

**Council of University System Staff**  
**January 25, 2005**  
**UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND COLLEGE PARK**

<b>Members Present</b>	<b>Alternate Members</b>
Marie Meehan - BSU	
Angie Brickhouse - TU	Janine Vienna - SU
Gloria Gaguski - TU	
Joan Doremus - TU	
Cindy Schuster - UB	
Bill Crockett - UMB	John Barber - UMB
Colette Becker - UMB	
Mary Pat Armstrong - UMBC	Christine Routzahn - UMBC
Jim Citro - UMBC	
Sam Sibanda - UMBI	
Donna Taylor - UMBI	
Mary Graham Fisher - UMCP	
Queen Atterberry - UMCP	
Andrew Rein - UMUC	Jim Hartsock - UMUC
Mary Reed - USMO	
	<p><b>Chancellor's Liaison to CUSS -</b> Rosario I. van Daalen <b>Guests: Richard Bryne, Asst. Director</b> <b>for Family, Youth and Communities</b> <b>President C.D. Mote, Jr., UMCP</b> <b>Nicolas Aragon, Chair of USM Student</b> <b>Council</b></p>

**Call to Order**

Nicholas Aragon, Chair of USM Student Council, was introduced. He stated he was pleased to be invited to the CUSS meeting because he wants to get a better understanding of staff and their concerns. He feels we all have to work together to accomplish our mission. Mr. Aragon was able to attend the entire morning portion of the program.

The December minutes were reviewed and awaiting approval by a quorum. The minutes have been approved as amended.

Chair, Bill Crockett, introduced John Barber, a new Nonexempt Alternate CUSS Member from UMB. Bill Crockett told us that this was Mary Graham Fisher's last meeting as she has accepted a new position and is no longer eligible to be a CUSS Representative.

### **Report from the Chancellor's Liaison to CUSS**

There has been no word that the Match Fund under the State Pension Plan will be reinstated at this point.

A proposed 2% COLA may occur 7/1/05 to help cover increased health care costs. The next Open Enrollment is being planned for spring 2005. This Open Enrollment will be for the fiscal year 7/1/05 through 6/30/06. The ratio that the State/ Employee pay is under discussion in Annapolis; currently it is 80/20.

As of January 1, 2005 Fidelity was added to the number of vendors authorized to offer the

There was no full Board of Regents (BOR) meeting this month (see bullet above). At the next full BOR Meeting the CUSS BOR Staff Award final nominations should be submitted. It was suggested that Chair, Bill Crockett, send the winning Universities notification that their winners should have the award of \$1,000 spread over several pays, to avoid having large amount of taxes taken out.

At the Chancellor's Council on 1/4/05 the Budget for FY06 has not been disclosed as of this meeting. The Governor has proposed that the USM will receive a bump of approximately 4.8%. The Legislature cannot increase the Governor's proposal, but they can cut it.

A big topic dealing with deferred maintenance across the USM has made it very difficult to deal with maintenance for repairs to older buildings due to the fact it is very costly and money has not been available. Unless addressed proactively and strategically now, this will be a crisis impacting all of the USM in the future.

### **Committees Broke into Work Groups:**

#### **Committee Reports:**

##### **Benefits and Compensation Committee – Andrew Rein, Chair**

A new member has joined this Committee, John Barber from UMB. This committee is continuing to retrieve data from the USM Institutions on the benefits packages for Contingent II Staff. They would like to see all Institutions have an equitable benefits package for Contingent II Staff.

This committee is reviewing the BEST Policy to recommend changes or revisions.

##### **Communications - Mary Reed, Chair**

Photographs will be added to the website from our meetings at FSU, BSU, and USMO.

Please submit committee reports for inclusion in CUSS newsletter by the end of March.

##### **Legislative – Sam Sibanda, Chair**

A list of very important websites was distributed to monitor the Governor's Budget proposal

A motion was made and seconded that the meeting be adjourned.

The next meeting will be at UMUC on 2/22/05 at 10:00 a.m.