



## COUNCIL of UNIVERSITY SYSTEM FACULTY

### Board of Regents Report February 10, 2023

The Council of University System Faculty has had two general meetings since my last report. The executive committee also met on January 9, February 6, and directly with the Chancellor on January 20. In addition, we have continued to gather a great deal of information about issues of concern for this year, both from individual members and from committees.

### Executive Committee

**The executive committee had an especially productive meeting with Chancellor Perman on January 20.** We discussed priorities for the year, and in two crucial areas that several of us mentioned as focal concerns, he suggested task forces that might come up with recommendations. These first potential task forces would be on the topics of how higher education can work with K-12 to both train teachers and on teacher retention, in collaboration with the Maryland Blueprint. The second task force would be on the topic of mental health. These two would be in addition to the task force we had already discussed on faculty workload/tenure/status and changes at all 12 universities over the past decade. I also organized a informational session on Open Access, that featured some of the research on this issue done by UMD-PACT. There were five presenters, and many slides explaining the larger dilemmas. The chancellor asked for recommendations about potential actions, which will be made separately by UMD-PACT, the USM Library Council, and CUSF itself (see below).

At our meeting on February 6, we are also able to give input on USM branding. We are going to start a newsletter. We are fine-tuning our shared governance surveys this year, with plans to make them more systematic than in prior years. We continue to work on most of the issues on our strategic plan.

### General Body Meetings

At our meeting on January 17, we passed a resolution to **encourage USM administration to systematically collect data on faculty status.** Ideally this will lead to a taskforce that would involve both CUSF representatives as well as those from the USM administration as well as potentially from the other councils.

On February 15, at least five members from the faculty, staff, and student councils will gather in person in Annapolis for **Advocacy day.** We will gather in person in Annapolis for the first time in four years, when we will hear from Chancellor Perman as well as Patrick Hogan and Andy Clark, Vice Chancellor for Legislative affairs and Associate Vice Chancellor, respectively. We have also set up at least ten meetings with delegates and senators and plan to attend some sessions. We will focus

on USM's points of excellence, as well as issues of common concern, including mental health and questions surrounding faculty tenure and status as well as graduate student concerns about working conditions.

**At our meeting on January 17, we heard from Eric Leudtke, the new Governor Wes Moore's chief of staff for Legislative Affairs. We also considered a proposal to support removing the ban on collective bargaining for graduate students.**

**Committee progress: We began a new "research committee" to deal with a range of issues that have been arisen from many representatives, including those related to research policies and open access.** Such a committee was in our original constitution, but has not been convened for many years. That committee has already met, and are working actively on open access as those issues relate to research. Other committees have been very busy as well: **Educational Policy** has been focusing on issues of open access, especially related to teaching, as well as on transfer credits and policy, issues which we will take up at our March meeting. Our Faculty Concerns committee has been focused on issues related to both DEI and on mental and physical health. They are working on survey questions and a white paper, as well as an informational conference. **The Legislative Affairs** Committee have been working hard on potential resolutions related to collective bargaining as well as planning for Advocacy Day. **The Awards** committee has completed its work and passed on recommendations to the USM Academic Affairs Committee. **The Rules** committee has been working on changes to our bylaws to allow better methods of voting in response to greater reliance on electronic and hybrid meetings.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Professor Holly Brewer**

**Chair, Council of University System Faculty**