TO: GSC Members

FROM: University of Baltimore Staff Senate

CC: Office of the Provost

DATE: September 14, 2016

RE: University of Baltimore Strategic Planning and Budget Committee Draft Charter

Thank you for the opportunity to review the Draft Charter of the Strategic Planning and Budget Committee for the University of Baltimore.

According to the Plan of Organization for Shared Governance at the University of Baltimore, Article I.3 states that “Regular and open communication among all parties is a critical element of effective shared governance. As such, all parties share responsibility to be informed on issues confronting higher education and the University.” As well, according to the “Policy on Shared Governance in the University System of Maryland” (Section 1-6.00.II.C), “Shared governance requires informed participation and collaboration by faculty, students, staff, and administrators.” However, the UBSS did not participate or collaborate in this draft’s creation and was not given sufficient time to review it once drafted.

We recognize that according to USM Policy (section 1-6.00-III.J.), “Institutional leaders must act in the best interest of the institution on major issues affecting the institutional constituencies without full benefit of the shared governance process. In such cases the representative bodies shall be informed in a timely manner and have an opportunity to comment”; nevertheless, “the shared governance body may [...] present a written statement of its position and/or objections to the decision as part of the institution’s or unit’s record on the issue.”

While we respect and understand the need for such a committee to exist, we cannot endorse the current draft without further steps.

1. Since this committee is intended to replace the GSC’s Budget Committee and operate within Shared Governance, the “Plan of Organization for Shared Governance at UB” and the “Bylaws of the Governance Steering Council” must be amended according to procedures established within these documents. This must be done in order to grant the committee formal legitimacy within shared governance.

2. As well, the Draft Charter as written relegates UBSS and SGA appointees to a minority representation. “Shared Governance” at UB has been interpreted as the three governance bodies sharing governance as equals. For example, the four current GSC committees include two representatives from each governance body, and the GSC itself
has equal representation from the three governance bodies. This newly charged committee serves a vital role in the fiscal health and future of UB. Thus, the UBSS must share in that role as an equal partner as a governance body.

The UBSS wishes to work with the University Faculty Senate and the Student Government Association to continue working toward this committee’s objectives in the spirit and letter of shared governance. This can be accomplished only through representation that is equal to the other governance bodies and the inclusion of voices from all governance bodies in drafting of the committee’s charter documents.

Thank you,
University of Baltimore Staff Senate