

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes  
February 11, 2014

Senators in attendance included: Gloria Chuku, David Rosenbloom, Phyllis Robinson, Doug Frey (for Maria Castellanos), Doug Hamby, Lisa Dickson, Mavis Sanders, Diane Flint, Robin Farabaugh, Kate Drabinski, Denise Meringolo, Zhiyuan Chen, Linda Aldana, Beverly Bickel, Jacob Kogan, Hal Schreier, Liang Zhu, Donald Snyder, Ana Oskoz, Anna Rubin, Jessica Pfeifer, Markos Georganopoulos, Tom Schaller, Steve Pitts, Lynn Watson and Kelley Bell. President Kathleen Carroll and Vice President Mary Stuart were also present.

Faculty Senate President Kathleen Carroll called the meeting to order. After welcoming senators to the meeting, President Carroll announced that Lynn Knazik will be working full-time with the Faculty Development Center and took a moment to thank her for her service over the past several years. President Carroll introduced Shirley Wissmann who will replace Lynn as the administrative assistant to the Faculty Senate. Lynn and Shirley will shadow each other through February and March as Shirley transitions into the position.

President Hrabowski is currently in a meeting and will join the senate meeting later to present his report.

Provost Rous was present and began his report by commenting that there were five high-level visitors from NIST on campus today. They are currently meeting with Freeman and many of our faculty. They spent at least half the day here. Senators may have noticed that many visits are being arranged with high-level delegations from various federal agencies and from other academic institutions around the country. These visitors are coming to see what we're doing here, both in terms of the way we organize ourselves and our innovation in teaching and learning. They are interested in our research, scholarship and creative activity. The interest has really picked up over the last year and a half and we, particularly Dr. Hrabowski, are working hard to bring as many people to campus as possible to meet with our faculty and to learn about UMBC. These visits also will give us the opportunity to think about how we might work with, collaborate with, and obtain external funding from these agencies.

The Provost had a number of things to talk about, beginning with the FY2015 budget. He reminded senators that the governor sends his budget, which includes the budget for the USM, to the legislature for discussion and modification. The legislature can only modify the budget by removing or cutting items. Toward the end of the semester, the budget will be finalized and we'll be able to build our FY15 budget.

Because of the Federal sequestration there is a revenue shortfall in FY14 and a subsequent cut to the USM budget. We hope to retain our base budget. Of the \$25 million roughly 10% is UMBC's projected giveback. We received a little bump up in last year's budget and are slipping back a little. However, this is much better than 2007 when we were making cuts to base. There is good news. The enhancement monies are in the base budget again this year and there is a 2.5% merit pool as of July 1. Provost Rous ended the budget update by promising that he would keep senators updated.

We are monitoring two bills in the legislature. Senate Bill 169 (SB169) is just out of committee. It would permit HBCIs to object to existing programs in the USM, a departure from the old policy under which institutions could only object to new programs. Senate Bill 647 (SB647) concerns use of state funds to support, directly or indirectly, academic boycotts against other countries by professional associations. Recently the National American Studies Association boycotted Israeli academic institutions because of the Palestinian situation. This is a serious bill and comes with penalties. Dr. Hrabowski will discuss this further with his report but the bill does have an impact on academic freedom.

We recently received results of a national student engagement survey of freshmen and seniors. The survey is done every two years and looks at academic challenge, the quality of faculty-student interactions, campus environment, and whether or not that environment is supportive of students. UMBC is at or above our peers in many, but not all, of the categories. This is good news because we did not do well several years ago. For purposes of this survey our peers are smaller, liberal arts institutions. The survey is looking at practices that encourage student success and asking students if these are present at their institution. Michael Dillon did a presentation on this and would be happy to bring it to the senate, if members were interested.

The provost thanked everyone who was involved in the fall planning process. The Steering Committee is working on the vision statement. Focus areas have been determined and groups of faculty, staff and students will be working on them. Based on the input from the fall meetings, four focus areas were chosen. These are:

- The Student Experience
- Innovative Curriculum and Pedagogy
- Collective Impact in Research, Scholarship, and Creative Achievement
- Community and Extended Connection

Student Experience is a critical area. Student life may come to mind but it is much more. We are really thinking about the entire student experience including, interactions, diversity, co-curricular activities, student affairs and academic affairs. Part of this is competitive pressures like the growth of online programs now and in the future. What will distinguish UMBC from these is the student experience.

