



Date: February 11, 2022
Meeting: February 2022 Board of Regents Meeting
Organization: University System of Maryland Student Council
Representation: **Yvonne Harper**, University of Baltimore
Master of Public Administration Candidate
University System of Maryland Student Council President

Good morning, Chair Gooden and Board of Regents,

It is a pleasure to join you all this morning, it's the spring 2022 semester, and we are halfway through the academic school year; however, we are still impacted by covid. So, the question remains, "How are the students?" The students are exhausted.

Connection with students

Throughout winter break, I had the opportunity to have one-on-one sessions with undergraduate and graduate student council student representatives. Student representatives have expressed various topics from covid, diversity and inclusion, financial literacy, mentorship programs, mental health, student fees, and transparency. Today I would like to focus on mental health as the students transition back into the classrooms and remote learning. As we go throughout this next semester, how will we as a system pay better attention to students' mental health?

Mental health: Students need more mental health services to deal with the effects of covid.

Students are requesting more support from faculty and staff during this time. In an earlier report, we asked for faculty and staff to empathize with students and be more aware of students going through challenging times.

Executive Team and Board of Directors

The University System of Maryland Student Council Board of Directors has begun planning the Mental Health wellness day for all system institutions and universities. Borrowing this idea from

Bowie State University, Bowie State engaged their students, faculty, and staff in a wellness day to relax the Monday before Thanksgiving break. Considering students' needs around mental health, a "System-wide" Mental health day is highly recommended for all Universities to implement into the calendar year.

USM Advocacy Day 2022

The University System of Maryland Student Council, Council of University System Faculty, and Council of University System Staff, in partnership with the USM Women's Forum, will host its annual Advocacy Day on February 16th, 2022, during the legislative session. We will advocate together on behalf of the USM budget on this day. This event will be virtual for the second year. Joining us this day will be Chancellor Perman, Patrick Hogan & Andy Clark. There will be breakout sessions with legislators and delegates throughout the day and discussion time to review and discuss bills related to the USM.

Sincerely,

Yvonne Harper

University System of Maryland Student Council President

2021-2022