and letter campaigns stressing health and pension benefit shortfalls.
- At the Board of Regents' meeting, the Chair presented the Board with the Staff Award recipients' names and information for their review. The recipients were chosen from all the nominations submitted to the Community Development Committee. After a careful review by CUSS Representatives, the 6 selections were made. Presentation of the awards may occur at the August BOR Meeting.

### **At this point the CUSS Members broke into Committees.**

#### **Committee Reports**

##### **Benefits & Compensation**

- The committee would like **all** presidents to recognize Contingent II employees with service awards. All universities should be consistent on this issue. A letter should be sent to **all** presidents thanking those who do recognize their Contingent II employees already, and requesting those who don't – to reconsider.
- Contingent employees have a problem with university closures during holiday break in December. On certain days, they do not receive any pay if they do not have leave time to cover the days. This committee will look further into this issue.
- This committee will monitor the legislature's activities and will be particularly concerned with health and pension benefits for the 2006-07 year.

##### **Communications Committee:**

- All committees should send their reports of areas covered in Word format to Bernedette Bell to be included in the newsletter for 2005-2006 by 4/30/06.
- This committee is preparing the Orientation Packages for the new CUSS members at the August 2006 meeting at Salisbury.

##### **Community Development**

- The transition meeting will be held at UMCES.
- The Staff Awards AdHoc committee met to modify the Staff Awards process. They want to encourage more non-exempt employee nominations. There was a poor turnout of non-exempt nominations this year.

### **Legislative Committee**

- Letters should continue to be sent to the Legislature for improved pension reform and health care benefits. Continue to raise the issue, so it stays in the forefront of our legislators' minds.
- A long-term plan would be to send letters regarding the health and pension issues to the candidates running for office -- this would be a proactive measure for keeping these issues in the forefront.

### **Old Business**

No Old Business.

### **New Business**

Nominations for Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary will take place at the May meeting at UMBC on 5/23/06. Elections will take place at the June meeting.

A motion was made and seconded that the meeting be adjourned.

*Respectfully Submitted,  
Marie L. Meehan  
Substitute CUSS Secretary*