

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes September 8, 2020

Senators in attendance included: T. Robinson, M. Jones-Lewis, K. Omland, M. Castellanos, J. Liebman, C. Menyuk, A. Sofie Clemmenson, C. Viauroux, S. Sauro, D. Flint, T. Olson, M. Shomali, M. Fagan, M. Kars, A. Everhart, S. Yohannes, B. Bickel, M. Rathinam, H. Schreier, W. Zhu, L. Patton, R. Lambert-Bretiere, L. Dusman, M. Nance, J. Kestner, W. Blake, D. Alonso, P. Bennett, A. Ekas-Mueting, T. Yamashita, N. Sinnott, K. O'Dell, Orienne Smith, and S. McDonough were in attendance.

Other attendees: President Hrabowski, Provost Rous, W. LaCourse, V. Sipe, A. Wayman, R. Forno, A. Plaisance, C. Sheffield, R. Bennett, N. Young, P. Dawson, E. MacDougall, L. Schaefer, A. Moreira, D. Beatty, P. McDermott, E. Feeser, C. Nicholas, K. Bowman, S. Pitts, J. Suess, D. Gregg, C. Dodson-Reed, R. Chen, K. Moffitt, K. Dettloff, D. Bradley, J. Rutledge, K. Steiner, C. Steele, K. Cole, A. Arnold, and E. Lavik.

I. Call to Order

President Smith called the meeting to order. She welcomed the senators and thanked them for their work over the summer months and their efforts to share the questions, feedback and suggestions of faculty in their departments with the administration. President Smith introduced herself for those who were new in attendance, noting that this was the official opening meeting for the AY 20-21.

President Smith noted that these are difficult times and reminded the senators that she and the Vice-President, Susan McDonough, are here to support the senators and the faculty they represent.

Dr. Smith and Dr. McDonough wanted to acknowledge that this meeting is taking place during the National Scholars Strike “initiated by higher education colleagues to call awareness to the race climate in America and the rash of police shootings and racialized violence”. She stated that “We stand in solidarity with our colleagues participating in this activity and appreciate the daily efforts on this campus to keep this commitment at the forefront of our awareness.”

Susan McDonough, Vice President, will serve as timekeeper and will monitor the “chat box” to assure that all questions are brought forward. She will announce when time limits have been reached and will take note should there be queries regarding our process and procedures. The chat function is for senators interested in posing a question or comment during the Q/A. Dr. McDonough will recognize senators in the order in which these requests are made.

Today we will be attempting to utilize the poll function in Webex. President Smith asked for patience while we attempt to navigate through this.

The votes will be on the slate of new members for the Faculty Senate committees and the dates for the schedule for the senate meetings this year. There are also two items in the “Unfinished Business” section that will be voted on as well.

Ms. Drohan will post the poll and the results and President Smith requested that “non-senators” either refrain from voting or identify themselves as well in the poll as “not a senator”. Senators who are calling on their phones have been instructed to cast votes by email and sent them to Ms. Drohan. These votes will be counted in the published minutes.

Finally, this meeting will be recorded.

The senators received a copy of the proposed agenda prior to the meeting. There were no objections to the agenda and the agenda was approved unanimously.

II. President’s Remarks

President Hrabowski expressed his sincere appreciation for everyone attending the meeting and especially pointing out President Smith and Vice President McDonough for their perseverance with upholding shared governance on campus.

President Hrabowski shared with the senators that they will be receiving updates on budget and enrollment and how teaching and learning is evolving on our campus because of the necessity for virtual learning.

He stated that although the UMBC community misses being on campus we have prioritized safety in our re-opening plans. President Hrabowski thanked the members of the Fall Planning Committee for their efforts.

President Hrabowski announced that UMBC has acquired the former Catonsville District Courthouse building on Walker Avenue, located on land designated as part of the original UMBC campus in 1965. In approximately six months the State of Maryland will transfer the building and surrounding land to the University System of Maryland for the use and benefit of UMBC.

