STUDENT COUNCIL

Secretary’s Notes
First Regular Meeting on Sunday October 9, 2011 at Towson

Chairman Welsh
• Vote to approve agenda passes Unanimously
• Vote to approve minutes passes Unanimously

Welcoming Remarks from Dr. Deb Moriarty PhD
• Words of advise over the coming votes for the voting rights of the Regional Higher Education Centers (RHEC)
• What is the role of the RHEC? To help students obtain a degree without long distance travel or higher tuitions?
• Should the RHEC get a vote on the Council?
• Either way it is a much higher complex issue then do they get a vote or not.

Welcoming Remarks from Mr. Matthew Sikorski
• Discussed several new programs as SGA president such as the search for a new President and general student needs.
• Towson’s sports team are doing well
• $150,000,000 capital projects on the expansion of Towson’s campus and academic buildings
• Constantly looking for joint ventures with other colleges

Intuitional Reports

Towson University (In addition to Sikorski’s report)
• Youth for Western Civilization (hate group) has been on campus
• New website to see all events taking place on campus on a single calendar

University of Maryland Baltimore Campus
• Zip cars have been brought to the school
• SGA had it’s first annual retreat
• Commencement for new officers
• Graduate Students Association had it’s first meeting

Coppin State
• Provost resigned suddenly and the Dean of the Honors college has taken over
• Introducing a first year program
• New email system
• Installed a digital game room
• Demolishing old gym and temporarily installing green room and recycling center

Shady Grove
• 75% more scholarships given out than last fall
• Started a stock market simulation
• Developing programs to assist students to find internships
• 1st town hall meeting
• SEB movie night
• Soccer fundraising event
• USG fundraising event

Bowie State
• Search for associate Provost
• New Student Union put into place
• Football team is doing poorly
• SGA homecoming event
• Several meetings within the SGA

University of Maryland at Baltimore
• SGA meeting to discuss merger study
• 2011-2016 strategic plan to promote studies in Technology and Interdisciplinary studies
• Programs to combat childhood obesity
• Launched new sustainability website
• Genome Sciences decoded the DNA of the E coli virus plaguing Germany

University of Maryland at College Park
• $10,000,000 spent for new teaching centers
• New physical sciences building under construction
• Limited funds for SGA
• Increased Student fees
• New VP and diversity officer
• Increased the no smoking radius around buildings
• Giving benefits to same-sex married couples
• Parental leave to be discuss in meeting
University Systems of Maryland – Hagerstown
- Coffee bar survey for student needs
- Possibility of moving from non-traditional to traditional school
- No meal plan but attempting to have access to healthier snacks
- Introduction of new SGA members
- Convoy of Help gave 5200 people groceries
- Blood drive was huge success
- Director suddenly resigned
- Had their only scholarship fundraising event

Frostburg University
- Homecoming plans to be much more than paper decorations
- New mobile app with maps and blackboard access
- Ending grants with AstraZeneca and is searching for funding sources
- Now a smoke free campus but not enforced
- Black Student Union being replaced with Multi Cultural Student Union
- Implementing a My Voice program to get more student opinions

Salisbury University
- New recycling program
- Many students volunteered on TV show Extreme Home Makeover
- DLLR had representative speak on GMAT
- Attempting to ban the sale of plastic water bottles
- Planning for Homecoming

University of Baltimore
- Restructuring of the SGA with division on labor
- Worked out a deal to decrease the price of parking
- Introduction of a single campus wide ID card
- Building of new Law School
- Building of apartments more suited for students
- Homecoming dance even with no sports teams to boost morale
- Global Village event to support international students
- Block Party to fundraise for clubs went well
Chairman Welsh’s Report

Chairman Welsh
- Public hearings for merger study will be on 10/23 and 10/28
- Task groups for merger study questions 1&2 are still in progress
- The Chancellor and his group will be finishing all other merger study questions
- Federal reductions and cuts to research funding is “Unusually Uncertain” at this time
- State of Maryland bond rating is now at AA+
- Still much debate at the Federal level regarding debt

Student Regent Wojciechowski’s Report

Student Regent Wojciechowski
- Will have finished campus visits by next meeting
- Board annual retreat:
  - Financial Outlook
  - Governor O’Malley’s support of higher education
  - Strategic plan for 2020
  - Plans to make increase higher education with by 10,000 bachelors degrees per year
  - Introductory courses will be revised
  - Plans to close achievement gap
  - Plans to raise the graduation rate from 60% to 75%
- Board of Regents has a merit awards for staff and faculty but none for students so Wojciechowski asked the council’s opinion of having student awards. The council largely thought this was a good idea.
- Wojciechowski also asked the council’s opinion on making the Student Regent position a 2–year term in which the student would have one year to acclimate and 1 year to serve as the regent. The council reached a close consensus that this was not practical.
- Regent McMillan will be starting a study on student fees in the spring.

