**TENTATIVE MINUTES**

UNIVERSITY STEERING COMMITTEE

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, BALTIMORE COUNTY

Friday, February 2, 2018

The monthly meeting of the University Steering Committee of the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (the Committee) was held on Friday, February 2, 2018, at 1 p.m. in 711 Administration Building. Chair Roy Prouty and the following members were present: Adam Harvey, Gerardo Herrera-Cortes, Gunes Koru, Josh Massey, Emily Moroney, Diana Smith, and Ashley Waters. In addition, the following were present:

* Lisa Akchin, Associate Vice President, Engagement; Assistant to the President
* Leslie Kruger, Executive Administrative Assistant, Institutional Advancement

PRESENTATIONS

Branding and Marketing Update

Lisa Akchin, Associate Vice President, Engagement; Assistant to the President

Miriam Tillman, Assistant Vice President, Marketing and Creative Services

BUSINESS

MINUTES

On motion of Diana Smith, the minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES

Roy will be working with Lisa to plan next steps for the Human Relations Committee.

PULSE CHECK

* Ashley relayed appreciation for the spring welcome message.
* Adam expressed concern that construction near the Physics Building was not friendly to individuals with mobility issues.
* Roy expressed concern about parking in general as relates to the UMBC Event Center.

SENATE REPORTS

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Josh and Gerardo reported on behalf of the Student Government Association (SGA).

* An SGA retreat is occurring tomorrow.
* The USM Student Council meets on Sunday.
* The ProveIt! Competition is celebrating its tenth anniversary.
* SGA elections have been scheduled April 23-25.
* Maryland Senator Bobby Zirkin has introduced a bill (Senate Bill 129) requiring the Baltimore County Board of Elections to establish at least one polling place at each public or private institution of higher education in the county that has residential student housing on its campus. Tricia Wells, director of administrative and business services for Student Affairs, believes the bill will have minimal impact on UMBC. SGA is in favor of the bill and hopes to persuade Delegate Eric Ebersole to introduce a corresponding bill in the Maryland House of Delegates.
* The budget process is getting underway. The process is more expedited than prior years.

PROFESSIONAL STAFF SENATE

Ashley reported on behalf of the Professional Staff Senate (PSS).

* PSS officers met with President’s Council members and (a few days later) had a working dinner with President Hrabowski and other campus leaders.
  + Encouraging staff participation in strategic plan implementation
  + Working with Human Resources to develop work/life balance initiatives
  + Creating a vibrant campus community for staff
* Recognizing staff who have had national accomplishments is a new focus.
* The February meeting will be held at UMBC-Shady Grove.
* PSS is preparing for elections.

Non-Exempt Staff Senate

Diana reported on behalf of the Non-Exempt Staff Senate (NESS).

* Environmental Sustainability Coordinator Tanvi Gadhia and Program Management Specialist Deborah Howard delivered a climate action plan update. The discussion focused on energy, transportation, waste, and other sustainability issues.
* Bylaws are being updated.

Graduate Student Association

Roy reported on behalf of the Graduate Student Association (GSA).

* A revised grants policy has been submitted to the Graduate School and the Graduate Senate for review.
* Maryland Delegate Marc Korman has introduced a bill (House Bill 199) providing collective bargaining rights to certain graduate assistants at certain public institutions of higher education; establishing a separate collective bargaining unit for certain graduate assistants; etc. GSA will be supporting the bill, allowing graduate students at institutions that are interested in collective bargaining to pursue it; however, the GSA is not at this time interested in creating a collective bargaining unit at UMBC.
* All graduate students are invited to showcase their work at the Graduate Research Conference.
* PSS and GSA are partnering to host a social event at Heavy Seas Beer in Halethrope. The event, which includes a private tour of the brewery, will be Friday, March 2, 3-6 p.m.

Faculty Senate

Gunes reported on behalf of the Faculty Senate.

* The Faculty Senate did not meet in January.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Lisa reported on behalf of the President’s Office.

* Governor Hogan’s proposed FY 2019 budget shows continued support for public higher education, including a 2.4 percent operating budget increase of $32 million to help the University System of Maryland (USM) meet rising costs, funds for a 2 percent COLA salary increase for faculty and staff effective January 2019, and a partnership with USM campuses to increase support for initiatives that expand the number of graduates in fields with high workforce demand.
* The governor’s Capital Budget includes $62.8 million toward construction and capital equipment for the Interdisciplinary Life Sciences Building scheduled to open in fall 2019.
* In anticipation of increased state support, the USM Board of Regents has indicated its intent to limit undergraduate tuition increases for Maryland residents to two percent. This projected two percent increase is reflected in UMBC’s proposed FY 2019 budget, along with projected five percent tuition increases for graduate students and out-of-state students.
* The governor’s budget does not include a $4 million base budget appropriation that should come to UMBC as a result of Senate Bill 1052 – the University of Maryland Strategic Partnership Act of 2016. Senate Bill 1052 mandated that residential campuses with the lowest funding guideline attainment levels receive additional base funding between FY 2018 and FY 2021. Because UMBC ranks at the bottom of state funding per student compared to its peers, $3.5 million was allocated to our campus by the General Assembly for this purpose in the current fiscal year. The next round of this funding is currently blocked by language in the Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act submitted by the governor. We are working with both the governor and legislators to restore this vital investment in UMBC’s mission.

OTHER

There were no other items for discussion.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Committee will hold its next regularly scheduled meeting on Friday, March 2, 2018, at 1 p.m. The meeting will be held in 1013 Administration Building.

ADJOURNMENT

The Committee adjourned its meeting at 2:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie A. Kruger