

CUSS Meeting Minutes
June 26, 2007
University of Maryland, Eastern Shore

Attendees: Larry Lauer, UMCP; Janine Vienna, SU; Judy Sabalauskas, UB; Kimberley Lynne, UB; Cassandra Lewis, UMUC; John Wolfe, USMO; Carol Barr, SU; Rosario van Daalen, USMO; Jackie Eberts, SU; Mary Reed, USMO; Chenita Kollock, UMES; Marvin Pyles, UMCP; A. Venkat, UMBI; Marie Meehan, BSU; Dale O'Neal, BSU; Deb Geare, UMBC; Gloria Gaguski, TU; Laura Jackson, TU; Dave Delooze, UMB.

Meeting called to order at 10AM- Dr. Ron Brown, VP for Student Affairs brought greetings from the campus to the membership.

Chair's Report- The Chair's letter to the Chancellor regarding the status of Shared Governance discussed. This was a follow-up to the Executive Committee activity at the May meeting at UMBC. After letter was sent Chair was called to meet with Chancellor Kirwan to discuss concerns of Council expressed in the letter. Dr. Kirwan expressed distress that things have deteriorated for staff shared governance and vowed to do better in the future. No promises made but meeting was positive and mutually respectful. Chair requested that CUSS members email him regarding their opinion of how shared governance was working on their campus and he would send, via email, a copy of the Regents policy on Shared Governance for reference.

The USM Regents met on June 22 and Chairs report was discussed and distributed. Still no response by VC Vivona to request for a work group to address extra merit pay for non-exempt staff. Chair reported to Regents that shared governance structures had deteriorated and that the Chancellor had been informed and the concern discussed. Chair also made an appeal not to lay off staff because of impending budget cuts. At the same meeting Cliff Kendall was elected to another term as Chair of Regents, which was a good thing for staff. A copy of the Regents Executive Committee and dates of Regents meetings was distributed.

The Chair had received a letter from Ann Timmons regarding the dental HMO plans. The bottom line is that there is a problem but it can't be helped. Ms. Timmons said her people were trained to ask employees to be sure they could get a dentist to accept their coverage before signing up. Most USM employees were not aware of that.

A call for additional nominations was made for the CUSS Executive Committee. No