Action Item

Nominations for Secretary
- Chairman Welsh asked for any further nominations besides the representative from the University of Baltimore and Coppin State
- The representative from the University of Baltimore won, Jacob Goldberg.
Approval of the Student Regent Application
  • Vote to approve Student Regent Application was approved unanimously

RHEC Representation
  • Recommendations from Chairman Welsh and Regent Wojciechowski
    ○ RHEC must submit petition for full membership annually
    ○ If the petition passes the RHEC will gain full memberships
    ○ RHEC must abstain from voting on the Student Regent Nominee
  • Notes from Wojciechowski
    ○ Chancellor feels RHEC should be granted full membership just like any other institution
    ○ RHEC currently don’t pay high student fees which is likely to change if they continue to grow
    ○ We are the first board to make a move on this issue
    ○ Wojciechowski thinks this is a very smart compromise
  • Open floor Discussion points
    ○ There is a potential abuse of power vs. Actualized unrepresented group
    ○ Incremental approach is rational
    ○ VPs are not in favor because of their work with Student Affairs (SA) but this board deals with much more than SA
    ○ Why have a petition for annual membership? To stay on good terms with the VPs
    ○ Any intuition can send more than 3 nominees for student regent
    ○ Shady Grove has over 4000 students Hagerstown over 550
    ○ All full time students at Shady Grove pay some student fees
    ○ Possibility of allowing non voting members to sit in on votes rather than leave the room
    ○ Possibility of removing recommendation 3 was declined, as it would be Unconstitutional to MD constitutional.
Pushing too hard would delegitimize the council which is why the Chairman and Student Regent suggest slow progress

• Motion to pass recommendation passes unanimously and will be sent along to the Board of Regents.

Discussion Items

UMCP Graduate Assistant Leave Policy
• As Graduate Students are not employees they do not get the same benefits as staff
• Entitled to 2 weeks or 40 hours of leave but do not qualify for sick or child birth leave
• Initial proposal to give “reasonable procedure” but had no graduate student input
• Still waiting for information from other campuses on their policies
• Desired for up to 6 weeks of leave for child birth

Student Regent Wojciechowski
• Idea to have a state wide college newspaper and asked for each representative to contact our school paper and send contact information along

UMCP–UMB Merger Study: Chairman Welsh and Regent Wojciechowski
• Each University needs to Develop a council and come up with an official view point
• Discuss of University councils finds will take place next meeting
• Salisbury: Had a discussion with Dean and decided to just wait for more information
• Regent Wojciechowski
  • Very political issue
  • Mergers in Higher Education are uncommon
  • 9/10 mergers occur from a within the institutions not commonly due to legislature
  • Since the new institution would have over 50% of the budget this is truly important to all institutions
• Frostburg: Several administrators have stated that the merger doesn’t directly effect Frostburg which may or may not be true
• Open floor Discussion points
Institutions were formerly merged from 1920–1970 but split so more information is desired as to the reasons.

Would the new institutions receive more research funding?

• Regent Wojciechowski
  ○ 2 opposing schools of thought
  ○ If the institution receives national attentions then the other institutions would “rise with the tides”
  ○ Or that the attention will be overly focused on the new institution and all others will left aside
  ○ We need to consider the not only the academic side but the cultures that would have to be forced together
  ○ Then the idea of one president for 2 distant campuses would be a “bureaucratic nightmare”

• Open floor Discussion points
  ○ Desire for research from other schools such as a recent case in Chicago
  ○ Many issues being brought up have been considered within the merger study questions
  ○ Will this plan benefit Maryland as a whole?
  ○ If federal funding is cut the new institution will still receive large grants as it would be a very large school
  ○ Would this be a gateway to future mergers?
  ○ How will this effect job security and new opportunity?
  ○ No physical changes will be made

• Regent Wojciechowski
  ○ Has the possibility of bring back business to the Baltimore area
  ○ The ABLE foundation is also conducting a study on the Baltimore economy
  ○ Even if there is no merger it is clear the two schools will continue to collaborate

• Open floor Discussion points
  ○ If this issue is so conceptual why is there a budget stipulation attached to the merger study?
  ○ How will this affect the average student who already has to go out of state to get into an average University?
  ○ “Slippery step” to become one large University of Maryland at__________
  ○ No indication of a hostile takeover
  ○ Would this now make UMB a RHEC?
There may not be as much gained by UMB compared to UMCP

UMB representative seems to be against the merger while UMCP representative seems to see value in the possibility

The two intuitions are almost complementary with very little overlap

Discussion would likely continue but due to time constraints the discussion had to be stopped for this meeting

Ending Statements

- Possibility of having a special meeting to continue discussion for Frostburg was suggested but no official actions
- Answers to merger study questions will be out by mid to late November