President Hrabowski pointed out the ongoing need to combat structural racism in our country. He noted that our newly formed Equity and Inclusion Council, comprised of faculty, staff and students, is working on a number of important initiatives. He stated that even though UMBC has always been a university that is willing to tackle the difficult problems, “success is never final.” Dr. Hrabowski emphasized that our collective efforts on this front are ongoing and that each of us has an important role to play in combating social injustice and structural racism.

He concluded his remarks by pointing out the accomplishments of UMBC alumni during the pandemic, specifically Dr. Kizzmekia Corbett, and her work on the

COVID-19 vaccine development and Dr. Kaitlyn Sadtler, who is currently the Chief of the Section for Immunoengineering at the NIBIB, leading the study on asymptomatic patients.

Comment: “Thank you for this. The Equity and Inclusion Council will be an important and timely intervention in addressing structural racism.”

Question: “The acquisition of the District Courthouse is exciting. What role will shared governance play in discussing its use?”

Response: “I appreciate your question. The President of Faculty Senate is on the President’s Council, which will provide input, and we have a steering committee that will also be involved in these decisions. This will be a multi-year process, and everything has slowed down because of budgetary issues. We will be taking into consideration existing needs as well as retrofitting new initiatives. I’m glad that shared governance will be involved. President Smith and Vice President McDonough are strong representatives and we have a great Executive Committee that is very much appreciated.”

President Hrabowski ended his comments with “Keep hope alive!”

III. Provost’s Remarks

Provost Rous addressed the senators. He thanked the faculty and their departments for their continued spirit and diligence throughout the pandemic and during these very stressful and challenging times.

He also expressed his appreciation for President Smith, Vice President McDonough, the Executive Committee, and the department chairs, noting the hard work of the chairs and their efforts in facilitating the Fall re-opening.

Provost Rous shared the Day 5 enrollment numbers with the senators, noting that our enrollment rate of first year students is very close to what it was last year.

	Fall 2020	
New Freshman Students:	-1.7%	-29 students
New Transfer Students:	-9.5%	-104 students
New Graduate Students:	-11.1%	-84 students
Total Undergraduate Students:	-1.4%	-155 students
Total Graduate Students:	+1.5%	+38 students

Answer: “I’d like to check with our medical staff to provide a concrete answer and will share the answer with President Smith.”

Dr. Young noted that their team is being as responsive as possible in their approach. One thing that they intend to do is targeted sampling as well as over-sampling to ensure that they are capturing the most accurate data.

IV. Budget Update

Kathy Detloff, Associate Vice Provost for Financial Services, provided a brief financial update and supplied a presentation (provided to the senators electronically).

She emphasized the guiding principles that have underwritten all budgetary considerations. These guiding principles are:

- No regular employee will be laid off, if at all possible.
- Reduce the number of budgeted positions by eliminating vacant positions.
- Ensure students continue to have a distinctive experience centered on their success and well-being.

V. Approval of the August 11, 2020, Faculty Senate Minutes

The senators received an electronic copy of the August 11th meeting minutes and they were approved unanimously without changes.

VI. Report of the Faculty Senate President

A. Housekeeping

1. Plan of Organization for the Senates of UMBC, Faculty Senate by-laws, Robert’s Rules

President Smith provided the senators with an updated Plan of Organization for the Senates of UMBC, the Faculty Senate By-laws and a link to the online version of Robert’s Rules (<https://www.rulesonline.com/index.html>).

2. Approval of the Faculty Senate Schedule of Meetings

The details for the slate of new members of Faculty Senate Committees and the Faculty Senate Schedule of Meetings were included in the action items document that was circulated prior to this meeting for review.

Per our by-laws, the members of the Executive Committee were selected by the Faculty Senate President (Dr. Smith).

President Smith provided a note of appreciation for Dina Glazer, Chair of the Nominating Committee and her committee for selecting the proposed replacement faculty who step down from these Faculty Senate committees.

A poll was created to vote on these two items (Faculty Slate of New Members of Senate Committees and the Faculty Senate Schedule of Meetings).

