

University of Maryland, Baltimore Staff Senate
Open Meeting Minutes
December 6, 2007
HSFI 516

Roll Call:

Present: Sharon Andres, John Barber, Danielle Brown, Colette Becker, Aphrodite Bodycomb, Liz Casher, Kiscia Cannon, Shannon Cooper, Bill Crockett, Michael Crowe, Dave DeLooze, Ken Fahnestock, Libby Guarnera, William Griffin, Phyllis Lovito, Tom McHugh, Jill Venezian, Dionne Washington.

Excused Senators: Debbie Hortsman, Roy Ross

Alternates: Jean Marie Roth, John McNair

Ken called the meeting to order at 12:05 PM and asked for the Roll Call.

Minutes: The motion was made by Dave DeLooze, seconded by Jill Venezian and carried to approve the Minutes of the November 1, 2007 meeting as submitted.

Ken introduced guests from the Student Government Association - Jessie O'Kane (President) and Andrew York who presented the following information about environmental issues.

The University Student Government Association is collaborating with the Graduate School Environmental Action Coalition and the Maryland Environmental Law Society in an effort to raise awareness about environmental issues and support policies that steer UMB towards carbon neutrality. To this end, these students are garnering signatures from faculty, staff, and students on petitions and letters of support from VIPs and organizations (including the staff senate). These efforts are in conjunction with state wide efforts undertaken by student volunteers from 12 of the 13 UMB campuses. For example, CUSS has offered to write a letter of endorsement. The petitions and letters will be submitted to the Board of Regents for their February meeting to illustrate the support throughout the state. The UMB campaign also aims to educate the campus about the current environmentally friendly efforts on campus, including the recycling upgrades set to go into effect in late January. More information can be found on the student government website. <http://www.umaryland.edu/usga/documents%2007-08/Climate%20Campaign>

Motion was made by Bill Crockett and seconded by Phyllis Lovito that the Staff Senate fully supports and endorses the student government association effort to raise awareness about environmental issues.

The motion was carried and approved with none abstaining.

Remarks from the Executive Committee (Ken Fahnestock):

Meeting with Dr. Ramsay -

There was a very complex "Closed-Door" process during the special legislative session.

Dr. Ramsay indicated that (at the present time) the 2% COLA and 2.5% merit was back on the table.

The Administration building is on schedule and due to open Oct 08.

The new recycling plan will be going into effect soon. It will include plastic, glass and metal.

UMB will be expected to participate in a system-wide green plan for the future.

HSF 3 is moving forward with an estimated \$380 million price tag

Action was taken on the request for help with the pre and post-award processes on campus.

Letters were written by Jim Hill and Jim Hughes to Dr. Ramsay responding to our initial inquiry.

Ken to send letters to Staff Senators.

Meeting with HR - Cancelled

Committee Reports:

Campus Life - Aphrodite Bodycomb (Chair)

Aphrodite reported that The Campus Life Committee is waiting for Dr. Ramsay to respond to the child care discount proposal letter. Their next focus will be parking in relation to where people work and safety while walking around the campus.

Policy and Legislation No report

Communication and Nomination

- Senate Connection newsletter has not been distributed to staff yet.
- Cuss Newsletter - needs to be distributed to staff on UMB campus.
- Staff Senate nominations will be called in April.

Community Outreach- Tom, Liz & Libby

- Group is soliciting outerwear for Baltimore School age children (K -12). Boxes have been placed in prime locations for collection. A good number of new and gently used coats, hats, gloves, scarves, etc. have been collected. Boxes will be removed on December 7th.
- Another games night is being planned for the spring at the Ronald McDonald House. Tentative dates have been discussed.

CUSS: John Barber, Colette Becker

Place: UMUC

Date: November 13, 2007

The CUSS membership invited Kelly Baker, representing the Maryland Student Climate Coalition (MSCC), to make a presentation to CUSS about the Coalition. Ms. Baker is asking the Council to support their Carbon Neutral Campaign. After Ms. Baker's presentation CUSS discussed issues such as teleworking and other ways that staff can reduce our carbon imprint. Because the staff and students share many of the same environmental concerns, CUSS voted to supply Ms. Baker and her group with a letter of support.

CUSS also discussed the possibility of having a joint meeting of the Council of University System Faculty (CUSF) and CUSS. A meeting will be scheduled for January in College Park. There issues such as USM Green Initiative, Shared Governance issues, tuition remission/dependents and the new FY09 budget will be discussed. It is hoped that Dr. Kirwan or someone from the USM office will join us for this meeting.

Campus Committee Reports:

Special Events:

- Cookbooks are still for sale - will make excellent Christmas Gifts.
- Black History, Women's History and the MLK programs are being planned. Mayor Sheila Dixon will be the speaker for the MLK program.
- Thought of having a market place during the women's history celebration has been discussed.
- Diversity Awards - January 18th deadline for submissions.

IT: - No report

Library: No meeting - no report

Parking: No meeting - no report

Safety Awareness:

There was no safety meeting prior to the Staff Senate meeting in December, however, Jill asked that this summary be included in these minutes.

SUMMARY OF JANUARY 3, 2008, CAMPUS SAFETY MEETING

Chief Cleveland A. Barnes, Jr. stressed several issues at the January 3, 2008, Campus Safety meeting:

Crime statistics

Chief Barnes reported that campus crime statistics last year were the lowest in his thirty-eight years on campus. In December, there were a total of seven (7) crimes: two robberies, one non-aggravated assault, and four thefts. Along the same lines, the police are undertaking new crime initiatives and vacancies on the force are being filled.

Chief Barnes also gave more details of the recent armed robbery in Penn Garage that netted about \$6000 in cash. He stated that robbery is on the rise and encouraged all to be aware of their surroundings and take advantage of the escort service to traverse the campus. He repeated the advice to give up your possessions when accosted rather than giving up your life.

One card

Chief Barnes repeated his advice that if your ID card is lost or stolen, to be sure to report the disappearance to both Auxiliary Services and Public Safety, as stated on the back of the cards. By reporting the loss of your card to campus police, you may find it there in the lost and found box and save paying a \$20 replacement charge.

Some found cards, are never turned in, however, as ingenious thieves paste on their own pictures to get campus access.

Camera system on campus

The cameras on campus are being replaced and will be operational by spring.

ATM Safety Tips

1. Avoid using isolated ATM's or ones where suspicious-looking individuals are lurking nearby.
2. Check that others in line keep an acceptable distance away from you.
3. Shield the keypad when keying in your PIN (Personal Identification Number).
4. If you have problems in performing a transaction, be leery of overly helpful people who come to your rescue. They may be trying to ascertain your PIN.
5. If the ATM does not work properly, report the problem to the bank or financial institution immediately.

Best wishes to all for 2008,

Old Business:

- Name plaques for new senators have been distributed.

New Business:

- Maryland Charities Campaign raised \$433,800.00

There was no other new business.

Adjournment: Ken reminded all Senators that our next Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 10th, 2008 in HSF I 516 (12:00 - 1:30). The meeting was adjourned at 1:30PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Phyllis Lovito
Secretary/Treasurer