



USM Student Council's Report to the USM Board of Regents

November 2023 Full Board of Regents Meeting, Towson University

Organization: University System of Maryland Student Council

Representation: Vainavi Gambhir, President

(Written as of November 1, 2023)

Good morning Chair Gooden, Chancellor Perman, the Board of Regents, and University Presidents,

Chancellor's Chats

After the September board meeting, I had the opportunity to attend the first Chancellor's Chat of this term, joining Chancellor Perman and a group of undergraduate and graduate humanities students to discuss their experience as humanities majors and the value of a liberal arts education. It was especially intriguing to hear that some students pursued a humanities major to expand on their interests in STEM, emphasizing the importance of an interdisciplinary education. Our Vice President for Graduate Affairs attended the October Chancellor's Chat for first generation students.

General Meetings

At our October general meeting, the council had a detailed conversation on the issues we felt were recurring across many campuses— including international student needs, expanding on campus assistantship and job opportunities, dining, and campus safety. Following up, we formed a 6-7 person subgroup on international student needs led by Salisbury University's representative. We had a few meetings towards the end of October and discussed drafting a resolution to form a unified stance on behalf of the Student Council. We decided to center our resolution specifically on international graduate student housing affordability.

The third general meeting will happen on Sunday, November 5. We are excited that Chancellor Perman will be joining us virtually, and we hope to speak with him about campus safety and international student needs as well as share our progress with creating a resolution. We will also prepare for interviewing student regent candidates in December.

USM Civic Engagement Symposium

I look forward to joining the 2023 USM Symposium on Civic Education and Engagement on November 3 at Towson University. I will join a student panel led by Regent Gourdine that discusses topics including integrating civic learning into curricula and encouraging service learning and voter engagement among students.

USM Student Forum

Finally, interest forms for the student forum were due at the end of October; we have collected the applications and look forward to reviewing them. At a first glance, the submissions seem varied and unique which is extremely encouraging.

Thank you, and wishing a very happy Diwali in advance to those who celebrate.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Vainavi Gambhir', written over a horizontal line.

Vainavi Gambhir

President, University System of Maryland Student Council