For the Faculty Senate Schedule of Meetings: 27 voted in affirmation out of the 32.

3. Approval of the Slate of New Members of Senate Committees

For the Faculty Slate of New Members of Senate: 26 voted in affirmation out of the 32.

4. New Communications

A. MyUMBC Groups: Senate (public), Senators (private) and Senate Executive Committee (private)

We now have a public facing group in which all UMBC faculty are automatically enrolled and then we have two other groups which are private for the Executive Committee and the senators.

B. Shared Governance Landing Page – Diane Alonso

Diane Alonso provided a brief tour of the draft shared governance landing page. The information included on this site includes the current President and Vice President, the current Faculty Senate senators, the meeting schedule and the by-laws. Dr. Alonso asked the senators to provide her with any feedback as soon as possible.

VII. Committee Reports

A. Executive Committee

1. Shady Grove Ad Hoc Committee – Diane Alonso

The UMBC-Shady Grove Ad Hoc Committee is charged with:

- Learning about any unique opportunities and concerns for faculty teaching at the Universities at Shady Grove (USG) campus by:
 - Reading documentation
 - Conducting interviews with faculty
- Documenting these opportunities and concerns and
- Providing a report to the Faculty Senate with recommendations and suggestions for next steps.

B. Undergraduate Council – Elizabeth Feeser

Elizabeth Feeser, Chair of the Undergraduate Council, provided a report of the approved initiatives thus far in the semester.

Dr. Feeser shared with the senators that she will be continuing on as chair and noted deadlines for submissions.

VIII. Other Reports

A. Enrollment Update – Yvette Mozie-Ross and Janet Rutledge

Dr. Mozie-Ross and Dr. Rutledge each presented an update on undergraduate and graduate enrollments respectively. This presentation was provided electronically to the senators after the meeting.

Question: “I see there is a growth in part-time students and a decline in full time students. Does this mean that full-time students are deciding to attend school part-time instead?”

Answer: “We believe that the growth in the part time students has more to do with our successful recruiting attempts with students who left UMBC without graduating.”

B. Tutoring Services Update – Delana Gregg

Dr. Delana Gregg provided a presentation to the senators which was provided electronically after the meeting.

C. Academic Advocacy Program Update – Delana Gregg

Dr. Delana Gregg provided a presentation to the senators which was provided electronically after the meeting.

D. Library Update – Patrick Dawson

Patrick Dawson provided an update for the Library. He provided a URL to the senators that outlines the Library’s Roadmap to Reopening:

<https://library.umbc.edu/reopening.php>

E. OEI Update – Ariana Arnold, Mikhel Kushner, Kathy Ibitoye

Ariana Arnold introduced her team and provided the senators with an update on OEI’s activities. She reiterated their mission:

UMBC’s Office of Equity and Inclusion (OEI) is responsible for promoting and coordinating the University’s core values of inclusive excellence and equity, and has primary responsibility for

managing UMBC's efforts related to Title IX as well as other civil rights issues, including discrimination, harassment, hate and bias. The office's mission is to ensure compliance with sexual misconduct and non-discrimination laws, regulations, and policies through prompt, fair investigations, education and training, and outreach and engagement.

Ms. Arnold shared some of the resources from OEI with the senators:

(<https://oei.umbc.edu/>, <https://my3.my.umbc.edu/groups/equityandinclusion>).

IX. Unfinished Business

A. Individualized Studies Academic Program Review

The Faculty Senate unanimously approved the Academic Program Review for Individualized Studies.

B. Computer Science/ Electrical Engineering (GRAD) Academic Program Review

The Faculty Senate unanimously approved the Academic Program Review for Computer Science/ Electrical Engineering (GRAD).

X. New Business

A. Shady Grove B.S. in Mechanical Engineering

B. CBEE (UNDERGRAD) Academic Program Review

These items were presented as information items and will be voted on at the October Faculty Senate.

XI. Announcements

XII. Adjournment

President Smith thanked the senators for their thoughtful questions and thanked the attendees for the information they provided.

The meeting adjourned at 5:45pm.