The fourth focus area is fairly broad working with local, state and global communities to think about our curriculum, engaged scholarship, etc.

The *Princeton Review* once again selected UMBC as one of the top 75 Best Value Colleges. We received that distinction in 2008, 2009, 2011 and 2013.

Joan Shin and Jodi Crandall received the 2013 Ben Warren International House Trust Prize for their book *Teaching Young Learners English*. This is a very prestigious award.

Many of our faculty have reached out through TV and radio. C-Span taped one of Dr. Rubin's lectures in her Civil War and Reconstruction class. Kate Drabinski of Gender and Women's Studies was a guest on WYPR and reflected on Elizabeth Cady Stanton's role in history. Media

and communication studies student Ken Corbett is an intern for WYPR's *Maryland Morning* and produced and narrated a story about Billie Holiday that aired in January. Glenn Wolfe of JCET was in the Baltimore Sun. He will be joining a team of international researchers who are studying how the western Pacific Ocean shapes the Earth's climate. Kenneth Gibbs (Meyerhoff 13) was published an article in *Science Magazine* on planning a career in today's landscape. One of biologist Tom Cronin's favorite sea critters, the mantis shrimp, was the Absurd Creature of the Week in *WIRED science*. The mantis shrimp have compound eyes and some can see a variety of colors in ultraviolet. Director of the UMBC Center for Cybersecurity and CSEE Professor Anupam Joshi discussed the possible consequences of the Target data breach in video reports for both ABC and NBC.

This concluded the Provost's Report.

The meeting minutes for November and December were approved without correction or addition.

Faculty Senate President, Kathleen Carroll began the President's Report with a reminder to senators that Employee Assistance Program services are now available to all USM employees. The EAP can provide a variety of work/life services. For more information, contact Human Resources.

The deadline for Hrabowski Innovation Fund Proposals is Friday, Feb 14th. Contact Linda Hodges ([lhodges@umbc.edu](mailto:lhodges@umbc.edu)) in the Faculty Development Center for relevant information and forms.

The President's Council received a presentation on the *HackUMBC*, Hackathon organized by Perry Ogwuche. This was a 24-hour marathon of student groups to develop software apps for the theme of improving student life here at UMBC. Three student groups presented the apps they have developed from participation in this event. One app used map coordinates to allow users to find available parking spaces in real time. Another app provided a way to facilitate exchanges of used textbooks by linking student buyers and sellers on campus via email. The third app was the development of a system to link students with common interests and varying skill sets for working on group projects. These were quite impressive and just a small sampling of some of the projects that came out of this event. There is hope to hold additional hackathons, perhaps annually if sponsors can be found.

Tanvi Ghadia, Sustainability Coordinator in the Office of Administration & Finance, invites interested faculty to join them at the Green Office and RecycleMania Staff Luncheon on Wednesday, Feb 26<sup>th</sup>, from 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. in the UC Ballroom. The luncheon is open to all staff and faculty who are interested in learning recycling and energy saving tips, or are curious about the green office program. If interested, please register by Feb 20th at <http://my.umbc.edu/groups/sustainability/events/22854>.

This concluded the Report of the Faculty Senate President. The Faculty Senate Executive Committee report was next.

President Carroll noted that senators had received electronically the names of Jessica Pfeifer (Philosophy) and J. Lynn Watson (Theater), nominated to replace At-Large members of Executive Committee Daniel Ritschel (HIST) and Carolyn Forestiere (POLI) who are on sabbatical leave during Spring 2014. Senate approval is required. A vote to approve these nominees was unanimous FOR them.

The ad hoc committee for +/- grading has been meeting and expects to bring a proposal to Senate for discussion and eventual vote during this Spring 2014 semester.

With regard to the Preschool building, a mold specialist confirmed that mold was found behind walls over the entire perimeter of the building. Determination of requirements for correction and cost estimates are in progress.

The committee charged with examining new course evaluation instruments reported that preliminary information subsequent to the pilot program of the SIR II instrument indicates some concerns. The committee continues to evaluate the SIR II and is also looking into alternative instruments and plans to provide a report to the Faculty Affairs Committee soon.

