## Council of University System Staff Bowie State University November 15, 2005

### **Members Present**

Jesse Ketterman Janine Vienna - SU

Sam Sibanda - UMBI Jim Hartsock-UMUC Chenita Kollock-UMES Bernedette Bell - CSU Mary Reed - USMO Joe Hill – UMBC - Chair John Barber - UMB

Marie Meehan - BSU Dale O'Neal - BSU

John Barber - UMB Christine Routzahn - UMBC Thomas Noyes - UMCP

Larry Lauer – UMCP David DeLooze - UMB Donna Taylor - UMBI Lidia Schechter - UMBC

Roy Ross - UMB Cindy Schuster-UB Rosario I. van Daalen, USMO

**GUESTS:** Dr. Calvin W. Lowe, President

Bowie State University

Alternate Members

Ms. Cynthia Coleman, Chair

BSU's Staff Council

#### Call to Order

Joe Hill, Chair, called the November meeting to order at Bowie State University (BSU) at 10:00 a.m.

Dale O'Neal welcomed CUSS members and alternates to Bowie State University, and then introduced BSU's president, Calvin W. Lowe. In his brief remarks, Dr. Lowe mentioned the new Center for Business and Graduate Studies which is currently being built on campus. The center will be completed in about 18 months. The official groundbreaking ceremony took place in September. Dr. Lowe was asked about BSU's current enrollment, and he replied that total enrollment is about 5,300 with approximately 4,000 undergraduate students and 1,300 graduate students. Dr. Lowe also mentioned that he will be resigning as BSU's president at the end of the Spring 2006 semester.

Cynthia Coleman, chairperson of BSU's staff council, was invited to the meeting and spoke about the search for a new president. She has had the opportunity to meet with Chancellor Kirwan and she believes that he listens to staff concerns with an open mind which encourages a sense of community.

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## **Report from the Chancellor's Liaison**:

- The Fidelity 403(b) Supplemental Retirement Annuity (SRA) plan has been implemented.
  In electing to utilize the supplemental annuity plan(s), an employee reaps the benefit of a
  reduction in taxable income. The plan is available to all employees except for Contingent
  I's.
- UNUM The special enrollment period has not ended yet a spouse's coverage can now be equal to that of the employee's coverage. The minimum amount of coverage needed in order to enroll has been reduced to \$10,000. There is a 5% reduction in premium costs effective February 1, 2006.
- Joint Pension Committee has held 4 hearings in Annapolis so far this fall. Rosario, Joe Hill
  and Roy Ross have been very visible at, and very interested in, the meetings. The State is
  conducting a complete review of its Retirement/ Pension Plans. There is another hearing
  tentatively scheduled for December. Senator Kasemeyer and Delegate James are cochairing the committee and have shown a great interest in the employees' concerns.

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# **Communications**

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