



COUNCIL of UNIVERSITY SYSTEM FACULTY

Regents Report November 10, 2023

This is a summary report of The Council of University System Faculty (CUSF) activities since our last submission in September. The Tri-Council meeting is scheduled for November 15, 2023, and will be held at UMBC. The next CUSF General Body Meeting will be held on December 13, 2023.

CUSF Meetings

CUSF General Body Meeting: October 24, 2023

A Council on University System Faculty General Body Meeting was held on October 24, 2023. The meeting was an in-person meeting (with a virtual option) at the USM Office in Baltimore. We were very pleased with the high rate of attendance, as this was our first in-person meeting of the year. It was also one of the first in-person meetings since COVID. Members seemed happy to be back in-person. We were also glad to see that some members joined us online, which was great.

At this meeting, Chancellor Perman greeted CUSF. He reported that he recently visited Coppin State University and met with pre-health students. He also thanked CUSF and USM faculty for the hard work they do and dedication to the students. We look forward to welcoming him to another meeting in 2024.

Towson University's Interim President Perreault visited the CUSF meeting. She was the first USM President to visit CUSF in person since COVID. Dr. Perreault shared updates and gave an overview of Towson University. Specifically, she discussed new rankings, increasing student diversity, and this year's freshman class being the largest in TU's history (over 19,500 students including 1,600 transfer students).

During this meeting, Heather Haverback shared the work that was done revolving around student centered work at the USM BOR Retreat. Dr. Zakiya Lee, USM Assistant Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs and Chief of Staff to Sr. Vice Chancellor, Dr. Alison Wrynn, reported that Chancellor Perman meets with students monthly, known as the "chancellor's chat." Another update was that the USM Student Council and other stakeholder groups, including CUSF, have reviewed and commented on proposed amendments to the religious accommodation policy.

USM Senate Chairs' Meeting: October 26, 2023

The USM Senate chairs meeting was on October 26, 2023. This meeting was held in-person (with a virtual option) at the USM Office in Adelphi. Tom Abrams, CUSF Vice-Chair, and Heather Haverback, CUSF Chair, greeted the USM Senate Chairs. The Senate Chairs introduced themselves and shared information from their campuses, including initiatives and challenges facing faculty senates. Then, Tom Abrams discussed campus safety and trauma before introducing Christopher Stanton, UMB Office of Emergency Management, who spoke about crisis management on campus. Holly Brewer, CUSF Past-Chair, provided an update on shared governance surveys from AY23. Senior Vice Chancellor Alison Wrynn and Assistant Vice Chancellor Zakiya Lee followed up with USM updates and answered questions.

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 October 4, 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 Towson University Retired Faculty Association which addressed prescription costs for retirees, the USM Senate Chair agenda, and campus safety. We are awaiting the committee's decisions on the initiatives they would like to formally bring to the general body.

Awards Committee

Chairperson- Ben Arah, Bowie State University

The BOR Faculty Awards Committee members have been invited and agreed to participate in this year's work. The Awards Committee will review and make recommendations to the Board of Regents.

Education Policy Committee

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

Over the past several years, the committee worked hard on completing the Academic Integrity Policy. For AY24 the initial focus is on artificial intelligence (AI). Last year, they produced a webinar on artificial intelligence in the classroom, and they are working on a follow-up for this year. The committee is also considering how to address AI in the syllabus, course curriculum, assignments, best practices, and other learning issues. Mary invited faculty members to join Ed Policy because AI is a big, broad issue. The committee is considering additional initiatives.

Faculty Affairs Committee

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

The committee is continuing their work on Diversity Equity & Inclusion (DEI), in alignment with the USM Strategic Plan. They produced a Mental Health Awareness DEI webinar last year and are currently focusing on DEI and graduate assistantships. The committee also discussed the following concerns to be addressed by CUSF as possible initiatives: Efforts to maintain Graduate Assistants (GAs) to support programs on campus and inconsistencies in the salaries assigned as compensations per course to Adjunct Faculty across USM institutions.

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 Advocacy 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.

Research Committee

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

The research committee is finishing their work on animal care issues. They are discussing how to connect USM research portals, concerns about foreign born researchers, and improving the pipeline from research discovery to commercialization.

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**