UMBC Administration consulted with the Executive Committee on the ASA boycott. The response that Freeman has taken is consistent with that of the AAUP, which was unfavorable to a boycott of any academic institutions but strongly in favor of academic freedom and open scholarly inquiry. Recent updates indicate that USM campuses have generally taken this same position.

The Executive Committee is examining some issues with the DP&TC reports in order to provide guidance to Faculty Affairs on their reconsideration of a motion returned to them by Senate last May. We are in the process of getting additional information to assist us in this important task.

We are also in discussion with the administration on the issue of pressure enrollments due to high demand and waitlist procedures. This was the main topic last week's Executive Committee Tea. Yvette Mozie-Ross gave an informative presentation on the procedures and practices related to monitoring and dealing with pressure enrollments. Requests to deal with pressure enrollment in a course come from the relevant department and are considered by a committee. The committee makes recommendations to the Provost for relief of pressure enrollments problems with priority to critical courses, such as those that may be required for graduation. The Administration is working hard to meet pressure enrollment demands. The Provost stated that in his tenure he has only turned two requests back to the departments and approved all other requests and one of those turned back was subsequently approved. Faculty are encouraged to use waitlists. These serve as an indicator of pressure enrollments that the Administration is monitoring. Bypassing the waitlist system to let a student into a class can muddy this signal and faculty sometimes personally interact with students who need a particular course to complete their degree. The discussion will continue

Dean Casper gave a presentation on Performing Arts Experience/Opportunities for students. This is an effort to take advantage of the wonderful facilities of PAHB and possibly develop events

and artist series to promote the education and exposure of our students in performing arts. Dean Casper indicated that suggestions and ideas are welcome.

Bruce Walz provided the APB Committee report. APB is continuing to monitor the budget. In the broad picture it is not as bad as originally thought. Dean Casper also spoke to APB about how best to use the facilities in the PAHB. APB will continue to work with him and departments housed in the building.

The Faculty Affairs Committee report was next. Prior to the meeting senators received electronically the motion that Faculty Affairs is bringing to Faculty Senate for vote. This motion was originally brought to the Senate last October as an information item. It was inadvertently missed in the vote on motions from FAC at the November meeting, and lacking a quorum in December due to adverse weather we were unable to bring this to vote. Senators were asked if they had questions or comments on the motion. Seeing none President Carroll called for a vote. The motion was approved unanimously by a show of hands.

Faculty Affairs Committee Chair, Anna Rubin, reported that the committee has decided to review departmental workload policies for transparency. Departments are being contacted for copies of their policies. Senator Kogan commented that his department is working on their workload policy and asked if he could get copies of the policies being collected by the committee. Dr. Rubin responded in the affirmative.

Marv Mandell distributed the Graduate Council report to senators. The council conducted routine business, including a number of course and graduate faculty proposals. The Council also approved the MPS in Health Information Technology at its December meeting.

Senate President Carroll provided the report of the University Steering Committee at the request of Mary Stuart, Vice President. Senators were provided with a copy of the Shared Governance Plan of Organization prior to the meeting. Due to lack of a quorum at the December meeting, the plan did not come to a vote. President Carroll responded to a question raised at the November meeting concerning the absence of the General Education Committee (GEC) and Writing Board from the plan. She explained that the plan only includes standing University committees, so neither the GEC nor the Writing Board in its current status can be included. Also, committees of the individual Senates are not part of the plan, which is the reason that Faculty Senate committees are not included. Each Senate is being asked to approve the Shared Governance Plan of Organization. Once approved it goes back to the University Steering Committee, which considers all changes and forwards the amended plan to General Counsel and to President's Council for final approval. Senators had no questions and did not propose any corrections to the plan. A vote by show of hands was taken and the plan approved unanimously.

The report of the UFRC was next. Vice Provost Patrice McDermott explained that a member of the UFRC was unable to complete his term of service and senators were being asked to vote to approve Professor Osman Güler (Mathematics and Statistics) as a replacement member. There were no questions or comments. Because this was an uncontested election a vote by show of hands was taken. It was unanimous, FOR.

