

Meeting Minutes
Governance Steering Council
March 27, 2013

Present: Mohammed (Shiraz) Ahmed, Dan Gerlowski, Amirah Muhammad, Giordana Segneri, Chris Spencer, Debra Stanley

Absent: Margarita (Magui) Cardona

1. May 8: Newly elected officers from each senate (faculty, staff, students) should attend along with the current reps for a hand-off meeting.
2. Reports from constituent groups
 - Students
 - Helped fun student trips, including Armagh Project trip this coming summer at \$500 per student
 - Students would like more picnic benches on the plaza and are in communication with Facilities Management about this.
 - Getting everything ready for elections, April 8-12; all positions are filled, candidate-wise, except one
 - April 30: installation banquet
 - On behalf of SGA, Shiraz expressed that the SGA president should have a standing speaking engagement at Commencement
 - GSC responded that Shiraz should complete research about the situation at other USM institutions by Friday, March 29, and report back; based on that research, GSC may forward a resolution in support of this motion. [UPDATE: Based on Shiraz's research, distributed to the GSC at 7:39 a.m. on March 29, the GSC determined to forward a resolution. See appendix.]
 - Staff
 - President Bogomolny presented to the Staff Senate at its last meeting, March 11; he indicated his enthusiasm regarding the efficacy of the new shared governance structure and discussed several other topics, including his support of improvements in work-life, the encouraging USM budget coming out of the Legislature, the progress of the strategic planning and space planning processes, and an update on security.
 - A Recognition Advisory Board has been formed to review and improve the UB Staff Awards; the board will look at the kinds of behaviors to recognize, new award categories and criteria by which to reward winners.
 - Council of University System Staff: visited Annapolis this month; not pursuing any electronic letter-writing campaigns, although President Bogomolny encouraged the continued use of letter-writing campaigns as an effective means of impacting legislation during session.

- Budget: The Presidents' University Budget Task Force report is on the MyUB portal, and it outlines three findings: continued transparency, commitment to hiring faculty, fiscal sustainability.
 - President Bogomolny indicated that while faculty has increased, by and large administrative staff has not.
 - April 10: Budget Town Hall: What are staff priorities?
- Bylaws: voted to take to membership with revisions for ratification
- Sam Tress presented on personal safety and updates to security initiatives on campus
 - Have installed 10 cameras and 27 duress alarms during the past year; budget for additional cameras every year
 - City has installed cameras along Charles Street to which our police department has access
 - Eventually, all campus buildings will be card controlled during certain hours.
 - Emergency phone number will change to 4444; communication campaign to come
 - Partnering with OTS to install tracking/recovery software for laptops, can register other personal devices too
 - App testing with student groups
 - Going through accreditation process; anticipating accreditation in July, will have to review for accreditation every three years
- Faculty
 - MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses) are a topic of discussion at the UFS.
 - An existing credit for prior learning policy seems to allow MOOCs but clearly MOOCs were not in existence when policy written.
 - Provost Joe Wood wants to develop a policy regarding MOOCs and other online courses; is proposing a "fine tuning" policy of the existing credit for prior learning policy targeting MOOCs. Policy identifies criteria to identify MOOCs that might be considered for credit and MOOCs that won't be considered for credit.
 - UFS concern relates to quality issues and determining where in the curriculum MOOCs would be accepted for credit. UFS is also concerned about full use of existing curriculum review policies and being applied to MOOCs.
 - Center for Urban Education
 - The UFS might consider the establishment of a Center for Urban Education; UFS approval is required for centers.
 - Tentative planning has it housed in the College of Public Affairs and led by Steve Percy and Marguerite Weber.
 - Would focus on getting Baltimore city students college ready.

- Faculty questioned the purpose of the center with regard to centrality of mission for UB. Also questioned resource implications given that we see scarce investment in instructional mission. Some discussion ensued including indications that UB should help the local schools as part of an outreach effort.

In lieu of the next meeting: Budget Process and Priorities Town Hall, April 10, noon-2 p.m.

APPENDIX

From Shiraz, 7:39 a.m. on March 29:

Hello everyone. I got in touch with the Student Regent and obtained all the SGA President's email addresses. After obtaining the email addresses, I emailed all of them and informed about what I was researching with USM. Thus far I have received responses from four institutions and out of four, two of the institution's SGA Presidents are speakers at Commencement. I had emailed them around 10:30 this morning so as replies come, I will be keeping all of you in the loop. But the draft of the resolution is below and let me know what you all think.

At 4:35 p.m. on March 29, Dan forwarded the following to President Bogomolny:

President Bogomolny,

On Wednesday March 27th at the Governance Steering Council (GSC) meeting, the topic of student speakers at commencement was discussed. On balance the group felt strongly that more student speakers would help to ensure greater student participation and ownership of the event. The GSC understands the importance of the participation by the undergraduate and the graduate student representatives currently in place. In our discussion, we learned that other universities, particularly fellow system schools, make a similar opportunity available to an elected student representative. One thought is that the Student Government President could become a regular speaker at University commencements with a focused talk on the benefits of student life at UB to students.

The GSC resolved to approach you with a request that the Student Government President be included as a speaker at University commencements for graduate and undergraduate degree earners.

Dan Gerlowski