



COUNCIL of UNIVERSITY SYSTEM FACULTY

Board of Regents Report

September 18, 2020

Academic year 2020- 2021 has CUSF focused on several major initiatives. While the pandemic is taking center stage in the day-to-day activities of faculty, it is the goal of the Executive Committee to have CUSF concentrate on work started in previous years, namely academic integrity; interprofessional, interinstitutional and interdisciplinary education (IPE); Online Electronic Resources; and faculty performance evaluations. In addition, the Executive Committee wants CUSF to begin examinations of two new areas of concern: existing USM technology policies and civic engagement and civility. Finally, the Executive Committee plans to have CUSF work actively with its sister councils on matters that are of common interest to bring a new and unique perspective to our Board counsel.

The Executive Committee endorsed the following workplan for approval by CUSF membership at the September 25th meeting:

1. Education Policy Committee

- IPE will be the major focus this year for the committee. Members will begin the investigation with a white paper that discusses the ways USM institutions and faculty can benefit from IPE both in terms of shared resources and faculty development.
- One subcommittee will be established to focus on completing the review process of the proposed new and revised Academic Integrity Policies and Guidelines, which will culminate in a presentation to the Board for approval by the year's close.
- A second subcommittee will review the creation of Open Education Resources and its acceptance for tenure and promotion purposes, and report on potential action for consideration.

2. Board of Regents Faculty Awards & Recognition Committee

The committee will review nominations of faculty by USM constituent institutions for determination of those most worthy of this honor and make recommendations to the Board for their consideration.

3. Faculty Concerns Committee

This committee deals with all matters related to faculty that are not academic in nature but do bear a relationship to the success of faculty and/or student performance. Under examination for possible CUSF action by subcommittees this academic year are:

- Conduct a feasibility study of possible remuneration, course release, or time compensation for CUSF participation.
- Research and report on the ways that USM faculty engage with their respective communities for the purpose of unmasking projects on which faculty could

collaborate across the institutions; and

- Begin an investigation for a white paper on the needs, types, and ways that the existing USM policies on technology can be updated or replaced, in particular privacy and liability concern that faculty have raised with CUSF.

4. Rule and Membership Committee

This committee oversees all matters related to the Constitution, by-laws, and rules of operation for CUSF. This year its focus will be to:

- Update the Constitution to correct typographical and factual errors.
- Revise and codify existing policies in the By-Laws to include modernizing voting methods and the terms of ExCom members; and
- Review ways to improve the participation of CUSF representatives under the Constitution.

5. Legislative Affairs & Policy Committee

This committee monitors the Maryland Legislative Session to identify USM- faculty related bills, issues/concerns, for the purpose of proposed CUSF action responses to issues/concerns when appropriate.

- This year the committee will concentrate on creating a consistent method for monitoring important legislation, working with Vice Chancellors Boughman and Hogan, to create monthly reports for CUSF representatives to give on their campus, and to Senate faculty chairs; and
- Participate in Advocacy Day each February in Annapolis (likely in partnership with Council of University System Staff and the University System of Maryland Student Council).

6. Ad Hoc Committee on Covid-19 Faculty Issues

This committee will focus on the feedback and issues that are being experienced by faculty because of the pandemic. Its focus will be to monitor the concerns of faculty as reported by CUSF representatives or their constituents, and to recommend to the general council those that may require action by CUSF and/or attention by the system.

In the past three years CUSF, CUSS, and USMSC began steps to find ways that the groups can work together on issues that have mutual impact to its constituents. The November Tri-Council meeting and Advocacy Day are examples of that initiative. In furtherance of this sisterhood, Chair Shishineh of CUSS, President Rappaport of USMSC and I as the chair of CUSF have begun collaboration efforts to bring the groups together in a more tangible way. Our purpose is to create a new holistic approach to the work we do, thereby enhancing the counsel we all give to the Board of Regents. We are starting this venture in October when we will visit each other's membership meetings to begin discussions that will define projects of common concern. The innovative spirit behind this collaboration is exciting and it is our believe that it will a fruitful endeavor for us all.

The academic year holds much promise and I look forward to coming back with regular reports of the work CUSF is doing.

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth K. Brunn, Ms.Ed, J.D.
CUSF Chair