



USMSC Report to Board of Regents

December 4, 2017

The USMSC met on December 3rd at UMBC. The Council forwarded two outstanding candidates to the Chancellor for consideration to be the next student regent and discussed a number of other topics and student concerns, some of which are summarized below.

Tax Cuts and Jobs Bill

The Council unanimously approved a resolution opposing the Tax Cuts and Jobs Bill. The Council recognizes that approval of the House version of the bill would be disastrous for all students and for higher education in general. The Council is disseminating information and resources related to the bill to assist in organizing on each of the campuses.

USMSC encourages system and campus leadership to use all power, leverage and resources to make sure that the final version of the tax bill does not include the provisions which allow tuition remission to be counted as taxable income, remove the student loan interest deduction, and remove other tax credits and provisions which make higher education more accessible to students.

Shared Governance

The USMSC has drafted a shared governance survey to be distributed among student leaders in the spring semester. Data collection will be conducted from January-mid-February, after which a report will be drafted and approved by the Council at its March meeting. It will be delivered to the Chancellor and Regents prior to April 1, 2018.

The Council has also been collecting information on various shared governance processes on each of the campuses, including information relating to student representation on committees which choose commencement speakers and whether the 2012 MOU requiring Graduate Assistant Advisory Committees to be established on each campus is being followed.

Open Educational Resources (OER)

The Council expressed interest in supporting the Maryland Open Source Textbook (MOST) initiative by encouraging faculty to use open educational resources on each campus. The Council will be drafting template legislation for each campus to enact through their student governance groups, and at least 8 students will be attending the MOST Conference on December 8th.

Preparation for the Spring and Legislative Session

The Council discussed its plans for the spring semester, centered around a large presence at the Maryland General Assembly on bills which impact students. The Council is planning a student lobby day to push the agenda of students and looks forward to working with the System to collaborate and advocate for and against bills of which we take the same position.

Please feel free to reach out to me directly at cfabbi@umd.edu with any questions or concerns.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Caden Fabbi', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Caden Fabbi
2017-2018 USMSC President