CUSS Meeting Minutes June 26, 2007 University of Maryland, Eastern Shore

Attendees: Larry Lauer, UMCP; Janine Vienna, SU; Judy Sabalauskas, UB; Kimberley Lynne, UB; Cassandra Lewis, UMUC; John Wolfe, USMO; Carol Barr, SU; Rosario van Daalen, USMO; Jackie Eberts, SU; Mary Reed, USMO; Chenita Kollock, UMES; Marvin Pyles, UMCP; A. Venkat, UMBI; Marie Meehan, BSU; Dale O'Neal, BSU; Deb Geare, UMBC; Gloria Gaguski, TU; Laura Jackson, TU; Dave Delooze, UMB.

Meeting called to order at 10AM- Dr. Ron Brown, VP for Student Affairs brought greetings from the campus to the membership.

Chair's Report- The Chair's letter to the Chancellor regarding the status of Shared Governance discussed. This was a follow-up to the Executive Committee activity at the May meeting at UMBC. After letter was sent Chair was called to meet with Chancellor Kirwan to discuss concerns of Council expressed in the letter. Dr. Kirwan expressed distress that things have deteriorated for staff shared governance and vowed to do better in the future. No promises made but meeting was positive and mutually respectful. Chair requested that CUSS members email him regarding their opinion of how shared governance was working on their campus and he would send, via email, a copy of the Regents policy on Shared Governance for reference.

The USM Regents met on June 22 and Chairs report was discussed and distributed. Still no response by VC Vivona to request for a work group to address extra merit pay for non-exempt staff. Chair reported to Regents that shared governance structures had deteriorated and that the Chancellor had been informed and the concern discussed. Chair also made an appeal not to lay off staff because of impending budget cuts. At the same meeting Cliff Kendall was elected to another term as Chair of Regents, which was a good thing for staff. A copy of the Regents Executive Committee and dates of Regents meetings was distributed.

The Chair had received a letter from Ann Timmons regarding the dental HMO plans. The bottom line is that there is a problem but it can't be helped. Ms. Timmons said her people were trained to ask employees to be sure they could get a dentist to accept their coverage before signing up. Most USM employees were not aware of that.

A call for additional nominations was made for the CUSS Executive Committee. No additional nominations were made and the following people were elected by voice vote: John Wolfe, USMO, Chair Janine Vienna, SU, Vice Chair Judy Sabalauskas, and Kim Lynne of UB Secretary

At large members of the CUSS ExCom will be elected at the August meeting.

A schedule of CUSS meetings for the upcoming year was discussed. It was noted that the Wednesday, November 14 meeting and UMUC will be the second year of a joint meeting with CUSF. The Chancellor and Regent Chair will be invited to attend.

Chancellors Liaison Report: R. van Daalen reported that Katie Ryan, Chief of Staff for the Chancellor will be retiring on July 1, 2007. Janice Doyle, Secretary to the BOR, will assume the role. She reminded the members that parking fees and ORP contributions are not deducted for six pay periods over the summer. The Fidelity 401(a) contract is close to being signed and hope to have it implemented by mid July. AIG-Valic's contract will end as an ORP/SRA vendor provider effective January 1, 2008. The new Nonexempt Salary Structure which reflects the State's Living Wage at the minimum of Pay Range 1 is effective July 1, 2007.

After lunch the CUSS newsletter was discussed and request for edits to be sent to B. Bell. Two additional committee reports were needed. R. Ross sent legislative committee report to be included.

New Business- Dale O'Neal requested advice on BOR staff awards for Bowie State. Have not had a winner of the award and are frustrated by that. K. Lynne advised the members of a conference on the effect of the MLK riots on the city landscape, which is still recovering.

Meeting adjourned.

Notes submitted by Dave DeLooze.