

University of Maryland Staff Senate  
Open Meeting Minutes  
Howard Hall 520  
July 5, 2007

Chair Kenneth Fahnestock called the meeting to order at 12 Noon.

**I. Roll Call**

**Present** – Ken Fahnestock, Roy Ross, Dave Delooze, Shannon Cooper, Liz Casher, Jill Venezian, Danielle Brown, Phyllis Lovito, Debbie Horstman, Bill Crockett, Sharon Andres, John Barber, Colette Becker, Denisha Pendleton, Aphrodite Bodycomb, Kiscia Cannon.

**Excused** –, Libby Guarnera, Tom McHugh, Andrea Lefever, Jean Marie Roth, Dionne Washington, William Griffin, John McNair

**II. Remarks from the Chair**

Ken expressed sincere thanks for the outgoing Staff Senators and thanked them for their various years of service to this body. Names of those who have served and stepped down included Denisha Pendelton, Jessica Bird and Lauren Fusillo.

Ken then offered a hearty welcome to the newly elected Senators and thanked them for their interest and participation in the Staff Senate.

Ken announced that we actually have all 14 Exempt seats filled with 3 alternates. We also have all 4 non-exempt seats filled with 1 alternate.

**III. Executive Committee did not meet with Human Resources.  
Executive Committee did not meet with President Ramsay**

**Executive Committee meeting was held on 6/29/07:**

Meeting room for July meeting needed to be determined because of unavailability of normal HSF room. Howard Hall 520 was booked in the event we could not get the Distance Learning center room.

Ken to contact Officer Griffin and John McNair to attend the July meeting.

Ken to send out letter from outgoing CUSS Chair concerning shared governance.

Bill to update Bylaws to reflect new distribution of Senators and provide to Colette to post to the website.

Need to develop MTA survey for distribution for additional zone usage to determine if the University will allow pre-taxed deductions for MTA commuters.

Discussion of upcoming elections for executive committee, standing committees and CUSS Representatives. Plan for August determined Staff Senate committee members and Chairs.

### **Committee Reports**

**Campus Life** – Aphrodite has a letter that is approved to be sent to Dr. Ramsay regarding 10% child care opportunities. Executive Committee will follow-up.

**By-Laws** – No Report

**Policy/Legislation** – For the upcoming year a possible budget deficit of \$1.4 billion dollars has been predicted. As required by state law, the budget must be balanced. The Department of Legislative Services has presented a 60 page report to the following committees: June 27, 2007

Budget and Tax, Appropriations and Ways and Means.

Recommendations include reducing the state work force, cuts to major programs, cuts to local governments and possible tax increases.

For the USM, funding would remain at the current level with a small increase to cover tuition costs that have been frozen.

No cost of living adjustments. No funds for merit increases.

Note: A recommendation to not fund retiree prescription subsidy and retiree health insurance has been suggested. These folks would be required to participate in Medicare plan D. This is only for those who would qualify for the Medicare D benefit.

The Commission to Develop the Maryland Model for Funding Higher Education, Chaired by Senator Patrick Hogan (an advocate and ally of Higher Ed) is working to find a continuous year to year approach for funding higher education at the required levels to support continued growth in future years.

We will follow these and other items of interest closely throughout the coming year.

**Community Outreach** – No Report

**Communications/Nominations** – Elections went well and there was a vast improvement in the number of nominees and the voting across the campus. The results were obvious in the number of seats filled and alternates that we have this year. Next newsletter will be finalized and issues soon.

- **CUSS** – Discussed the Lauer letter to Dr. Kirwan regarding shared governance. There is a concern that such a concept is losing power as evident by the number of campuses that either have little representation of it is no existent. It is our duty to offer opinion and to discuss issues that our staff have at UMB to insure that we maintain a strong presence and let everyone know that we take the idea of Shared Governance seriously and passionately.

## **Standing Committees**

**Special Events** – Kiscia - No Report

**IT Steering** – Bill – In the month of June, two meetings were held in which special guests (in IT) presented latest trends and happenings in higher education. This is part of the “Active Pioneers IT Lecture Series”.

On June 6, 2007: Steve Worona, Director of Policy and Networking Programs at Educause, created Cornell University’s first campus-wide information system and online counseling service presented a discussion about identity management systems and single log-in protocols.

On June 18, 2007: Dr. E. Michael Staman (Macon State University) recently published a feature article entitled, “Convergence is Real” in the March/April issue of Educause Review, which has a circulation of more than 20,000. He discussed this article as well as the recent VoIP trends on campuses.

**HS/HSL** – No Report

**Parking** – No Report

**Safety and Awareness** – No Senate representation

## **IV. Old Business**

MTA survey needs to be developed to poll the faculty and staff for usage of zones 2 and 3 to see if we can provide 50 riders from each zone to have the monthly passes pre-taxed and payroll deducted for the employees who can take advantage of what riders in Zone 1 currently enjoy.

Additional discussion on the FY08 parking increase of \$2.50 was offered for the new Senators to understand the process and our role as the Staff Senate and as members of this standing committee.

## **V. New Business**

Executive committee elections

Chair	Vice Chair	Secretary	Past Chair
Ken Fahnestock	Colette Becker	Phyllis Lovito	Bill Crockett

Motion to discuss the addition of an “At Large” position to the Executive Committee was made by Bill Crockett. This position was part of the Staff Senate at one time and now that we have a full compliment of Senators, we would like to bring it back. Motion was seconded by Dave DeLooze. We will need to ratify the Bylaws and vote at the August 2007 meeting.

CUSS representatives were elected.

Exempt – Dave DeLooze

Non-Exempt – John Barber

At Large – Roy Ross

Alternates – Sharon Andres, Colette Becker and Debbie Horstman

No other business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth Fahnestock

Fill in Secretary