**University of Baltimore**  
 **Governance Steering Council - Agenda**  
**January 19, 2024**

* **Updates** (15 minutes)
  + ***President Schmoke*** – Received a review of the policy from the AGs office this week, but it should be posted for official comment shortly after it can be reviewed with Suzanne.
  + ***Provost Mueller***  - Nothing to share for the moment given the holidays
  + ***Student Government Association*** – Working on drafting and revising the constitution and are working on planning our elections as well. This hopefully will be done soon and will be structured differently than previous elections, including debates.
    - How was this done previously? There were just some general requirements to get on the ballot and that’s it. Some of these requirements are changing to be more inclusive in addition to the other changes.
    - SGA is also working on promoting the gym, textbook accessibility, and potential building name changes
  + ***Student Bar Association***  - In response to the townhall meeting last semester, UBalt PD have acquired wheel locks for high theft target cars. These will be made available to the community as part of an event. Also we have passed forward the resolution on gender-neutral bathrooms, we know there are concerns about it. Preseident Schmoke should respond soon.
    - The faculty and staff do support this philosophically.
  + ***UBalt Staff Senate*** – The President came to the CUSS meeting we hosted at UBalt. At our last meeting we discussed the potential development timeline for the postal site, and the gym reopening. We also discussed the out of state work policy and the process for responding to it, in addition we discussed the exit interview process. Often it is not helpful or useful. Lastly we celebrated some actitivies before the break including a shoe drive.
    - There was also a discussion with auxiliary services about events. The outcome is that a teams site will be made to share more information and help the community understand the process.
    - President Schmoke noted there is a similar meeting planned with the faculty next week and that there were some reductions in this area as we needed to make some cuts during the pandemic. An effort was made to reduce direct impact on faculty and student services.
  + ***UBalt Faculty Senate*** – We approved many programmatic changes in the recent meeting, especially in the school of business with an AI related program. There was a website update, and a briefing on the student success council. Enrollment next time might be an exciting discussion.
* **New Business** (15 minutes)
  + GSC Bylaws – Two documents from the last Middle States review were shared. Essentially the commission said that our governance was good, but it’s unclear how to begin reviewing and discussing bylaws changes. What is our process here?
    - Could we have a little subgroup take a look and suggest what kind of updates to make? Yes, we could suggest edits to the governance plan and the bylaws itself.
    - Erin will talk to Kate about how to get this going, this is a great opportunity to show improvement and reflection for Middle States review
    - Al wondered if there was student representation on the middle states review for shared governance. Peter can help get some representatives.
    - Between now and February, Erin can compile and send documents to others. Subgroup membership should be noted in the minutes. John can assist in reading the documents.
    - Mike noted that the two key issues tend to be:
      * Is the GSC a governance group or not? The documents want to have it both ways and that is confusing
      * What is the best way to create and make work a university wide committee with faculty, staff, and students?
    - The Provost noted as an outsider that this group is very helpful as a communication body, but that it is hard to make such a group function as a decision making body. In other words it seems like a coordination body.
    - One possibility would be to restrict decision making to only issues that are identified as affecting all groups.
  + Snow Day Messaging
    - The communication was confusing. If it happened during the semester it would have been really unclear as to who was supposed to do what. For example, would classes be online? How?
    - The Provost noted that a draft has already been created with greater detail about course meetings for subsequent snow events.
    - There were many messages to the staff senate about this topic, so we reached out to HR. It’s difficult without a new remote work policy, but there should be an update in the February meeting.
* **Old Business** (25 minutes)
  + University Work-Life Committee – Nico Gleason
    - No update other than this is the “Climate and Culture” committee. There was no ask from the group. They just want to make sure we support and promote them.
  + Out-of-State Work Policy
    - Discussed earlier in group updates
  + SBA Resolution re: All-Gender Restrooms
    - Discussed earlier in group updates
  + DEI Committee – Unconscious Bias Recommendations
    - This was endorsed at UFS, Staff Senate shared it. Human Resources is already working on some parts of their reccomendations.