**University of Baltimore – University Faculty Senate**

**Meeting Minutes: May 6, 2015**

**Attendance**

**Present:** Bridget Blodgett (CAS), Dan Gerlowski (MSB – UFS President), Stephanie Gibson (CAS), Michael Sochet (Library – alternate for Stephen Kiel), Stan Kemp (CAS), Julie Simon (CAS- CUSF), J.C. Weiss (MSB), Joseph Wood (UB Provost), Patria Julnes (CPA- CUSF), George Julnes (CPA), Dennis Pitta (MSB), Jose Anderson (Law), Richard Bucher (Adjunct Faculty), Colin Starger (Law), Cassandra Havard (Law), Heather Pfeifer (CPA) **Absent:** Sam Brown (CPA)

## **Guests**, included: David Wagoneer, Paul Moniodis, Michael Driscoll, Chris Spencer, Susan Schubert, Barb Augenbaugh, Sascha Sheehan , David Bobart, Harry Schuckel, Ed Gibson, Irv Brown

1. Logistical and necessary items – Minutes and Agenda **approved unanimously**.
2. President’s Update [20]
   1. Maryland Governor has released the funding for the 2% pay raise which had been witheld
   2. Budget based on belief that we will have headcount of 6,439. Freshman about same as last year (maybe better quality), As of May 1st there are 129, last year were 144 as denials are up in order to improve paper credentials
   3. Graduate enrollment down but ticking upward, transfers strong, Law School not replacing large graduating class. There is a possibility recent riots may impact freshmen enrollment. However we may ask if it is okay with Faculty if we extend deadlines to ameliorate impact of riots. Outreach to military folks going very well would like to go from 300 to 600 vets.
   4. Budget - had the mid year cuts which have been satisfied; ahead there are more cuts coming. Facilities took $320000 cut and administration took over $600,000 cut, academic affairs  took the least amount of cuts
   5. Regarding the SGA proposal to limit tuition increases, Student government proposal to limit to four percent versus five was scrutinized and he is committed with moving forward on this
   6. President Schmoke sincerely wishes to avoid a five percent tuition increase next year
   7. Governance will not change moving forward, but President Schmoke would like to see a stronger role played by deans in terms of gathering preferences and moving them through the Provost moving forward.
   8. The “Coalition for Education Equity/Excellence” lawsuit. HBCUs lawsuit vs. MHECfor underfunding of HBCUs, inhibiting ability to be distinctive
   9. Lost on underfunding and maintaining separate system
   10. Did however address point on program duplication
   11. This is a complex document and we must understand that a mediator has made recommendations that the parties to the suit are not likely to agree to. These recommendations include:
       1. Morgan merging with UB
       2. Programs might be transferred from UB or prevented from implementing some programs, other schools involved as well
   12. Parties could not come to agreement so mediator made recommendation to court
   13. Has been suggested that Baltimore universities could follow model similar to City University of New York with a single administrative body and separate institutions
   14. UB is not a party to the suit and has not been asked its preferences by USM or MHEC. President Schmoke asks that we don’t jump to conclusions about it at this point in time and will soon send out an email. Text of email (sent 5/6 at 3:09 p.m.) appears below.

**To UB Faculty and Staff:**

As you may be aware, there has been ongoing litigation regarding program duplication and alleged funding disparities in Maryland public higher education. The most recent action – Coalition for Educational Equity and Excellence v. Maryland Higher Education Commission – is currently in mediation. As part of this process, the plaintiffs have crafted a remedy document that was forwarded to the court on Tuesday, May 6.   
Please know that all proposals contained in this document, including and especially those related to the University of Baltimore, are simply one party’s recommendation to the court and are in no way binding.   
We will keep the UB community informed as the mediation phase of this case continues.  
Kurt L. Schmoke  
President

