

APPROVED MINUTES -- 12/4/2020

UNIVERSITY STEERING COMMITTEE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, BALTIMORE COUNTY

Friday, November 13, 2020

The monthly meeting of the University Steering Committee of the University of Maryland, Baltimore County was held on Friday, November 13, 2020, at 10:30 a.m. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the meeting was held via Webex. Chair Orienne Smith and the following members were present: Helena Dahlen, Mehrshad Devin, Samantha Fries, Kai Hajos, Bobby Lubaszewski, Susan McDonough, Alex Rittle, Melody Wright, and Jessica Wyatt. In addition, the following were present:

- Lisa Akchin, Associate VP, Engagement; Chief Marketing Officer; Assistant to the President
- Leslie Kruger, Executive Administrative Assistant, Institutional Advancement
- Marie Lilly, Director, Community Engagement

Report of the Chair

Orienne reported that the Faculty and Staff Caregiving Campaign was underway. She has already circulated an appeal to faculty members and administration. She will forward this giving letter to Bobby and Melody. They both said that their letters would be going out soon.

The Steering Committee has decided to meet 10:30 a.m. - noon through the spring semester.

Minutes

The minutes for October 9, 2020, were approved by unanimous consent.

President's Report

Lisa provided details about upcoming community gatherings focused on *The Empowered University* theme:

Town Hall: Teaching and Learning
November 18, 4 p.m.

Grit & Gratitude Virtual Holiday Celebration
December 16, 3 p.m.

University Retreat
January 29, time TBA

The University System of Maryland has asked all campuses to train in crisis management. Lisa is serving on the evaluation committee tasked with choosing a crisis management consultant. The committee anticipates that a selection will be made by early December. Shared governance leaders may be asked to participate in conversations with consultants.

Shared Governance representation on the CPCC

Philip Rous, Provost and Senior Vice President, Academic Affairs
Lynne Schaefer, Vice President, Administration and Finance

Community Building

David Hoffman, Director, Center for Democracy and Civic Life

Plan of Organization: Proposed Changes

Melody requested that *and* be removed from *Landscape and Stewardship Committee* to reflect the name the committee itself has been using: *Landscape Stewardship Committee*. This change has been made in the Plan of Organization in accordance with Article VII, Section A. No additional amendments to the Plan of Organization were presented for review.

Communications

Acknowledging widespread screen fatigue, members of the Steering Committee brainstormed ways to organize campus-wide communication efforts in the spring.

USC Monthly Question

“How can UMBC’s shared governance help foster a sense of community in and amongst all stakeholders (students, faculty and staff)?”

Faculty Senate

Orianne reported on behalf of the Faculty Senate.

- The Faculty Senate discussed their planned participation in the Faculty and Staff Caregiving Campaign.
- The Faculty Senate is launching “Timely Conversations,” whereby UMBC experts will participate in virtual conversations about current matters of interest.

Graduate Student Association

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

- GSA is excited that a recent survey of graduate students yielded a 20 percent response rate.
- GSA is pursuing mandatory mentor/mentee agreements; however, a recent meeting with graduate program directors did not yield much support.
- Graduate students have expressed a need for work-from-home equipment, such as a desk or chair. Lisa has offered to help the GSA explore potential funding options for these resources.
- GSA is seeking housing alternatives for international students due to COVID-19 and the need for an initial quarantine.

Non-Exempt Staff Senate

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

- Senior Associate Athletic Director Gary Wohlstetter shared renderings of the remodeled Retriever Activities Center and provided an overview of recreational activities that are available on YouTube at [UMBCRecTV](#).
- NESS is launching “Lunch with Friends,” whereby non-exempt staff can informally join colleagues for virtual lunch.
- NESS will be participating in focus groups aimed at bringing Arbutus one step closer to a sustainable community designation through the state of Maryland’s [sustainable community program](#). Learn more about the effort in Arbutus [here](#).
- NESS discussed their planned participation in the Faculty and Staff Caregiving Campaign.
- NESS is encouraging participation in community gatherings focused on *The Empowered University* theme.

Professional Staff Senate

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

- Faculty Senate President Orianna Smith visited to inform PSS about the Faculty Senate, how it operates, and how these groups can collaborate in the future.
- PSS is planning a self-care speaker series featuring campus leaders starting in January 2021.

Student Government Association

Kai reported on behalf of the Student Government Association (SGA).

- SGA is planning its budget for the spring semester.
- SGA will be participating in focus groups aimed at bringing Arbutus one step closer to a sustainable community designation through the state of Maryland's [sustainable community program](#). Learn more about the effort in Arbutus [here](#).
- This week, SGA hosted an "Initiatives Night" fair during which SGA senators showcased all the work they have been doing during the fall semester.
- More than 20 undergraduate students will serve on the Student Health and Well-being Committee, part of the larger COVID-19 Coordinating Planning Committee.

Other

There were no other items for discussion.

Announcements

The Committee will hold its next regularly scheduled meeting on Friday, December 4, 2020, at 10:30 a.m.

Adjournment

The Committee adjourned its meeting at 12:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Leslie A. Kruger