Dr. Hrabowski arrived and gave the President's Report. He began with the American Studies Association boycott of Israeli academic institutions and asked senators to support their colleagues in the American Studies Department at UMBC. He noted that our position is consistent with the AAUP position and the president of Hopkins wrote a piece similar to one he wrote. A number of Jewish groups have written to congratulate him on the position but some others feel we have not done enough and should not support faculty membership in the association. His response is that this is not the way we do business. He added that we have a partnership with Israeli institutions. There is a bill prohibiting the use of state funds for support of associations that mount academic boycotts before the legislature and Dr. Hrabowski has met with a number of senators and members of the House. He appreciates the counsel he received from members of Executive Committee following Commencement and reaffirmed that this is an important issue.

Senate Bill 169 would give HBCIs an opportunity to take other institutions to court over existing and new programs being offered. This is a difficult situation and we'd like to avoid having our hands tied further. When asked about the rationale for this bill, Dr. Hrabowski explained that the view of the HBCIs is that they were discriminated against for so long that they are still at a disadvantage. In part, his argument is that currently HBCIs receive more money per student than UMBC does.

The planned interdisciplinary sciences building has been pushed back a year. Dr. Hrabowski is working with the legislature so that we get planning money soon. Also he is working on the issue of increased funding per student.

In conclusion, Dr. Hrabowski announced that Stephanie C. Hill, a 1986 UMBC graduate in Computer Science and Economics, was honored as the 2014 Black Engineer of the Year.

The General Education Committee (GEC) report was next. Chair Marilyn Goldberg reported that the GEC application website is still difficult to use. The GEC has met with the Registrar and the Writing Board. Shirley Wissmann will be the GEC administrative assistant as soon as she gets the Senate under her belt so that the committee will have support. As far as the website is concerned, new catalog management software, **Acalog** will give us a printable catalog and, according to her notes should be in place this month. The next piece is **Curriculog**, the package that will create the workflow between UGC, First Year Seminars (FYS), writing intensive courses and GEP courses so we will have a functioning, integrated process. Curriculog is supposed to go live at the end of the Fall 2014 semester.

The GEC has made minor edits and formatting changes to the culture definition approved by the Faculty Senate last year. This was done to make the definition fit with current catalog language. Senators received a copy of the revised definition in advance of the meeting. There were no questions or comments about the revised description. By a show of hands, the senate voted unanimously to approve the changed culture description.

This concluded the committee reports.

Nancy Young updated the Senate on the Smoke Free Campus policy. The USM Smoking policy was implemented on campus with two designated smoking areas and some hired outside help as advocated by the campus senates and community members who attended focus groups. The good news is that we have a very cooperative campus community and although we may still have some people smoking in cars, for the most part in the main areas of campus we've seen very little smoking. In fact, although many warnings have been issued, no actual tickets with fines have been given. That speaks to the success we are having here on campus.

To address complaints of problems from smoke entering the building from the designated smoking area near the Fine Arts building, the location will be moved to an area near the parking lot above Fine Arts by the police station, as soon as the new pavilions arrive. It will be close to one of the walkways to and from campus but can be avoided by parking and walking away from it. Dr. Young asked Senators for patience while the change is being made. The committee has looked hard to find acceptable places that will encourage compliance. Designated smoking areas have to be away from buildings and walkways but located centrally so that smokers will comply. They also must be safe places that are wheelchair accessible. There is almost no place on campus that meets all of these requirements. There was significant conversation about getting rid of it entirely, but we felt it was being used enough and if we removed it enforcing compliance would be more difficult. The committee decided that at least until people were used to a non-smoking campus, the area would be continued. If complaints continue, a different solution will be found. When asked to clarify the new location of the smoking area, Dr. Young explained that the committee has proposed the new location and Facilities Management is studying it, but has not confirmed the precise location. There were no further questions.