1. Provost’s Update – Provost’s update postponed but main item on agenda for later.
2. **Action Item** - Policy Changes to University Policy on P and T appeals committee
   1. Change in University structure is not reflected officially on the university website for P and T appeals committee
   2. An active appeal exposed this and we had to go by the old policy with three schools
   3. Motion to change the official UB faculty grievance policy to reflect the policy passed in 2013 with the right number of schools and the library
   4. There is a timing issue and semi conflict in dates which is rooted in system policy
   5. Recommend to change policy relative to organizational structure
   6. Motion made to change policy on organizational issues on P and T appeals committee
   7. **Motion passes unanimously**
3. Work Life Committee –
   1. **Action Item** UFS/WLC nominates the following individuals in the categories indicated based upon their charge and on the standards set by the BOR at: <http://www.usmd.edu/usm/academicaffairs/regfac.txt>
      1. Byron Warnken (LAW) for research, scholarship and creative activity
      2. Lisa Stickney (MSB) for teaching
      3. Sasha Sheehan (CPA) for mentoring.
      4. Debra Stanley (CPA) public service.   
         **Motion to forward these names to UB President** **unanimously approved**.
   2. UFS asked UFS/WLC to specifically address the timeliness of nominations and to produce a process which would result in one name per category moving forward. It is noted that while each of the above nominations meets criteria for award, there is not an explicit policy or process recommended by UFS/WLC preventing two names moving forward as recommendations to the President of more than one name per category. Presumably this duty will fall to the UFS unless and until WLC offers an opinion. **Motion supporting this action** **unanimously approved.**
   3. **Action Item**. In its ongoing list of committee charges and other processes and procedures, the UFS asks that the Deans collectively furnish the UFS/WLC a list of recommended faculty for BOR awards by April 1 of each year. The UFS/WLC will take this slate under advisement, with the ability to add to or subtract from this slate in making a recommendation on the BOR awards to UFS at the UFS annual May meeting**. Motion supporting this action** **unanimously approved.**
4. Discussion of Weekend Closing Announcement resolution from CAS.
   1. **Action Item.** UFS fully endorses a resolution from the CAS Faculty Senate requesting that UB administration return to treating weekends the same as weekdays with regard to weather related (and other) closing and delay decisions and announcements. **Motion endorsing this statement** **unanimously approved.**
5. Middle States Update provided by Darlene Smith, Catherine Anderson.
   1. There are a lot of working groups active on this issue
   2. Looking in depth at the fundamental elements. Will continue investigation in the steering committee over the summer
   3. In the fall there will be a comprehensive status report and plan for the coming year
   4. Thanks to Stephanie and Alicia, there is a Middle States website up through the UB provost site
   5. Wished to extend to all the other faculty that have contributed, thanks
6. Discussion of recommendation to President Schmoke of USARC **[Sakai]  
   Motion in UFS made to nominate and identify via e-vote one UFS rep for USARC (with tenure) and 3 alternates unanimously approved.** Discussion included notion that USARC should function immediately while faculty are identified and presented to committee.
7. Discussion of communication to President Schmoke of issues related to digital measures. **[Sakai] Motion to send appropriate letter to President Schmoke asking for bigger role by individual college/school dean’s offices in interpreting and presenting data internally and externally** **unanimously approved**. Discussion about other items of faulty concern regarding Digital Measures and its automated reporting features should be brought to attention of individual deans.
8. **Action Item** UFS Elections – Stanley Kemp.   
   UFS Officers for 2015-2016 AY identified:
   1. **J.C. Weiss – UFS President**
   2. **Stephanie Gibson - UFS Vice President**
   3. **Richard Bucher – UFS Secretary**
   4. There remains an open position for UB CUSF rep next year, as no nominees were received
9. Expanded role for school level administrators to visit online classes. – Discussion led by Provost Wood, discussion seemed in favor of some more ability by Deans’ designees to visit online classes with some restrictions. Formal Motion put forth:  
   Such online access should be treated the same way classroom observations are treated, that is a request shall be made to the instructor prior to access (presumably the request should be accepted).  
   **Motion approved by UFS.**
10. Discussion of GSC Town Hall – Ed Gibson
    1. 60 or more people in the room, well attended
    2. Detailed notes on the budget town hall is on Sakai
    3. Much of the discussion was on the student proposal to reduce the tuition increase
    4. Goal is to elicit work for the budget committee
11. **Action Item** Research Council – items carried over from May meeting. Motions from UFS/Research Council.
    1. MOTION #1: That a new step will be implemented in the process that produces the Accomplishments Report for Academic Affairs, such that the Research Council will review the report and provide feedback before it is disseminated. The Research Council guarantees a response time of two business days.
    2. MOTION #2: That Academic Affairs would collaboratively establish and publish a collection and dissemination schedule for the Accomplishments Report, so faculty and staff can plan and more proactively participate in the Accomplishments Report.
    3. MOTION #3: That the Research Council accept the proposal with one modification, that the Provost would help the select and fund an external facilitator (Option A) to conduct the faculty focus groups. Should this funding not be available, the Research Council would rely on an internal facilitator (Option C). *Note: no option B was specified in the motion*  
       A discussion with the Provost between the UFS/Research Council rep and the UFS resulted in Motions #1 and Motions #2 being endorsed by UFS. **Motion #3 was withdrawn** by the committee bringing it forward. Motion #1 and Motion #2 **unanimously approved**.
12. President Schmoke thanked the UFS for working with him effectively during his first year at UB. President Schmoke thanked former UFS President Dan Gerlowski for his energies and time in office.
13. Motion to adjourn **unanimously approved**. **Meeting adjourned at 130**.

Summary of Major Items

1. Prior meeting minutes and agenda approved.
2. Inclusive of UB Structure required change in Promotion and Tenure Polices and role of UFS/FAC approved. Need to notify President.
3. BOR Faculty Awards and change to workflow of UFS/WLC approved. Need to notify President.
4. Closing announcement for weekends, approved. Need to notify President/Provost/Deans.
5. USARC committee need for representatives, e-vote allowed and required. Need to notify President/Provost/Deans.
6. Information accuracy and information flow regarding Digital Measures, letter to President Schmoke approved. Need to notify President/Provost/Deans.
7. UFS Officer elections approved. Need to notify President/Provost/Deans and other governance bodies.
8. Online class visitations approved. Need to clarify exact language with Provost and Stephanie Gibson and notify President/Provost once clarified.
9. UFS/Research Council two motions approved. Need to notify President/Provost/Deans.