Craig Saper, Chair of LLC, spoke to Senators about multimodal scholarship at UMBC, noting that it was already going on. For example, the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences (CAHSS) is working to figure out ways to publish faculty projects, as a sort of public scholarship, so that they will reach new audiences. An essential part of that consideration has to include the new tools we have developed over the last thirty years. He asked Senators to consider the idea of a multimodal press, perhaps a university press that would be centered at UMBC and noted that we've already partnered with a consortium that would manage the infrastructure, including things like prestigious peer review, etc. He illustrated his point by showing a slide of a project he worked on that was funded by the NEH and NEA and noted that although these projects are often funded, they don't necessarily get the scholarly respect that they deserve. There's a lot of money in the humanities for projects that are in the digital humanities. He asked senators to consider that we not discriminate against the multimodal and not think of the market control of "printed on paper" as the thing that we're selling but rather the marketplace of ideas. Dr. Saper illustrated his point by showing slides of other projects, including one called Open Humanities Press, which is a very prestigious international press concerned with making scholarship open. He noted that the UK is passing laws to make it so that all scholarship must be open if it has any state funding behind it and that he expects it is a precursor to what we will see.

In speaking to the question of legitimacy, Dr. Saper showed a slide of some of the organizations that have spoken out and released memos of understanding as well as selected American institutions that have supported multimodal scholarship. He added that although there are 10,000

new electronic journals, most people would dismiss the idea saying it doesn't have legitimacy, which is a falsehood.

In conclusion Dr. Saper said that he has a slideshow on multimodal scholarship that he's happy to bring to departments or campus groups and then asked for questions. In response to a request to clarify his thinking aloud, Dr. Saper replied that given there are already 10,000 electronic journals we probably don't want to compete on that level. Instead he is suggesting the book equivalent which he believes is much more important in the humanities than in the social sciences or the sciences, noting that it is a different metric of assessment. The gold standard in the humanities has been the book and what he's suggesting is something that's peer-reviewed and as legitimate as a university press book. Most of the university presses have a huge infrastructure of printing books on paper and it doesn't make sense because we have these incredible computational tools that can't be used for promotion and tenure cases. UMBC should open a conversation with the consortium of universities that is starting something called *Anvil Academics*, funded by Mellon and other foundations, to basically have them create the infrastructure of a university press. President Carroll commented that it was her understanding that some of these multimodal projects are actually interactive and given that it is virtually impossible to put them into standard book form. The actual projects that are getting done don't lend themselves to that format and by limiting ourselves to thinking in terms of the traditional form we are not giving credence to some very scholarly work. Dr. Saper agreed and added that his colleagues in other colleges already know that the computational tools like databases don't make sense if you try to put them in a book. So what we are talking about is a redefinition of scholarship to catch up with development over the last thirty years. After thanking Dr. Saper for this presentation, Senator Bell commented that the project she's working on with Professor Rubin is a good example because the website, which is available free to everybody, is seen as a sort of companion piece to the text. The book and the website are separate but come together as a single work of research that needs to be taken seriously. In conclusion, Dr. Saper added that this is what he'd like the Faculty Senate and all faculty to consider. It was 1995 when the web was generally available and we should take that seriously in terms of publication as well. Dr. Saper offered to send the URLs of a project he's working on so that senators could see the whole idea illustrated. He also provided his email, [csaper@umbc.edu](mailto:csaper@umbc.edu), for anyone with questions or comments.

There was no Old Business to conduct.

In New Business, Senators received electronic copies of the proposed MPS in Health Information Technology in advance of the meeting. Both APB and the Graduate Council have approved this proposal. Dean DeVries and Aryya Gangopadhyay were present to discuss the proposed track and answer questions or concerns.

Dean DeVries specified that this was a track rather than a new program and President Carroll asked for clarification. The dean explained that a track is a concentration within a program rather than a new program. The MPS program is done in partnership with the Division of Professional Studies. Dr. Rutledge expanded on that by explaining there is a template for the MPS which is structured as one program with multiple tracks. If approved, Health Information Technology would be the newest of these tracks. All tracks have core courses. Because these



are tracks within an existing program, only campus approval is necessary. In response to a question concerning staffing which included a Program Director, Senator Pitts noted that using “program” rather than “track” is a matter of convenience because that term is more familiar, particularly to students. A senator inquired if the program would be operated here or on the Shady Grove Campus. Dean DeVries noted that the intention is to do it here.

There were no further questions or comments. In a show of hands the vote was 25 Senators FOR and 1 abstention. The MPS in Health Information Technology was approved.

There was no other business and the meeting was adjourned.